ICS For EMS

You Took ICS 100
Now What?

Drew Fried, EMT-B, CIC, CHEP, CHSP
So you took ICS 100 and above now what??

Does that make you an expect?
Who Took

- ICS 100
  - Why - because you were told to
- ICS 200
  - Why - you wanted to be a Lt / Captain
- ICS 300
  - Why - you wanted to be a chief
- ICS 400
  - Why - at this point why not
Did any of these tell you anything about ICS for EMS?
Dispatch Information

- Respond to a possible plane crash at a local airport
- A Pre-hospital Providers “Dream Call” or
- Worst Nightmare
Where Does EMS Fall Into ICS

- The medical branch of ICS falls under the responsibility of operations.
- EMS falls under the medical branch
You Are The First Unit On The Scene

- Your crew includes a driver and new member just out of probationary class
  - I hope they know triage
- Who takes what role?
- What actions do you take?
- What are your goals?
You Are The First Unit on The Scene

- Senior member might take control
  - Incident Commander? – Maybe
  - Medical Branch Lead? – Most likely

- Assign one of the two crew members to start triaging victims
  - Triage Unit Leader? – Maybe

- Your third member might start taking just about everything out of the ambulance that might be needed during the initial response
  - Staging Officer – At the moment (YES)
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- What about all the roles we learned about in our ICS Classes
  - Liaison
  - PIO
  - Planning
  - Operations
  - Logistics
  - And my favorite Finance

- These can and should all be assigned later by the Incident Commander
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- More units begin to arrive, now what?
- Should be met by the staging officer
  - EMT and all others except the driver directed to remove specific equipment
  - Direct the driver to an ambulance staging area
  - Drivers stay with the unit
- What do we do with the crews?
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- Arriving Help??
  - Senior member of the agency can become the IC
    - IC appoints a Safety Officer
  - Treatment Unit Leader and Support Staff
  - Transportation Unit Leader and Support Staff
  - Support Staff for Staging Area
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- **Staging Officer**
  - Will ensure that ambulances remain ready to respond back to the scene to pick up patients and an EMT
  - Does it have to be their EMT
  - NO they will find each other later
Important Tip

- When do the stretchers come out of the ambulance?
- When the patient is ready for transport

- Why?
- Not all stretchers fit in every ambulance
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- Triage Unit
  - Responsible to triage all patients before any treatment is started
  - Account for patients within each patient category
  - Report to triage unit leader
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- Treatment Unit duties will vary depending on response times of mutual aid

- Treatment Unit
  - Led by ALS provider if possible
    - Does not treat patients
  - Responsible for secondary triage
  - Responsible for treatment of patients
  - You are in charge “LISTEN”
ICS for EMS

• Transportation Unit
  – Works with treatment unit
  – Assists with transport between triage and treatment units
  – Assists moving patients to the appropriate ambulance
  – Maintains communication with area hospitals
  – Works with staging unit leader
  – Determines what hospital the patient goes to
Casualty Care Group

- This group will be responsible for mass casualties at a collection point
- Buzz word for hospital forward triage
- Buzz word for active shooter scenes
Pitfalls

- First unit on the scene does not know what to do – Lack of experience
- Command is not established
- Triage is not started
- Unit leaders are not established
- Freelancers
- Transport loses control of transportation assets
- Hospitals overwhelmed by inappropriate transport
Pitfalls

- Limited or no communication between unit leaders
  - Triage and transport
  - Triage and treatment
  - Treatment and Transportation
  - Transportation and Staging
  - Staging and local EMS / Hospitals
Pitfalls

- Lack of communication between agencies and agency types
- Lack of training
- Lack of inter-agency
  - Cooperation
  - Drills
Summary

- Makes sure you understand the EMS ICS roles
- Agencies need to meet with their counterparts
- Think out of the box
- Look at the big picture
QUESTIONS??

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