

# Mass Casualty Events

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# Mass Casualty Events

## *What is a mass casualty event?*

A mass casualty incident may be generally regarded as any incident in which the number of victims exceeds the number of rescuers and resources that can immediately triage, treat, and transport them, and is also estimated to require significant additional resources or time to adequately manage, control, or mitigate the situation. (***Local resources are overwhelmed.***)

The term casualty represents a much broader categorization than fatality. It is commonly understood that fatality represents the state or condition of death whereas ***casualties***, as a general category, ***represent those who are both injured and dead.***

# Mass Casualty Events

## *What is a mass casualty event? (cont'd)*

- There is no predetermined number of victims that triggers a mass casualty incident response.
- However, a mass casualty event may usually be distinguished from an emergency incident that initially overwhelms the first responders, but can subsequently be managed by routine calls for mutual aid.

# Mass Casualty Events

Who is included in the term “mass casualty”? In disaster terms, they are:

- Injured people
- People who are lost and/or missing
- People who have died or been killed as a direct or indirect result of the hazard at hand.

# Mass Casualty Events

## *Two types of Mass Casualty Events*

- **Closed**
  - The victims are confined to a small geographical area
  - The span of control is such that the scene can be managed on-scene by an Incident Commander
  - Examples: auto accidents, train wrecks, and building explosions.

# Mass Casualty Events

## *Two types of Mass Casualty Events (cont'd)*

- **Open**
  - Victims are scattered over a large geographical area
  - Span of control is so large that the incident must be divided into multiple “scenes” within the community or impacted area
  - Examples: tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes are events that typically cause “open” mass casualty events

# Mass Casualty Events

## ***Partial List of Considerations:***

- Be aware of at-risk populations and the special needs they have
- Location of medical facilities and their capabilities
- Identification and deployment of EMTs, doctors, nurses, technicians, and other medical personnel
- Transporting of victims to areas not affected by the disaster, to include air transports as needed
- Ensure that access to medical facilities has been established

# Mass Casualty Events

## ***Partial List of Considerations: (cont'd)***

- Provide accurate and timely public information during and immediately following a mass casualty incident, to include: quarantine and isolation issues; medical-care issues, including listings of available functional hospitals and health-care facilities; family assistance services; transportation issues, including road closures; shelter locations, information about current and pending health related issues.



# Mass Casualty Events

## ***Partial List of Considerations: (cont'd)***

- Establish next-of-kin procedures and coordinate the notification process, as needed, to include a Family Assistance Center, if necessary
- Activate Mass Fatality Plan as appropriate.

# Mass Casualty Events

## Disaster Declaration

A Disaster Emergency, Under Idaho Code Section 46-1002, will be recommended for the following:

1. Imminent threat or occurrence of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property;
2. Resulting from any natural or man-made cause, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Natural Events: Drought, earthquake, fire, avalanche, snow/ice/hail, windstorm, disease, eruption, landslide/mudslide, dust storms and lightning storms.
  - b. Man-Made Events: Hazardous materials release, explosion/fires, transportation accidents, building/structure collapse, power/utility failure fuel/resource shortage, strikes, business interruption, financial collapse, terrorism, sabotage, hostage situations, civil unrest, and enemy attack.

# Mass Casualty Events

## Disaster Declaration

### *Who can file a disaster declaration?*

- The Mayor of a City or Chairman of the County Commission
- All requests for State assistance must come from the County

### *Why File a Disaster Declaration?* (partial list)

- Opens up different funding sources and frees up financial avenues not typically available
- May provide immunities not otherwise available
- Allows for expedited decision making process