

trauma patients. **Base Station will maintain a current list of hospital trauma center designations.**

- 3.26 Treatment Area – The area where the Treatment Group re-triages and treats patients, completes the Regional Disaster Tags, places the disaster tags on the patients, and where patients await movement to their transport units.
- 3.27 Triage – The process of sorting and prioritizing emergency medical care of the sick and injured based on: urgency and type of condition(s) present; number of patients; available personnel and resources to care for patients; and availability of medical facilities to care for patients.
- 3.28 Unresponsive Patient – A patient not capable of producing any verbal or physical response to stimuli.

4.00 SCOPE

- 4.01 This guideline is applicable to all personnel and/or representatives of the Houston Fire Department.

5.00 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.01 All personnel will be responsible for adhering to the guidelines outlined in this document.
- 5.02 The Incident Commander shall be responsible for the management of Mass Casualty Incidents and will follow the HFD Incident Management Guidelines (Ref. II-06).
- 5.03 OEC will be responsible for: maintaining communications with HFD and Mutual Aid Companies; dispatching the appropriate units according to information communicated by the IC; and notifying Base Station by telephone and pager when a MCI has been declared by the IC.

6.00 GUIDELINES

Similar to the initial stages of a multiple-alarm fire response, management of a Mass Casualty Incident will have a natural progression. An MCI will typically start with a limited number of firefighters who are managing a potentially large number of patients. One of the primary responsibilities of the first arriving unit(s) will be to estimate the number of patients on the scene. This may be difficult, especially in large venues (e.g., high rises, stadiums, night-time operations, etc.) but will be necessary in order to determine the initial MCI Response Level. Members should not be overly concerned with providing an exact number of patients in this initial count.