



## San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department Community Emergency Response Team Online CERT Course – Study Guide UNIT 4

### Disaster Medical Operations 2 – Unit 4

- Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI); professional responders will do the following:
  - Establish command and control of the incident area
  - Conduct a scene size-up and setup
  - Send survivors to treatment area
  - Identify and treat survivors with life-threatening injuries immediately
  - Identify deceased victims as well as survivors who are too severely injured to save
  - Manage medical transportation
  - Secure the area to protect responders, survivors, and evidence
  - Remove debris and other safety or health threats
- CERT volunteers will do the following:
  - Put on PPE
  - Locate the nearest professional responder and identify yourself to them
  - Communicate your CERT affiliate to them
  - Ask how you can help; they may ask you to leave; if so, report to your CERT Team Leader
  - If no professionals are available assess the situation, determine whether you can provide life-saving interventions and then report what has been done to the professionals when they arrive
- Disaster Medical Operations
  - Triage / assessment
  - Treatment
  - Transport
  - Morgue
  - Supply

- Medical Treatment Area
  - Decentralized
    - Many injured survivors at several locations
    - Central area is too far away
    - Medical treatment locations set up close to each damaged site
    - Depends on severity of damage, number of injuries / casualties, safety, accessibility of transportation, expandability
  - Centralized
    - Established when there are few injured survivors at multiple sites
    - Injured survivors can be logically moved to one central area
    - Includes treatment areas and a morgue
    - Provides effective use of limited resources
  - Determined by
    - Severity of damage
    - Number of injuries
    - Safety of environment
    - Accessible by transportation vehicles
    - Expandable
- Light Search and Rescue
  - Assess damage to building or house: Light, Moderate, Heavy
  - Head to Toe assessment – DCAPBTLS (deformities, contusions, abrasions, punctures / penetrations, burns, tenderness, lacerations, swelling)
    - Head
    - Neck
    - Shoulders
    - Chest
    - Arms
    - Abdomen
    - Pelvis
    - Legs
    - Head to toe assessment Considerations Knowledge check – verbalize what you are doing; assess all survivors; look, listen and feel; ask permission
    - DCAPBTLS Knowledge check
      - deformities, contusions, abrasions, burns, tenderness, lacerations, swelling
    - Head to toe assessment Considerations Knowledge check – verbalize what you are doing; assess all survivors; look, listen and feel; ask permission
    - Order of Assessment Knowledge check: head, neck, shoulders, chest, arms, abdomen, pelvis, legs

#### Signs of closed head injury

- Change in consciousness, inability to move one or more body parts
- Severe pain or pressure in head, neck , back
- Tingling or numbness in extremities
- Difficulty breathing / seeing
- Heavy bleeding, bruising, deformity of head and spine
- Blood / fluid in nose / ears
- Bruising behind ears
- Bruising around eyes

- Uneven pupils
- Seizures
- Nausea / vomiting
  
- Signs of closed-head, neck or spinal injury Knowledge check
  - Change in consciousness, inability to move one or more body parts
  - Severe pain or pressure in head, neck , back
  - Tingling or numbness in extremities
  - Difficulty breathing / seeing
  - Heavy bleeding, bruising, deformity of head and spine
  - Blood / fluid in nose / ears
  - Bruising behind ears
  - Bruising around eyes
  - Uneven pupils
  - Seizures
  - Nausea / vomiting
  
- Maintaining Hygiene
  - Gloves, N95 mask, goggles
  - Wash hands, use sanitizer
  - Keep dressings sterile
  - Wash areas that come in contact with body fluids
  - Control disposal of bacterial sources
  - Put waste in plastic bags
  - Tie off bags and mark as medical waste
  - Bury human waste
  - If it is warm, wet and not yours, do not touch it
  
- Purifying water
  - Boil water for 1 minute
  - Bleach – 8 drops per gallon (16 if dirty); let stand for 30 minutes
  - Purification tablets
  
- Water sanitation Knowledge check: boil water for 1 minute, purification tablets, non-perfumed bleach
  
- Test
  1. Mass casualty – conduct size-up and provide life saving intervention if safe. Find a professional responder and identify yourself to them. Communicate any information you may have
  2. Maintain sanitization – put waste in plastic bags; tie off bags and mark as “medical waste” and keep separate from other waste; control disposal of bacterial sources.
  3. Closed head injury signs: change in consciousness, raccoon eyes, inability to move one or more body parts
  4. First step in size-up: gathering information
  5. True - Establish medical treatment area by selecting a site and treatment area as soon as survivors are confirmed
  6. Maintain hygiene – wash hands, wear gloves
  7. Consider for treatment area: it is free of hazards, the facilities have effective use of resources, transportation is accessible, it is expandable
  8. Wait 30 minutes before using water purified with bleach
  9. Closed head / neck spinal injuries – minimize movement, move only if in danger
  10. True – for MCI – provide life saving interventions only if professional responders are not available