

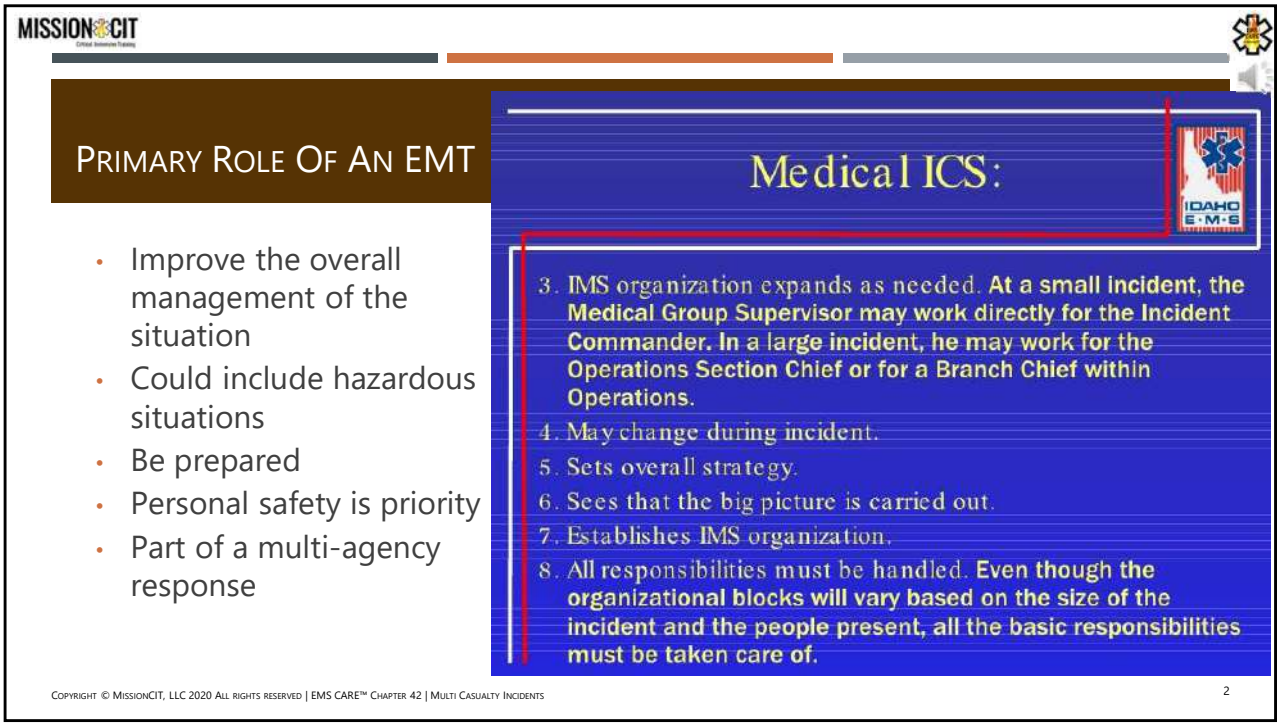


Medical Branch Of Incident Command

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Thank you, Justin!

