

ATTACHMENT 1 – CMOC

Description:

The Catastrophic Medical Operations Center (CMOC) is a regional entity under the coordination of the Regional Hospital Preparedness Council and housed in the Houston Emergency Operations Center. It is staffed by regional hospital personnel, public health department personnel, special needs representatives, an EMS transportation coordinator, and a medical operations chief. Its purpose is to assist area hospitals, nursing facilities, and special needs people in the community with coordination of patient movement, asset organization, patient tracking, public health issues, regional patient tracking, and coordination of mass casualty and mass fatality issues.

General Capabilities:

CMOC has traditionally played a distinct role in patient tracking and relocation during evacuations whether due to an impending natural disaster (hurricane) or due to a compromised healthcare facility. The CMOC can also play a role during mass casualty incidents, natural disasters, and biological and radiological disasters. Their role includes facilitating surge capacity in the region by determining bed availability and coordinating the transportation and assignment of transferred patients to healthcare facilities in the region.

Reasons to Activate CMOC during an MCI:

Possible reasons to activate CMOC:

- 1) Due to a large number of patients, a coordinated effort is required to redistribute patients in hospitals to healthcare facilities outside of greater Houston.
- 2) To coordinate the request for and response of non-HFD ambulances for transport of patients.

How to Activate CMOC:

The Medical Branch Director (Senior Supervisor or 1100) in conjunction with the On-call Medical Director and the Incident Commander may activate CMOC if the above criteria are met or the incident would be felt to benefit from their activation. To activate, the Medical Branch Director should notify OEC to contact the on-call OEM (Office of Emergency Management) Administrator regarding CMOC activation. When the administrator calls, the CMOC representative will expect a brief report regarding the nature of the incident, whether decontamination is required, number of casualties as well as the role CMOC should play. Once activated, it may take one hour for CMOC to become fully functional.

KEY POINTS:

- 1) To Activate: Incident Commander or Medical Branch Director contacts OEC to contact the on-call OEM administrator for CMOC activation.
- 2) Medical Branch Director provides a brief report regarding the nature of incident, decontamination, number of casualties, and the role CMOC should play.