

Required Emergency/Disaster
Training for Hospital Personnel in
Pinellas County

Recommendation of the
St. Petersburg Metropolitan
Medical Response System (MMRS),
And
Pinellas County Hospital Liaison
Committee
Education Work Group

Approved and adopted November 3, 2006

Introduction

The world as we knew it changed dramatically after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The federal government vowed to provide money to first responders and first receivers to assure they would be better prepared to handle another terrorist attack if one should occur in the future. Each year it seems several new training programs are introduced regarding mass casualty, triage, weapons of mass destruction, etc. In 2006, 5 years after the 2001 attack, most hospitals are still lagging behind in educating their personnel. One of the reasons is because they have lacked any guidance regarding what and who to train. Another reason has been the confusion regarding how they can train their personnel and be compliant with all the federal and regulatory requirements without having to train every single employee.

The Hospital Liaison Committee and St. Petersburg MMRS decided that they were in favor of every hospital utilizing a standardized training format to assure a commonality among all Pinellas County Hospitals. Selecting a common training system for all hospitals in Pinellas County to utilize as a minimum requirement, would allow interoperability. Therefore, St. Petersburg MMRS created an Education Work Group to determine what emergency/disaster preparedness training should be mandatory for all hospitals in Pinellas County, Florida. The Work Group was also charged with determining which personnel would be required to receive the training.

The attached document outlines the recommendations of the Education Work Group.

Required Training Programs

The Education Work Group recommends that the following training programs be implemented at hospitals in Pinellas County, Florida.

- **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**
- **Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) (New version due out 10/01/06)**
- **Start 2 Finish Triage (S2F)**
- **16 hour awareness and operations level hospital decontamination training for employees participating on a hospital decontamination team.**

The federal government has mandated that all hospitals receiving federal grants/funds for emergency/disaster preparedness must be National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant.

Most hospitals are currently utilizing the Hospital Incident Command System, Version 3 and there should be no big changes with the release of Version 4.

Many hospitals in the county have begun training for and implementing the Start 2 Finish Triage model. EMS is currently utilizing Start 2 Finish triage.

Personnel Required to Receive NIMS/HICS Training

Most of the training required for NIMS compliance can be completed on the internet. The required classes can be found at the Federal Emergency Management Administration website (www.fema.gov).

In order to assure that appropriate hospital personnel are receiving the appropriate training, the Education Work Group recommends the following training levels:

MANDATORY

Personnel Position	Class Name			
	IS-100	IS-200	IS-700	IS-800
Safety Officer (The person(s) who is responsible for Safety/Emergency Management on a day-to-day basis.)	X	X	X	X
Incident Command Staff (Those persons who have been assigned a role in the HIC system that are section leaders and above.)	X	X	X	

The Education Work Group recognized that training personnel below these levels would be difficult. However, the Education Work Group would recommend the additional training below:

RECOMMENDED

Personnel Position	Class Name			
	IS-100	IS-200	IS-700	IS-800
Personnel assigned or would be assigned a position in the HIC system.	X	X		

Personnel Required to Receive Start 2 Finish Triage Training

Start 2 Finish Triage is a very quick paced method for sorting, triaging and caring for large numbers of casualties. The program has identified the types and numbers of personnel that would be required to respond if there were a mass casualty incident. Those are the personnel that must be trained in Start 2 Finish Triage. First, determine if your organization is large (>500 beds), medium (250-499 beds) or small (<250 beds.) Determine from the chart which personnel and the number your organization would be responsible for training.

Large Organization (>500 Beds)	Red	Yellow	Green	Black
Physician	12	10	4	
Nurse	10 (3 ICU-level)	10 (1 Telemetry or ICU and 1 med-surg)	5 (2 Med Surg)	1
Tech (At least 1 PCA)	5 (1 surgical tech)	5 (1 surgical tech)	10 (1 PCA Tech)	
Clerk	7	7	8	
Escort	10	10	5	
Lab	5	4	0	2
Respiratory	5	4	0	
ARNP	0	1	2	1
PA	0	1	3	
Radiology	5	4	0	
Mental Health	2	2	3	1
Clergy	2	2	4	1
Communications	1	1	3	
Security	2	3	4	

Medium Organization (250-499 Beds)	Red	Yellow	Green	Black
Physician	8	8	5	
Nurse	10 (3 ICU-level)	10 (1 Telemetry or ICU and 1 med-surg)	5 (2 Med Surg)	1
Tech (At least 1 PCA)	5 (1 surgical tech)	5 (1 surgical tech)	5 (1 PCA Tech)	
Clerk	6	6	6	
Escort	8	8	5	
Lab	4	2	0	2
Respiratory	4	3	0	
ARNP	0	0	2	
PA	0	0	3	
Radiology	4	4	0	
Mental Health	1	1	3	1
Clergy	1	1	2	1
Communications	1	1	1	
Security	1	2	4	

Small Organization (>250 Beds)	Red	Yellow	Green	Black
Physician	4	5	3	
Nurse	6 (3 ICU-level)	5 (1 Telemetry or ICU and 1 med-surg)	4 (2 Med Surg)	1
Tech (At least 1 PCA)	2 (1 surgical tech)	2 (1 surgical tech)	4 (1 PCA Tech)	
Clerk	3	3	4	
Escort	4	4	5	
Lab	3	2	0	2
Respiratory	3	2	0	
PA	0	0	1	
Radiology	3	2	0	
Mental Health	1	1	3	1
Clergy	1	1	2	1
Communications	1	1	1	
Security	1	1	2	

Conclusion

The above standards are minimum training requirements for Pinellas County hospitals. Each hospital should evaluate its own organization to determine its ability to implement the additional recommended training. Each hospital is required to implement Start 2 Finish, NIMS and HICS within its organization to assure consistent/compatible response to disaster events in the county. Each hospital shall evaluate its organization to determine the best method for implementing these requirements. In addition, each hospital will provide a 16 hour awareness/operations level hospital decontamination training for personnel who will be participating on the hospital decontamination team.