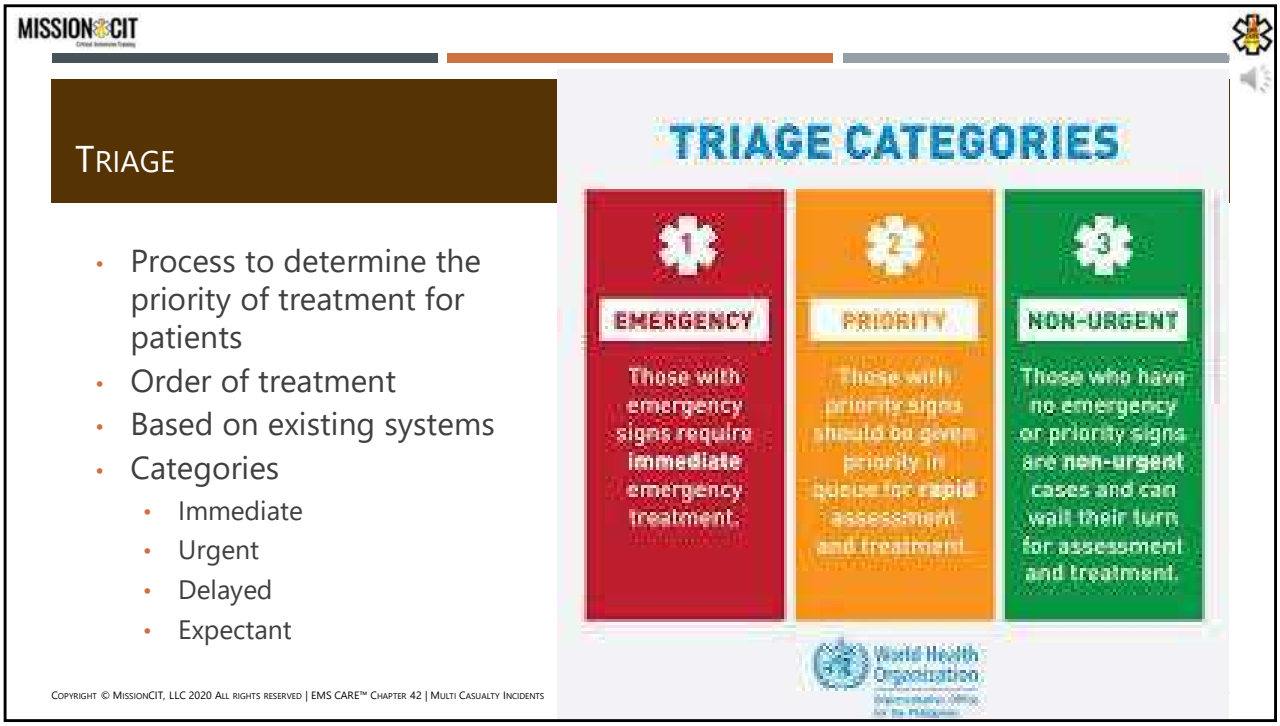
Earlier, we saw that the primary role of an EMT is in the medical branch of incident command. In this lesson, we will go in-depth into each of the EMT's activities.



The fundamental function of the medical branch of incident command is to improve the overall medical management of the situation. This could include a hazardous situation as well, so it is essential to be prepared to handle such emergencies. Remember, personal safety takes the highest importance.

Most often, your services will be used during a multi-agency response to mass casualty incidents or special events. Needless to say, such incidents require high levels of resources, so they have to be broken down into manageable bits, and you will be playing a big role in the

triage, treatment, and transport of patients at the incident site.



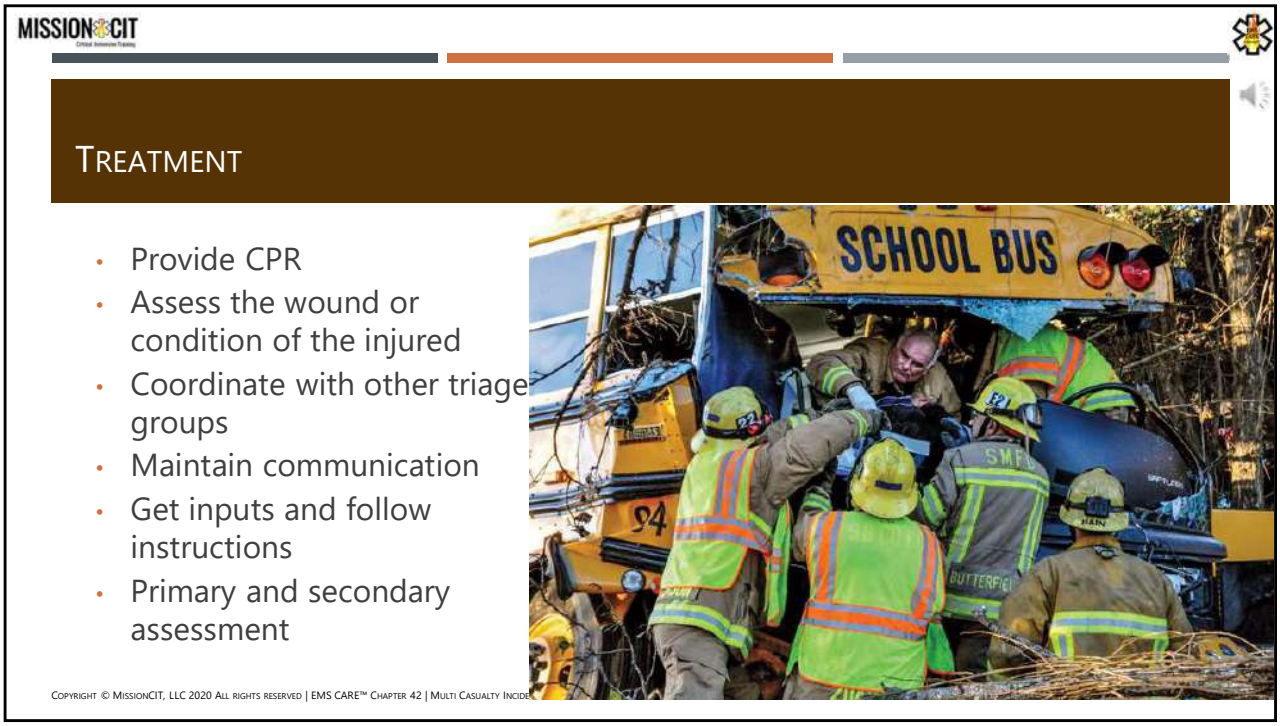
Triage is the process by which you determine the priority of treatment for patients, depending on the severity of their condition or the chances of recovery with or without treatment. In other words, it is the process of deciding the order of treatment for patients.

