

## Multi-Agency Mass Casualty Full-scale Exercise Conducted in Region 2 North (R2N)

By Rick Drummer, Region 2 North Regional Coordinator

In October 2015 Region 2 North (R2N) healthcare coalition conducted a multi-agency mass casualty full-scale exercise at the General Motors (GM) Technical Center in Warren, MI. After reviewing multiple locations, this facility was selected to test the response to a large complex with many buildings and roads. The scenario was realistic to the site location, which allowed GM to exercise their agency's response to an incident prior to the arrival of outside support. Months of planning were needed to develop the exercise scenario and logistics to test the ability of pre-hospital and hospital agencies to respond to an explosion with multiple burn victims. This collaborative effort was made possible through the efforts of many community partners including: The Macomb County Medical Control Authority and the Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) planning team, the City of Warren Police, Fire, and Public Television, GM, the Macomb County Emergency Management and Public Health Departments, and the R2N Regional Medical Coordination Center, and R2N hospitals and pre-hospital partners.

The exercise objectives included:

- Exercise the interoperable radio communications during a MCI within the National Incident Management System Incident Command System framework.
- Exercise life support agency response to an MCI where multiple agencies are involved.
- Exercise scene management and patient care at an MCI with special attention to patient disposition to hospital facilities, including multiple burn patients.



Some of the highlights from the exercise include:

- Emergency vehicles needed to know how to arrive at the scene and staging area in a one-mile square engineering complex. GM provided security at the gates so Emergency Medical System (EMS) vehicles could arrive at the location quickly. GM also provided a staging area, which would be necessary in a real MCI incident. Staging of ambulances and response vehicles was difficult due to the large number of response agencies involved. We learned that the staging officer is a critical position and it should be someone prepared and trained to handle the situation.

- The Medical Control Authority MCI protocols for communications and triage were successfully tested with a few minor exceptions on talk group/channel usage.
- Even though there were numerous burn patients, the State Burn Plan was not activated during the initial response, however it would be activated after the victims were transported to the hospitals initially receiving them
- Multiple cameras were used to capture the exercise. The images captured by video cameras are still being compiled and will be released in the near future.



GM used the exercise opportunity to evaluate their response plans for an incident in one of their facilities just prior to the MCI incident. This was a great opportunity to show collaboration between all the partners and allow multiple agencies to use the same exercise date and time for multiple purposes.

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