

Medical Displan Victoria

Annual Review 1999

Medical Displan—Our Aims and Objectives

Medical Displan Victoria (the State Emergency Medical Response Plan) is the Functional Sub-Committee (Medical and Health) of the Victoria State Emergency Response Plan.

Its aim is to provide all necessary information to enable an effective response in the shortest period of time with the minimum loss of life.

It sets out policy, procedure and guidelines to assist medical and health personnel to carry out response and recovery operations in conjunction with other emergency service plans which may be in effect at the time.

The aims and objectives of Medical Displan Victoria are:

- to provide overall medical control and coordination and effective mass casualty management in major emergencies and disaster situations;
- to carry out triage, first aid and resuscitation;
- to coordinate transport of the injured to the most appropriate hospital or treatment area;
- to provide and coordinate qualified and experienced medical teams to assist at the emergency site;
- to provide and coordinate public health resources for the maintenance of general health in the community during a disaster;
- to provide psychological support for victims and team members;
- to provide an interface for simultaneous responses and early activation of recovery plans;
- to coordinate medical, nursing and first aid volunteers at the disaster site;
- to mitigate disasters by participation in event planning and medical and emergency service education.

Mission Statement

The mission of Medical Displan Victoria is to coordinate all the necessary health-related activities of planning, preparedness and response to an emergency with the potential for mass casualties in the State of Victoria.

The Year

1999 has been highlighted with statewide response and recovery planning for incidents which impact and focus on widespread disruption to community lifestyles. The gas shortage through Victoria, which resulted from the Longford Refinery explosion in the Latrobe Valley, served as a catalyst for the Victorian Emergency Management Council to provide initiatives for all State Government Departments to critically review existing emergency arrangements and for a coordinated approach for recovery purposes.

Emergency management arrangements and linkages between central and regional offices of the Department of Human Services (DHS) have been reviewed and strengthened to provide for integrated response and recovery throughout the State, where incidents affect large areas of the State or the whole of Victoria.

DHS has the responsibility, under the *Emergency Management Act 1986* (Vic), to coordinate recovery actions in communities following emergency incidents.

Planning has been ongoing throughout the year on major event issues. These include the Australian Grands Prix (car and motorcycle), New Year's Eve activities including the Y2K Bug and special arrangements required to cater for the 2000 Olympic Football (Soccer) series of games being held at venues in Victoria.



MEDICAL DISPLAN
VICTORIA

Human
Services



Peoplefirst

As part of a national approach, intensive education and awareness on Chemical, Biological & Radiological (CBR) incidents is being programmed for all public hospitals in Victoria and training packages on this issue are being developed.

New Year's Eve

The mass gatherings expected for New Year's Eve 1999 were medically coordinated by a series of meetings held to estimate the extent of services needed and provide contingencies to cover 'ordinary' disasters and any glitches from the Y2K bug. For example, the operational amalgamation of Surf Life Saving Victoria and Royal Life Saving Society, together with training in the use of semi-automatic defibrillators, potentially allowed a landwards service within a short radius of selected clubhouses. Central business district crowd control remains an issue under review, with a critical choke point on the south bank of the Yarra identified as a major hazard.

Annual Exercise

The Medical Displan Annual Seminar/Exercise in 1999 was held in Geelong, Victoria, over the weekend 4/5 September.

Original exercise planning was based on providing a training exercise in the field in the usual manner; however, State elections were called at short notice for this weekend and, as emergency services manpower resources were

going to be limited, a decision was taken to make the training period an indoor hypothetical exercise to be held in the Geelong Hospital Lecture Theatre and moderated by Doone Robertson, a past staff member of the Australian Emergency Management Institute, Mt Macedon, Victoria. This change of plan was an overwhelming success.

The exercise was designed to provide discussion on the pre-hospital phase coordination of resources and mass casualty management; participants from all emergency services and agencies gained benefit from the training period.

The weekend was well attended by participants from several States and, as in past years, general practitioners were able to apply to the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners for Continuing Further Education Program credits for Disaster Medicine training for the weekend activities.

Refugee Assistance

Victoria was one of several States and Territories selected to provide assistance for refugees from Kosovo and East Timor.

Medical Displan was involved in planning for medical and health services in Puckapunyal, Portsea and Bandiana Safe Havens, and for ongoing services within health regions for this purpose. Medical Officers were also involved in medical attendance on arrival at Melbourne airport and in transit to other destinations. Community support for both groups was provided.

Victoria also provided listings of volunteer medical and nursing staff ready to assist the Northern Territory Health Department if required for an abnormal influx of refugees to the Darwin area. The eventual change of circumstances in East Timor eliminated the requirement for volunteer assistance; however, the listings will provide a core of staff for any future event of a similar nature.

Disaster Medicine Training Course

Victoria was able to send four participants to the 6th National Disaster Medicine Training Course held at the Australian Emergency Management Institute at Mt Macedon in December 1999, as an ongoing commitment to





provide training for specialist disaster purposes. These national courses have been set up as an initiative of the Australian Medical Disaster Coordination Group under the auspices of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Committee as a means of providing a common grounding and response by all States and Territories for qualitative pre-hospital and hospital casualty management for mass casualties.