The broad categories of triage are:

- Immediate, that requires life-saving treatment
- Urgent, that require significant intervention at the earliest
- Delayed, that require intervention but without urgency

- Expectant, that may or may not require treatment

This triage is based on many existing systems such as START, SALT, etc. What you must follow depends on your local procedures. We will talk about each of these systems in the upcoming lessons.

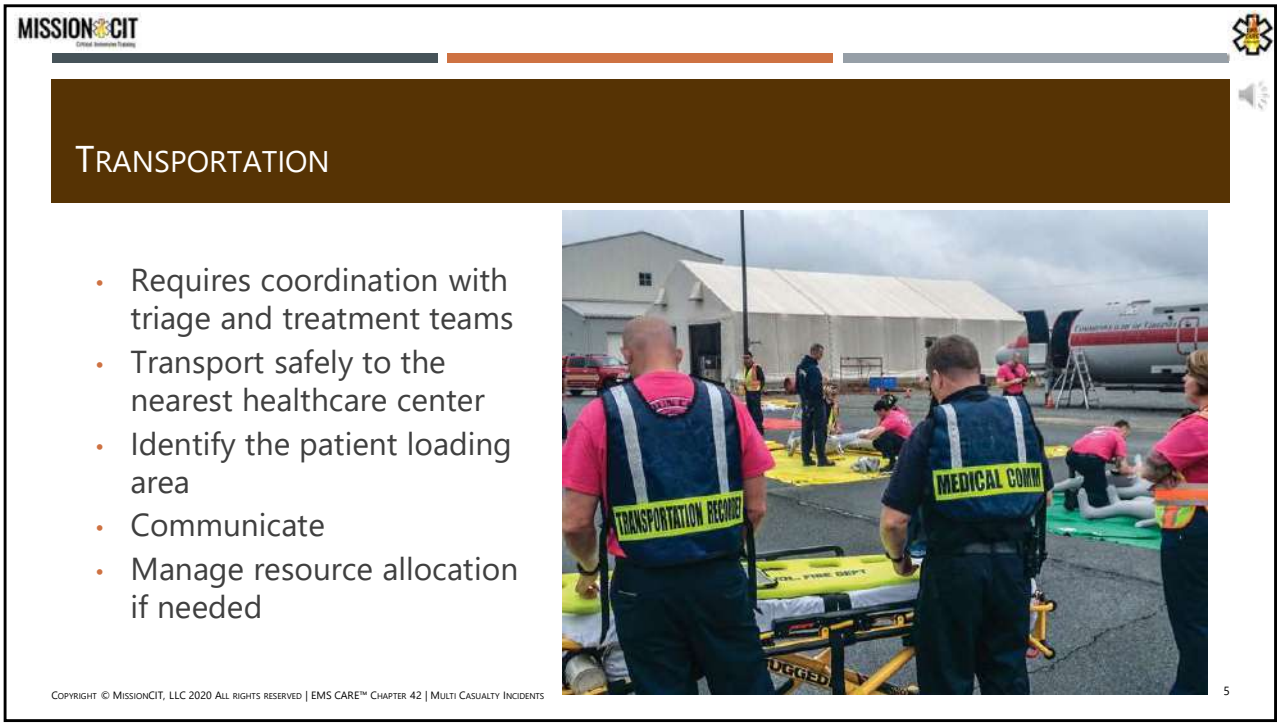


In this role, you will have to provide primary treatment for patients such as CPR and assess the wound or the condition of the injured, including its location in the body and the severity. You have to coordinate with the triage group to move patients to different categories of emergency based on their condition.

Besides, you also have to maintain communication with the medical group supervisor to get inputs and follow the instructions.

You’re responsible for reassessing the patient and doing a secondary assessment to provide appropriate care for

the patients.



Transport is another key activity in a multi-casualty incident, and this requires coordination with the triage and treatment teams.

