Before The Crash…

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Today’s Objective…

- Understand each other’s goals at the scene of a school bus crash.
- Increase levels of communication.
- Identify areas of cooperation to enhance effectiveness
EMS Roles & Goals
- Provide patient care
- Medically fragile students
- Locate patients – accountability
- Organize the scene
- Remove patients from scene

Transportation Roles & Goals
- Identification of students
- Facilitate safety of students
- Collect crash data
- Cooperate with emergency responders
Accountability

- Rosters
- Attendance
- Tracking
Rosters

- Name of student
- Parent Contact phone number
- Pertinent medical history (disabilities, allergies etc.)
- FERPA allows this information to be shared with school bus contractors
- Privacy laws are voided during a Mass Casualty Incident

Attendance

- Who is on the bus that day?
- Who is on the bus at the time?
- Attendance information at school accessible?
- Numbers on bus when all else fails...astute driver.
Pre-Planning

- Definitions
- Command
- Information Management
- Logistics
- Communications

Definition of Pre-Planning

Preparation made by emergency service personnel for handling a specific incident which has not occurred so those personnel can do an intelligent and effective job in an organized manner.
Preplanning is crucial:

- In an actual incident, size up may be difficult
  - Accessibility may be poor (Cattle Chutes)
  - Smoke or vapor cloud may obstruct vision

Preplanning is crucial:

- Decisions must be made under many difficult situations
  - Decisions made within a limited time
  - Decisions made under duress due to possible impending severity of the incident
Preplanning is crucial:

• Preplans must be practiced and reviewed
  – Changes can be made
  – Personnel can become familiar with the plan

School Bus Pre-Planning

• Medical information in the hands of the bus personnel.
• Training
  – Equipment
  – Emergency evacuations
  – Lifts & carries
  – Students
• Crash procedures
Steps to Pre-Planning...

1. Who should attend?
   - Police, EMS, Fire, Schools etc.
2. What are goals of each at the scene?
   - Expectations, assumptions?
3. Logistical concerns...
   - Where do parents report
   - Where will children be taken…etc
   - Who handles the media, social media and alerts?
4. Role of Liaison…
5. Communicate and compromise when possible…

Command

• Unified Command
  - School,
  - Transportation Contractor,
  - Police, EMS,
  - Fire…
• EMS commands until patients removed, law enforcement commands during investigation
Unified Command

- Incident Commander
- Overall Commander
- EMS Operations
- Rescue and Patient Care
- Police Operations
- Scene Control Investigation
- Fire Operations
- Hazard Control
- School Admin.
- Liason
- Transport Co. Liason

Unified Command

- Multiple rescue / EMS companies
- Fire Departments
- Police agencies
- NHTSA, NTSB
- DER, EPA
- Haz Mat Teams
- PEMA, Local EMA
- Local Government
- DPW
Role of Transporters in Unified Command

- Verification and transfer of student information.
- Student custody/tracking.
  - Custody Vs. Care
- Establish information center for parent and school connection. – Red Cross
- Data collection for future liabilities.

Incident Commander

- Assess incident
- Develops appropriate EMS branch assignments
- Requests additional resources
- Work with other agencies
**Triage Officer**

- Establish Triage area
- Assign EMS personnel to triage and tag pt’s
- Ensure all pt’s are seen and triaged
- Assist transportation officer

**Triage Tags**

- Red
- Yellow
- Green
- White
- Black
Before the Crash

**Treatment Officer**
- Establish pt collection/treatment areas
- Re-triage pt’s as necessary
- Notify transport officer of pt’s ready for transport

**Transportation Officer**
- Obtains status from local hospitals
- Assists with choosing staging area
- Assigns pt’s to transport vehicle
- Records number of pt’s and transport times and location
Staging Officer

- Keeps track of apparatus and personnel in staging area
- Sends needed unit or personnel to area requesting them
- Sets up an equipment staging area

Extrication Officer

- Works with triage to extricate priority pt’s first
- Works with fire department personnel for hazard mitigation
- Extricates pt’s in a timely and safe manner
Other UC Functions

- Logistics
- Finance
- Liaison
- Planning
- Safety
- Information
- Communications

Logistics

- Vehicles to transport non-injured or ambulatory injured patients
- School District policy regarding uninjured student release
- Access & egress to and from scene
Communication

- Students with cell phones
- Social media
- School or contractor and EMS personnel
- Parents with cell phones
- Media – practice drill
- Identify Decision Makers
- Crash Site Liaison
Information Management

- Public Information Officer
- Located away from scene if possible
- Parent communications/phone alerts
- Student Tracking information
- Parent/Guardian verifications & releases

Family on the Scene

- Family and friends on scene
- Calms patients?
- Try and utilize the media/parent alerts to have parents go to a different location for information
- Who controls the family members?
Bystanders

- Bystanders with cell phones
- Bystander’s Safety
- Remember: Some are truly trying to help
- Rubber-neckers
- Patient confidentiality and modesty

Training

- Practice drill – mock disaster
- Review & Modification of preplan
- Personnel become familiar with plan and student disabilities
- Understand Roles involved – theirs and others
School Bus Personnel Training

- Classroom student training
- Bus drills with students including yearly evacuations especially for special needs students
- Special Needs and pre-school runs
- Scenario training with drivers and aides
- MCI events
- Rodeo training
- Crash Procedures: PennDOT/local

School Bus Access

- Doors
- Emergency Doors
- Side or rear Windows
- Windshield
- Roof access
- Sides
- Floors
Bus Crash Injuries

- Deceleration type injuries
- There may be no seat belts
- School Bus seats are designed to be crash worthy
- Crews may run out of immobilization equipment

Extrication of Patients

- Difficult to extricate: patient fears
- Wheelchairs, Child Safety Seats
- Runners
- Behavior issues
Flow of Patient Traffic

- Tunneling/crawling into patients if possible
- Doors - front may have to be removed to fit backboards
- Enlarge doors
- Enlarge windows
- Side wall openings
- Roof openings

Widening the Rear Door
Removing Side Windows

Side Openings
Removal of Patients

• You've done your homework.
• You've carefully thought out all the angles.
  • It comes naturally to you.
• You know what you're doing, it's what you've been trained to do.
• Nothing could possibly go wrong, right?
WRONG....

Summary & Questions
Thank You!

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