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NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

Decentralizing Mass Casualty Incident Planning at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Recent Mass Casualty Incidents (MCIs), such as the Boston Marathon Bombing, have shown that the hospital response to an MCI is a multi-faceted, systemic effort, with many units and departments performing unique yet interdependent actions. This level of complexity can make it difficult to plan for such an event. An emergency management professional is responsible for writing the plan, but may not be well-versed in the intricacies and priorities of each functional area (e.g., Blood Bank, Security, intensive care units). The Department of Emergency Preparedness at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) has addressed this challenge by creating partnerships and decentralizing the MCI planning process.

CHOP has a core MCI plan that focuses on the enterprise-level actions of an MCI response. Supporting that plan are unit and department-specific job aids for every functional area that plays a significant role in an MCI response. The Department of Emergency Preparedness has partnered with each of these areas to create their job aids, with leadership from each area taking the lead and Emergency Preparedness acting as a guide, ensuring that all job aids complement one another and work together to create a coordinated systemic response.

In addition to improving planning efforts, this decentralized approach has also allowed for more efficient training. Large-scale exercises are critical for overall

preparedness, but the associated resource requirement necessitates that they occur infrequently. Utilizing these functional area-specific job aids, Emergency Preparedness is able to hold small, targeted exercises more frequently, leading to a greater overall level of preparedness.

Presentation Theme: Practice

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