



Mass Casualty Incident March 2024

Portage County, WI

- Stevens Point, Plover and surrounding area
- Saturday, December 30, 2023 around 1700
- An unexpected storm hit with freezing rain; no warnings or alerts given prior
- Five motor vehicle crashes occurred within an approximately 45-minute time frame
- Nine patients transported, one fatality
- Black ice, and darkness made response extremely treacherous; extrication of patients and vehicles from ditches very challenging

Impacts:

- Communication failures – no patient tracking system used, lack of EMResource use
- Confusion in determining appropriate facility for trauma patients
- Challenges in bringing additional staff in due to road conditions
- Occurred so quickly lack of formal ICS implemented, no IC coordinating patient transports
- Dispatch phone lines overwhelmed
- Lack of warning

Preparedness:

- Staff training on EMResource
- Implement the use of EMTrack to track patients and limit phone calls needed
- Designate who would be the IC to coordinate patient transfers
- Continuously train hospital ED staff to develop comfort in utilizing WISCOM radios

Sources:

- [Woman, 25, killed in Plover area crash](#)
- MCI case review documents

Resources:

- [WI Emergency Services Mass Casualty Incident Response Plan Guide](#)
- [Hospital Mass Casualty Incident Planning Checklist](#)
- [Mass Casualty Hospital Capacity Expansion Toolkit](#)