

Springville Fire & Rescue
Bryan Elementary Charter Bus Accident



March 28, 2008

- 7:27 a.m. – 911 call, overturned bus on interstate.
- Dispatch two Springville Fire & Rescue engine companies.

March 28, 2008

- En route receive update that accident involves school children on a bus.
- Immediately change mode to one of mass casualty incident response & request additional ambulances be dispatched to scene.

What Goes Through Your Mind?

- Do we need to dispatch additional units from other areas?
- Have an adequate number of ambulances been dispatched?
- Do we need to contact the county EMA to request local, state or even federal assets?

Command & Control

- A mass casualty incident is difficult for first responders.
 - What do we have?
 - What do we need?
 - Where do we start?
 - Triage will allocate you resources.
- Locally 7 fire units responded.
- Triage had begun before Springville Fire & Rescue arrived.



March 28, 2008 07:27am

Control of the Scene

- First official on the scene becomes the Incident Commander.
 - Two fire departments were on the scene when Springville arrived.
 - Fire Chief Richard Harvey went to the on scene commander and received a status report.

Control of the Scene

- First official on the scene becomes the Incident Commander.
 - Don't interfere with progress.
 - Chief Harvey sought out the police and fire chiefs on scene to become part of the unified response team.



Coordination of Police & Fire

- Fire and rescue wanted to close the interstate to safeguard children, parents and responders.
- State troopers wanted to keep one lane of the interstate open.

Coordination of Police & Fire

- Police set up a zone for helicopters to land.
- Troopers did not want to take children to local armory; wanted to return children to Bryan Elementary.

Understand & Manage Resources

- Chief Harvey telephoned Birmingham Regional EMS (BREMS) system – a real time status of resources.
 - Advise as to number of patients and severity levels.
 - Most appropriate and available hospital in Birmingham received patients.

Understand & Manage Resources

- Chief Harvey telephoned Birmingham Regional EMS (BREMS) system – a real time status of resources.
 - Ambulances and patients assigned by BREMS.
 - 20 patients taken to 3 Birmingham hospitals.



Accountability

- Knew location of every child.
- No child was allowed to leave the scene with a parent.
- All children and teachers transported to Springville Armory.

Accountability

- Armory easy to find; close to interstate off ramp; easy directions.
- Children reunited with parents at the armory.

After Action Meeting

- Meeting with all responding organizations.
- Meeting with St. Clair County schools so schools could learn from neighboring school experiences.

After Action Meeting

- People with a vision had planned and prepared for the worst while hoping for the best.
- Accountability was key – having one ambulance company that was able to track the location of all patients was crucial.

After Action Meeting

- Interoperable communication between police/law and fire is a must; how can it be strengthened?
- Unified Command is a must.
- Elimination of duplicated efforts (two agencies calling ambulances and school buses).

After Action Meeting

- School plan must be modified for greater accountability:
 - Class rosters of all classes for all teachers
 - Secondary leader on different bus from primary leader.

Preparation

- Have a Mass Casualty Incident Plan
- Practice and know your plan
- Learn from previous incidents.
- Know what resources are available
 - Practice with resources
 - Know their capabilities
- Take advantage of training opportunities.

Field Trip Procedures Amendment

Field Trip Procedures Amendment

1. Each teacher will have a copy of every teacher's roll that is going on the field trip in addition to their own.
2. Teachers must select a Field Trip Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator before the trip. The Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator cannot ride on the same bus.
3. Duplicate copies of the field trip roster for each teacher must be available on hand on each bus in case of emergency.
4. Each faculty/staff member should have the school's hotline number (647-4480) programmed in their personal cell phone in case the school's main number is busy. This is for emergency purposes only.



Multiple Lessons Learned

- Have a plan; work it; stick to it.
- Coordinate with other agencies
- Implement Unified Command
- Must have interoperable communication

Multiple Lessons Learned

- Modified school plan will be adapted and shared with local churches – who also offer bus services and sponsor bus trips.

CHANGE One Thing!

- Every time we respond or participate in an exercise, identify what can be improved – but, **CHANGE** one thing.
- Learn something from everything you do and apply it.
- Practice and train like it was real.

Disaster Preparedness

- Bridging the gap between, “It will never happen to me.” and, “We are all going to die.”
- You must have a vision to prepare – so, you can protect citizens.
- Plan to survive.

Contact Information

Richard Harvey, Fire Chief
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Community Surge & Resiliency

Bryan Elementary
Debra Campbell, Principal
600 Kimberly Cut-Off Road
Morris, AL 35116
(205)379-2750

Emergency Response Plan

Overview

- Designed to communicate the immediate and appropriate action to be taken to protect our students, faculty, and staff during the event of a crisis.
- Based on a thorough assessment of the school plant in relation to accessibility and safety during a crisis.

Emergency Response Plan

Overview

- Crisis Management Team assisted with the development and implementation of the plan.
- Safety plan consists of: School Security Plan, Faculty-Staff Handbook, Severe Weather Plan, Tornado Drill Assigned Area Plan, Fire/Evacuation Route Plan, and a Floor Plan.

Overview of Accident

- Occurred the morning of March 28, 2008.
- 44 5th Grade Students in route to Tennessee Aquarium.
- Accident occurred in the Springville area with charter bus #1.
- Teachers on buses #2 and #3 took control in the organization of students at the crash site.

Overview of Accident

- Injured students and teachers were transported to area hospitals via helicopter and ambulance.
- Jefferson County Board provided transportation to uninjured students to Springville Armory.

Implementation of Safety Plan

- A SchoolCast (a computerized rapid notification system) message was sent to all parents informing them of the situation.
- Local law enforcement assisted in keeping the media to a minimum.

Implementation of Safety Plan

- Food and water was brought in for students returning to the school.
- Teachers at the school site were informed via email on current events.

Implementation of Safety Plan

- Safety Plan is reviewed by all faculty members. Each member has detailed job descriptions and has practiced implementation of these duties.

Implementation of Safety Plan

- The following members of the Crisis Management Team were instrumental in the implementation of the plan: Public Information Officer, Safety Officer, Site/Facility Security, Supplies/Facilities, Medical, Communications, Student Release.

Implementation of Safety Plan

- **County Board Employees were assigned to various hospitals where accident victims were transported.**
- **Area Principals came to Bryan in order to provide additional assistance, even though this is not part of the Safety Plan.**

Revisions to Safety Plan

Field Trip Procedures Amendment

- **Each teacher will have a copy of all teachers' rolls for students who are going on the field trip in addition to their own.**
- **An additional copy of these class rolls must be on board each bus for emergency personnel.**

Revisions to Safety Plan

Field Trip Procedures Amendment

- **Teachers must select a Field Trip Coordinator and an Assistant Coordinator. These two persons cannot ride the same bus.**
- **Duplicate copies of the field trip roster for each teacher must be available on each bus in case of emergency.**

Revisions to Safety Plan

Field Trip Procedures Amendment

- **Each faculty/staff member should have the school's emergency number in case the main school number is busy.**

Revisions to Safety Plan

- **Revisions of the School Safety Plan are currently under review in case of another off site crisis.**
- **Example: Calling local law enforcement personnel for transportation to the site of the emergency.**