



ELVERSON EMS

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To whom it may concern;

My name is Nathan Spece and I am the Chief of Elverson EMS. I have been with the service for 12 years and have been an EMT for 8 of them. I have used the smart triage system many times in training exercises but on May 4, 2007 I was able to use the triage system for the first time on an emergency.

At 04:36 on May 4, 2007 Elverson EMS with the Twin Valley Fire Department (TVFD) and Medic 93 were dispatched to the PA turnpike for an MVC involving a tractor trailer truck. Seconds after dispatched the incident was upgraded to an MVC involving a tractor trailer truck and a tour bus. There were reports of up to 30 victims involved in the accident with one person reported to be entrapped. Chief of the TVFD requested a first alarm medical box and a helicopter be placed on stand by. After more reports came in confirming more patients, Chief of TVFD upgraded again and requested the second alarm medical box. A total of 11 BLS units, 3 ALS units, and 2 air medical helicopters were responding to the scene. Chief of the TVFD arrived on the scene confirming all the reports given by Chester County Fire Board (CCFB). Upon my arrival I found a tour bus that had re-ended a tractor trailer. There was one person trapped in the tour bus and everyone else had exited the bus on there own. It was very apparent that this was a great time to "try out" the new smart triage system.

The smart triage system was placed into service on the Elverson EMS units in the early part of the year after training was conducted. I put the systems in the ambulance with the purpose of never using them. I thought the next time it would be taken out of the ambulance was when we cleaned the compartment of sold the ambulance. I was definitely wrong. An ALS provider and I started triaging pts and came with the results of 1 priority 1, 2 priorities 2, and 33 priorities 3's. The triage tagging system was a blessing, much easier to use and much easier to keep track of records. The tarp system made it easy to tell the difference in the patients. And the command board made it easy to record all of the important information needed to expedite the transport of the 36 patients. The storage bags and kits made it very easy to keep track of the equipment.

In conclusion, the 36 patients were transported to 6 different local hospitals. On the same day as the MCI, in the evening, a debriefing was held at the Elverson EMS building. Many of the EMS organizations involved in the incident were in attendance. We discussed many thing that we could have done differently or the same should another incident of this magnitude happed again. Everyone was in agreement that the smart triage system was a key role in the incident. I strongly urged all companies to place the system into service on there responder units if they not yet done so. I feel that this system is just as important as our standard medical supplies on the ambulance. I also feel that this should become a requirement for state licensure and should be required to be used at any incident involving a mass casualty.

I would like to finish with a simple "Thank You". Thank you to Chester County DES and thank you to the creators of the smart triage system. Without this system May 4th could have been much more complicated.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nathan Z. Spece
Elverson EMS
EMS Chief