



HAZMAT Incident

June, 2024

Austin, Texas

- [Video](#)
- On Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 5:38 pm, a car crashed into an St. David's North Austin Medical Center emergency department
- One person died (driver), five were injured
- Two children and one adult were transported to Dell Children's, and another adult were taken to Round Rock Medical Center
- Five other patients already at hospital were transported out; discussed using their ambubus
- Three staff members were also injured with minor injuries in the crash
- The vehicle entered the lobby and crashed into their "very large" aquarium, tires still spinning, with car still in drive
- Everyone was covered in glass, and there was a lot of smoke from spinning tires
- HAZMAT team responded
- Driver was a 57-year-old woman; police don't believe it was intentional or a medical episode

Impacts:

- Shut down emergency department overnight
- Numerous transfers needed at once
- Staff injured, creating staffing shortages
- Potential HAZMAT implications
- Patient/family/staff fears
- Patient tracking to transfer locations

Preparedness:

- Place security barriers/post outside
- Develop a strong Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- Review evacuation plans

Sources:

- <https://www.fox7austin.com/news/car-crash-austin-hospital-er-multiple-injuries>
- <https://www.kxan.com/news/local/austin/at-least-10-injured-after-vehicle-crashes-into-north-austin-er/?ipid=promo-link-block2>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2024/02/13/us/texas-austin-medical-center-crash/index.html>

Resources:

- ASPR TRACIE: [Continuity of Operations/Business Continuity Planning](#)