



Mass Fatalities Incidents



I n t e r n a t i o n a l

EIIP

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Definition of a Mass *Fatalities* Incident

Overwhelms *locally available* resources

Fewer than *Mass fatalities* = *Multiple* fatalities

Different for each community

Factors

- Number of deaths

- Scope of destruction

- Rate of recovery

Mass Fatalities Incident Response

Integrated Incident Management

Human Remains Recovery Ops

Forensic Services

Volunteer Mgmt/Staff Processing

Family Assistance and Support

Personnel Support/Trauma First Aid

Triangle Shirtwaist Factory

Fire at 5PM on Saturday, March 25, 1911

146 women and girls died

Bodies were lined up on sidewalk

Temporary morgue at 26th Street pier

Bodies side by side in open wood coffins

Family members visually ID'd victims

Morgue was open to press and public

20th Century Evolution

Sensitivities to family members evolved

Heightened dignity & respect for deceased

Scientific processes became sophisticated

DNA was added to the identification toolbox

Start of Major Change

January 25th, 1990 Avianca Flight 52
Cove Neck, Long Island crash kills 73
Organized response by Funeral Directors
Recognized by Federal Gov't as asset
Disaster Mortuary Operational Response
Team (DMORT) results
Numerous deployments since

Growth Brings Change

Federal teams became recognized

Local planning deferred to federal teams

Incidence in mid 1990's went from average of 1 in 3 years to 3 per year

September 11th brought new demands

Gulf hurricanes in 2005 strained limits

Pandemic planning brought new issues

U.S. Experience

Historical US perspective is based on *conventional* incidents

Commercial air crashes (majority)

Natural disasters (Floods are #1 then tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes)

Focused violence (e.g. Murrah Building)

Earmarks of a Conventional Incident

Single site

Lies in one geo-political jurisdiction

Contained in a defined space

Risk returns to zero after initial dynamic

Rapidly quantified as to damage & deaths

Response peaks in hours to days

***The definition is changing!*

Future Incidents?

Extraordinary numbers of fatalities

Possible natural origins

Extended response

Contaminated victims

Imposition of Quarantine

Forced disposition

Future Incidents?

Multiple local sites

May span several jurisdictions

Uncontained and capable of spreading

Managed as a crime/environmental scene

Risk exists until remediation is complete

Scope may be a function of epidemiologic modeling

Response peaks in weeks to months

Fatality Management

EMS - don't move dead bodies

Report deaths to appropriate authority
(ME/Coroner by statute)

Refrigerated storage will be an issue*

Institutions cannot function in isolation and
should create partnerships now

Don't take ownership of a problem that
isn't yours.

The background of the slide is an abstract painting consisting of dense, expressive brushstrokes in various shades of blue, from light sky blue to deep navy and black. There are also some small, bright yellow and white highlights scattered throughout the composition. The overall effect is a textured, layered, and somewhat chaotic visual field.

