

Mark Twain St. Joseph's Hospital

HICS Exercise: Electric Power Outage



Exercise GOAL:

To provide a hospital-focused tabletop exercise to demonstrate the use and effectiveness of the HICS Incident Response Guide for Patient Surge.

Exercise Objectives:

Participants of the Tabletop Exercise will be able to:

- Understand the HICS IRG for Patient Surge and its integration into the current hospital organization.
- Demonstrate by way of a tabletop exercise the effectiveness of the HICS in respect to hospital command structure.
- Identify and explain the basic purpose of several commonly used forms utilized in the Patient Surge IRG.

Exercise Materials:

1. Incident Response Guide: Patient Surge for each participant
 2. HICS Job Action Sheets
 3. HICS Forms: Action Plan, Org Chart, Message, Activity Logs
 4. Sign-in sheet
- 2.

Estimated Teaching Time:

- 15 min. Exercise description and IRG review
90 min. Table top exercise
15 min. Exercise critique and wrap-up

Total Time 2 hours

Exercise Scenario:

0800 (Moderator)

Sometime during the night last night, a major portion of the electrical grid experienced a cascading failure. Most of the homes and businesses in the county are still without power, however MTSJ and the government center all continue to have power this morning.

911 calls have increased during the night. The Emergency Department is reporting a significant influx of patients and has requested that the House Supervisor implement Level I Patient Surge protocols.

0815 (all participants) Review the Incident Response Guide for Level I Patient Surge

- Consider:
- Which HICS positions and staff get activated?
 - What criteria and procedures are used for early patient discharge?
 - What criteria and procedures are used for cancellation of procedures?

0845 (Moderator)

CNN is reporting that major portions of the western United States are continuing to experience system-wide rolling blackouts and brown-outs. It is believed at this time that this incident is due to an unusually high amount of solar storms, however man-made or terrorist activity has not been ruled out.

The Calaveras County Emergency Operations Center was activated at 0800 this morning, and is working with local utility representatives, Law Enforcement, Fire, and Public Health to prioritize and address any public health and public safety issues. Most of the county remains without power at this time, and current projections estimate 3-4 days before normal power is restored. Priority has been given to the electrical grids in which acute care hospitals are located, including Mark Twain St. Joseph's Hospital.

The Emergency Department is reporting significant delays in ambulance turn-around times, and they are currently holding 6 admissions. All area hospitals are reporting capacity problems with the increased numbers of patients due to various issues associated with the power outage.

0850 (all participants) Review the Incident Response Guide for Level II Patient Surge

- Consider:
- Who will be involved in the development of an Incident Action Plan?
 - How does the Surge Tent and appropriate signage get deployed?
 - Who will be involved in expanding inpatient areas?

0945 (Moderator)

The County EOC is reporting that a local Declaration of Emergency has been declared. All hospitals throughout the region are reporting a surge in patients and lack of inpatient beds and resources to meet the demands on the healthcare system. Public Health has requested that a representative from MTSJ attend a planning meeting scheduled for 1100.

0950 Wrap-up/Round-table Review