Chemical, Biological & Radiological (CBR) Training

Planning and training of health professionals for response to CBR-type incidents has been commenced for participants in Medical Displan in conjunction with other emergency services. Victoria was able to participate in a CBR workshop in Sydney NSW, in December 1999, to assist with the production of a training package for this purpose. Awareness of CBR-type incidents has been generally heightened with the Olympic Games in Australia, and the year 2000 will see specialised CBR initiatives in the health services which will assist in future planning and response for other disasters.

Olympic Games Medical/Health Arrangements

Planning arrangements are complete for providing 24-hour medical and health coverage for Olympic participants, officials and families in accordance with the Commonwealth/State agreement. Melbourne

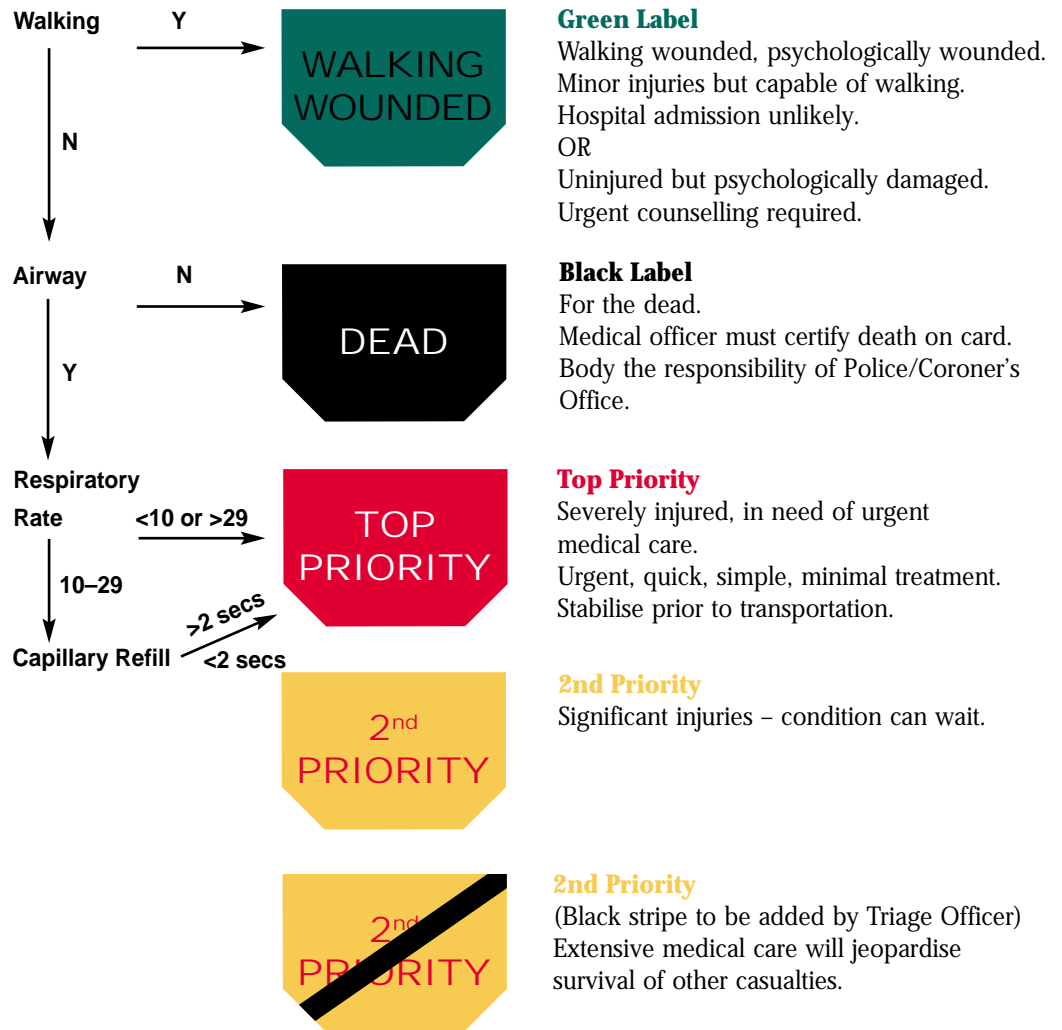
will be hosting a large number of Olympic Football (Soccer) matches in the lead-up to the Football (Soccer) Finals.

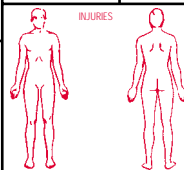
Statewide First Aid Planning Review

A review of existing plans from all formal first aid provider agencies in Victoria has been carried out during the year to broaden and integrate the first aid assistance necessary to support the Ambulance Services in mass casualty situations. St John, Red Cross, Life Saving agencies, the Metropolitan and Rural Ambulance Services and Medical Displan have now agreed on the planning arrangements for the First Aid Sub-Plan to the State Emergency Medical Response Plan (Medical Displan) which will be distributed to participating Response and Recovery Agencies.



Triage Labels



UNCONSCIOUS	<input type="checkbox"/>	NAME (if known)	No
RESPONDS TO STIMULI	<input type="checkbox"/>		
DROWSY	<input type="checkbox"/>		
FULLY CONSCIOUS	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Time			
TREATMENT GIVEN			
			

Reverse

No: Patient loading Number (for ambulance management)

Time: First triage

Treatment given /

Reasons for delay: (2nd priority only)

Injuries:

Name: (if known)

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