Storage of Human Remains

3 Step Alternatives

Refrigerated Trailers

- Require Service
- Require ramps-steps
- Power source
- Limited capacity









GE Energy Rentals

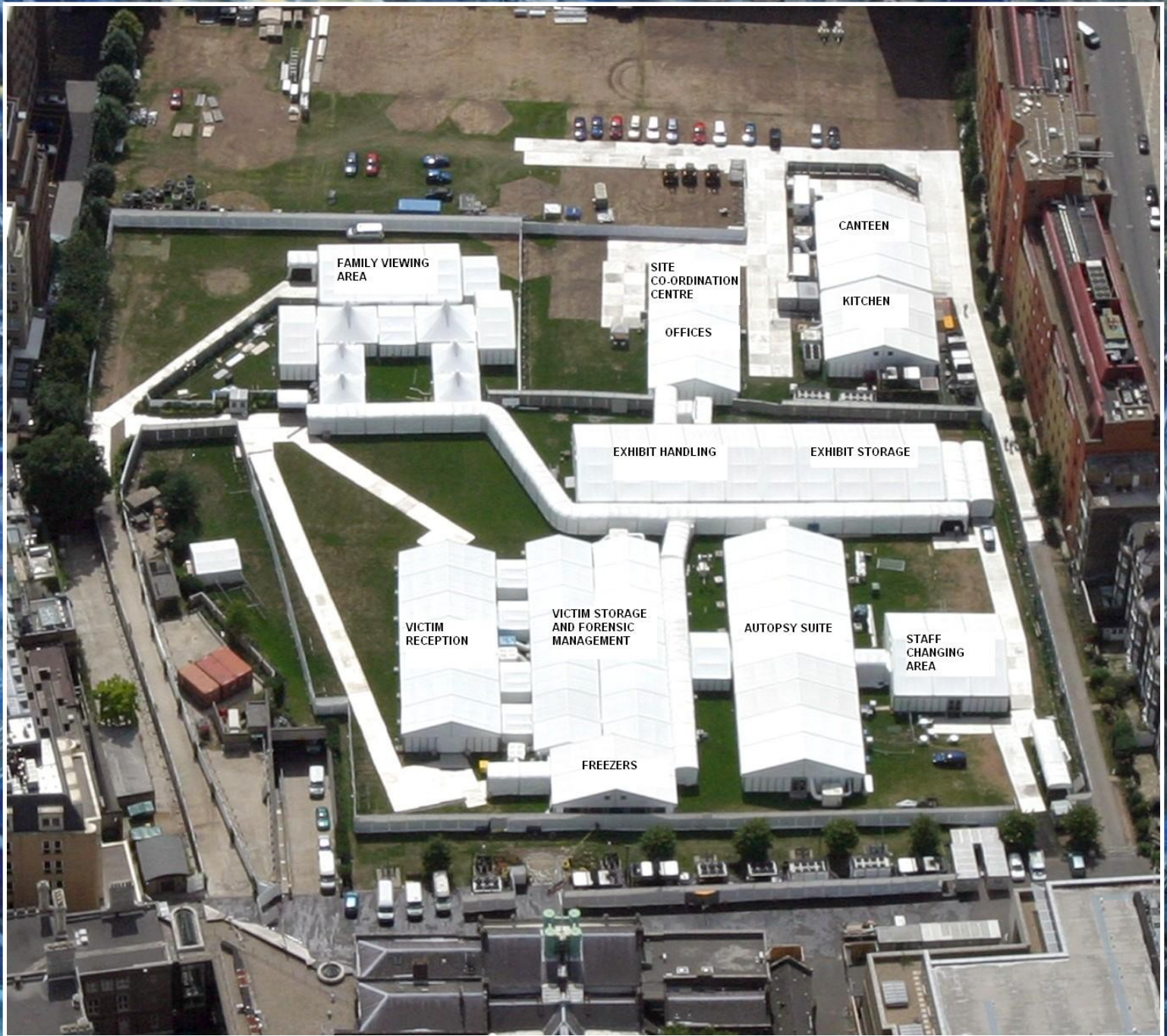
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EQUIPMENT







FAMILY VIEWING AREA

SITE CO-ORDINATION CENTRE

CANTEEN

KITCHEN

OFFICES

EXHIBIT HANDLING

EXHIBIT STORAGE

VICTIM RECEPTION

VICTIM STORAGE AND FORENSIC MANAGEMENT

AUTOPSY SUITE

STAFF CHANGING AREA

FREEZERS

The background of the slide is an abstract, textured composition of various shades of blue and yellow, resembling a close-up of a plant or a microscopic view of a material. The colors are layered and mixed, creating a complex, organic pattern.

Temporary Interment

“Temporary Underground Storage”
800-1000 per acre

Immediate impact on providers

Genesis of incident may produce staff fatalities outright

Staff members become secondary victims

Refusal to work due to personal fear of exposure

Refusal to work due to family safety risks

Follow-on impacts

First wave of employee loss de-motivates others

Remaining staff over-taxed physically and psychologically (Exacerbated with time)

Acute, atypical incidents will cause individual shutdown

Grief, stress and acute trauma will diminish staff efficiency and effectiveness

Extended recovery fatigue

Planning for the Incident

Plan to operate with diminished staff

Understand local laws that govern disaster response and mass fatalities (Talk to C/ME)

Explore refrigerated storage alternatives

Initiate training for staff to cope with impacts of a large scale incident

Craft detailed guidelines for infrastructure management and security

NOW!!

When it happens it's too late

Work as a group

Publicize your role and availability

Establish inter-agency connections

Train, train, train



QUESTIONS ??



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