Your core responsibility here is to transport the patient safely from the site of the incident to the nearest healthcare facility that is equipped to provide appropriate care for the patient. You must transport the patient to alternative care sites if the nearest infrastructure has become incapacitated due to the disaster.

You must also work with the treatment group to identify

the patients and the right loading area for each patient. Work with the supervisor to communicate and manage resource allocation.

STAGING

- Responsible for collecting available resources
- Move around as needed
- More than one staging division may be involved
- Maintain the record of units, assign ambulances, obtain EMT resources, and equipment



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The staging division is responsible for collecting the available resources in the incident area. Also known as the logistics division, this group has to move around as needed. More than one staging group may also be involved, depending on the situation.

The primary role is to maintain the record of available units, assign ambulances based on requests, obtain EMT resources, supplies, and equipment needed to handle the site.

As you can see, this is a communication-intense role.

Physicians On Scene

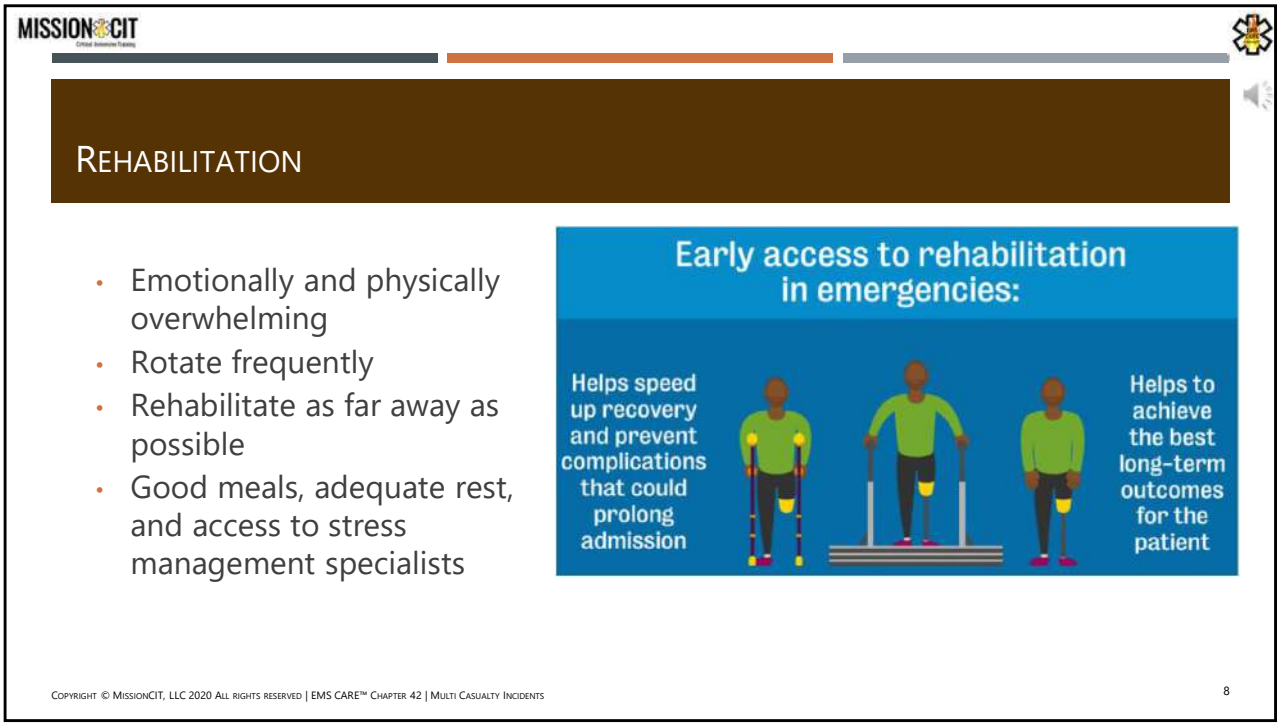
- Report to the commanding officer
- Role is invaluable
- Part of the medical branch
- May work as technical advisors



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EMS physicians must report to the commanding officer for immediate integration into the I C S as trained physicians can be invaluable in an accident scene. Sometimes though, they will be sent directly to work in a different area such as staging, depending on their experience and skills.

In general, on-scene physicians are a part of the medical branch of the I C S and may work as technical advisors.



There are many facets to responding to a mass casualty incident, and rehabilitation is one of them.

Treating large numbers of injured people can be emotionally and physically overwhelming, especially if the incident is large n terms of both area and injuries. Such situations will require the extension of operations, so EMS staff will be rotated on shifts.

