

HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: MASS CASUALTY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

VOLUME NO. III
REFERENCE NO. III-09

COMMAND:EMS
SECTIONS 1.01 -6.09
ATTACHMENTS 1 - 8

1.00 PURPOSE

- 1.01 The purpose of this guideline is to guide members in planning for, responding to, and evaluating the Department's performance during Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI). The ultimate goal of the Houston Fire Department's response to a MCI is to provide appropriate and coordinated efforts that will minimize loss of life, disabling injuries, and human suffering.

2.00 OBJECTIVES

- 2.01 To provide efficient and effective care and transport the largest possible number of patients with available resources.
- 2.02 To integrate mass casualty operations into the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- 2.03 To provide for efficient communications between HFD, receiving hospitals, and other city and regional entities as necessary to ensure an effective response to an MCI.
- 2.04 To provide Mass Casualty Incident Checklists to guide responding personnel.

3.00 DEFINITIONS

- 3.01 Advanced Life Support (ALS) – The level of medical care provided by paramedics who perform advanced procedures under the delegated medical practice of a licensed physician.
- 3.02 Ambulance – A ground transport unit staffed by at least 2 persons. It may be ALS or BLS capable and can carry 2 patients lying or 1 lying and 4 sitting.
- 3.03 Base Station – Located in the Houston Emergency Center (HEC), and is the coordinating entity for movement and transportation of HFD patients throughout the city. Also known as: HFD Base Station or Telemetry.
- 3.04 Basic Life Support (BLS) – The level of medical care provided by an emergency medical technician (EMT) – basic personnel.