EMS in the Cross-Hairs: The Colorado Shootings

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Denver General
School Shootings

- Buell elementary school; Flint, Michigan
  - 1st grader killed by another 1st grader
- Fort Gibson middle school, Oklahoma
  - 13 year old fires 15 rounds, wounding 4
- Springfield, Oregon
  - 2 teenagers killed and more than 20 injured when a teenager opens fire at a high school
- Jonesboro, Arkansas
  - 4 girls and a teacher are killed and 10 wounded at a middle school
Columbine High School Shootings
Safeway Shootings

- Denver, Colorado
  - June 25th, 2006
  - 4 dead, 14 wounded
Aurora Shootings
Bus Crash

- 8:30 AM on Wednesday morning
- 38 passengers and 1 driver
- 4 critical, 2 serious
  - Everyone else has neck pain
Louis Pasteur

• “Chance favors the prepared mind”
Disaster

• Any situation that overwhelms the community’s resources or ability to respond to that situation
Disaster Management

• A change from *priority for* to *access to*

• Are you ready to *ration care?*
11:20 Hours - Report of Explosion and Grassfire at Chatfield and Wadsworth. “Don’t know if it was a car or what it was, but they’re on Wadsworth Blvd. NB between Chatfield and Ken Caryl. There was an explosion in the backyard. I don’t know if it was a car or a propane tank, a big ball of fire, now there is smoke. There are several people pulled off to the side of the road”
Diversion
Communication

• Arrange in advance
  – Different agencies on different frequencies
  – Appropriate and necessary
  – Cell phones useless
  – Batteries
Temptation

- Rush and treat
  - Is the scene safe?
    - What good is done by adding to victim list
  - Where are efforts needed most?
  - “The good of the many over the good of the few”
Temptation

- Rush and transport
  - Rush to nearest hospital
  - Simply transplant
  - Disaster
disaster
  - Equal and appropriate
distribution
  - Avoid self-destination
  - Walking wounded
Temptation

• Rush to scene
  – Rest of the city still needs care
Organization

- Everyone will arrive
  - Staging is critical
    - Vehicles everywhere
    - Crowds
  - Staging in the ED as well!
Ambulance Bay
Identification

- Triage area
- Physicians
- Freelancers
- Sniper incident
- Hospitals must do the same
Resources

• Victims AND providers
  – Water
  – Clothing
  – Equipment

• Pediatrics
  – Equipment
  – Trauma centers

• Destination for families?
Call Down

• Communicate the incident is over
  – Plane crash in Washington D.C.
Media

• Onslaught WILL occur
  – At scene
  – At hospital
  – For weeks on end
• Aid versus hinder
• PREPARE!
  – Information to release
  – Variations on a story
AFTERMATH

- Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD)
  - Involved personnel
  - Off duty personnel
  - Spouses
- Staff support
  - Take care of your own
- Incident review
  - Constructive vs. armchair quarterbacks
- Don’t underestimate the impact this can have
Why?
Why Colorado?
Summary

- It can happen to you
- Beware of second hit
  - Never let your guard down
- Have a plan
  - Use it
- Drill
- Communication and cooperation are the keys