Mass Disaster Operations

Medical Examiner Mass Fatality Management Orientation
Multiple Fatality Incidents

- Number of casualties exceeds available resources
- Necessity for local personnel to be able to sustain for at least 3 days
- Basic framework of mass disaster plan
  - Effective utilization of trained personnel
  - Streamlined examination and identification of decedents
    - No margin for error
Pathology of Disaster

- First responders are often also victims
- Major drain on personnel
- Wealth of documentation
  - Antemortem / postmortem data
  - Government reimbursement issues
- Must be ever vigilant for the “outliers”
  - Explosion epicenter
  - Staged homicide
Multiple Fatality Incidents

- Natural Events
  - Floods
  - Earthquakes
  - Hurricanes

- Accidents
  - Transportation
  - Industrial

- Terrorism
  - Explosives
  - Chemical Agents
  - Biological Agents
Multiple Fatality Incidents

- Mother Nature

U.S.

Heat wave killing people, crops and cattle

Lindsay Lohan overcome by heat on movie set

Thursday, July 27, 2008; Posted: 2:28 p.m. EDT (18:28 GMT)

SAN FRANCISCO, California (AP) -- There have been so many deaths from California's lingering heat wave that authorities in one county began stacking bodies two to a gurney.
Multiple Fatality Incidents

- Mother Nature
- Accidents
Multiple Fatality Incidents

- Mother Nature
- Accidents
- Terrorism
Multiple Fatality Incidents

- Mother Nature
- Accidents
- Terrorism
- Mass suicide / genocide

GENOCIDE

All that is needed for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.
Agency Involvement

- FAA, FBI, NTSB, FEMA
- Local and State Police
- Fire, Rescue, and Hospitals
- Medical Examiner
- Funeral Homes, DMORT
- Approved Volunteer Groups.
Incident Command System
Agency Responsibilities

- Each agency performs their usual role.....just on a larger scale
Agency Responsibilities

- Fire Department
  - Scene safety
  - Decontamination
Agency Responsibilities

- Fire Department
- Law Enforcement
  - Physical evidence
Agency Responsibilities

- Fire Department
- Law Enforcement
- Funeral Home Personnel
  - Recovery of decedents
Agency Responsibilities

- Fire Department
- Law Enforcement
- Funeral Home Personnel
- Medical Examiner
Medical Examiner Responsibilities

- Coordinate recovery of remains and oversee collection point(s)
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- Operate temporary and permanent morgues
Medical Examiner Responsibilities

- Coordinate recovery of remains and oversee collection point(s)
- Operate temporary and permanent morgues
- Examination of remains
  - Cause & manner of death
    - Collect evidence
  - Cataloging of personal effects
- Identification
- Coordinated release of remains and personal effects
Streamlining of ME Tasks
Pre-Morgue Clearance

- Decontamination
- Removal of explosives
Pre-Morgue Clearance

- Decontamination
  - Chemical
  - Nuclear
  - Biological
Into the Morgue....
Where the magic happens
Hurricane Katrina

DMORT - Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team - WMD

Based on FEMA's 10 regions
Morgue Layout

Admitting

Photography

X-Ray

Pathology

Anthropology

DNA

Fingerprinting

Odontology
Admitting

- “As is” photography
- Verify remains as “safe to process”
- Ensure no co-mingling of remains
Admitting

- Tracker is assigned
- File is generated
  - Coroner / ME case #
  - DMORT case #
Photography and Personal Effects

- Each stage of disrobing the remains is photographed.
- Personal effects are cleaned and photographed.
Radiology

- Projectiles
  - Old & new
- Prior surgeries
  - Pacemaker
  - Surgical clips, screws, & plates
  - Hardware bearing serial numbers
Pathology

- External examination
  - Signs of injury
  - Scars
  - Tattoos
Anthropology

- May or may not be utilized

Anthropological assessment
- Age
- Sex
- Ancestry
- Stature
- Trauma
- Disease processes
Odontology

- Postmortem charting
- X-ray
Fingerprints

- Complicating factors
  - Mummification
  - Adipocere

- Importance of “gloves”
DNA Collection

- Standard section
  - Anterior tibia

- May or may not be submitted

What are little kids made of?

Adenine  Cytosine  Thymine  Guanine
Identification and Release
But what can I do????

- Roles of volunteers
  - Antemortem data collection
  - Tracker
  - Technical assistance
    - Fingerprints
    - Radiology
    - Dental examination and documentation
    - Autopsy assistant
    - Anthropology assistant
  - Evidence collection, documentation and management
  - Personal effects management
  - Storage and release of remains
  - Transport of remains
Training to be made available

- Dental ID – online, DVD, drill
- X-ray identification – online, DVD, drill
- Autopsy assistant – tutor
- Antemortem information collection and management – online, DVD
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>> □ BeastUK lvGZCzJ2I1s 12/27/05(Tue)15:26 No.4058999
How do you get that backwards b?

>> □ Anonymous 12/27/05(Tue)15:26 No.4059003
>>4058999
its called d

STUPIDITY
Taking it to a whole new level