While doing so, it's important to rotate frequently, especially those involved in the treatment areas, as this staff is likely to get drained soon. During their non-shift hours, they have to be rehabilitated as far away as

possible from the incident scene to give them enough time to recover. These EMS personnel must get good meals, adequate rest, and access to stress management experts and techniques if needed.

All this will bring them back to work fresh and invigorated, so they are all set to handle the patients.

Extrication And Special Rescue

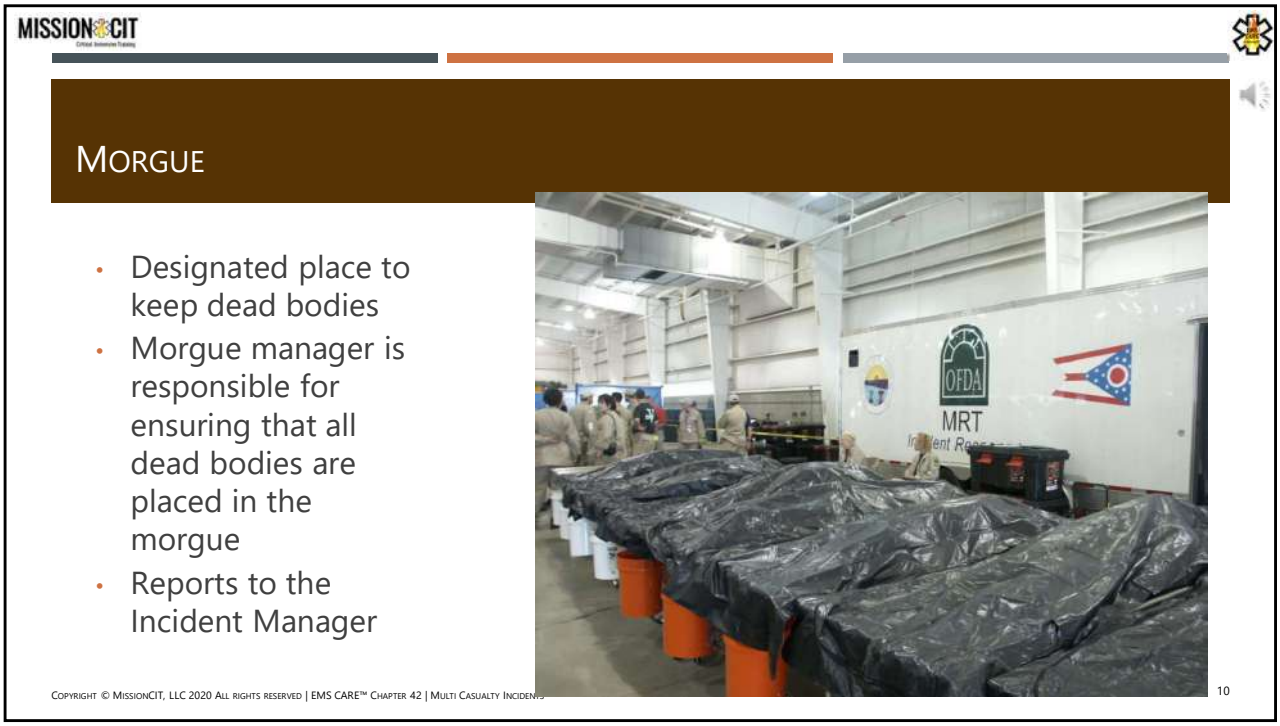
- Unit leader coordinates with incident commander
- Initial triage on trapped patients
- Moved to Casualty Collection Point
- Medical Skills Team for treating patients with life threatening conditions



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For those incidents that involve an extrication or special rescue, the unit leader of the Triage group coordinates with the incident command to ensure a safe triage operation. In this sense, the extrication group has to perform initial triage on the trapped patients. Next, they have to be moved to the Casualty Collection Point, and from there, you have to transport patients and do whatever is necessary to provide appropriate care.

A Medical Skills Team will be on standby for treating patients who may have life threatening conditions or those that require prolonged extrication.



The incident scene may also require a designated morgue to keep the dead bodies. The morgue is usually handled by a representative from the Coroner's Office. But when this representative is not on the scene, any individual can be designated as a Morgue Manager, and this person becomes responsible for ensuring that all dead bodies are placed in the morgue. Also, he or she is responsible for tracking the ID of the dead and keeping them confidential.

While appointing a morgue manager, it makes sense to deploy a law enforcement officer, rather than an EMS, so

the latter can be used to handle medical emergencies.

The Morgue Manager reports to the Incident Commander

We hope this gives you a fair idea of your roles and responsibilities as well as the different operations that take place in the incident scene.

In the next lesson, Justin will explain the Model Uniform Core Criteria.