



Pontificating in Civitas Autem Fraternitatis Caritatem

Philadelphia Preps for a Peripatetic Papal Pass-Through



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Two Questions

1. How does a papal visit differ from other special events and mass gatherings?
2. What could Philadelphia have done differently?



World Meeting of Families

- 2013: City learned it would host the Vatican-sponsored World Meeting of Families Sept. 22-25, 2015
- 2014: Pope Francis announced he would visit Sept. 26, 27, give outdoor mass



Answer #1: Security

- DHS designated visit National Security Special Event (NSSE) based on:
 - Size, significance, target potential
- US Secret Service lead agency for security



Security

- Level of security never before seen for special event in Philadelphia
- Pope's 10-day trip to Cuba, Washington, New York, and Philadelphia perhaps biggest security operation in U.S. history

UN General Assembly



Security Measures

- The Traffic Box established
 - 5 sq. mile area closed to private traffic
 - Fences, magnetometers, vehicle check points
 - Delayed staff getting to shifts, pts to hospitals
- Contained STEMI, stroke, OB, trauma hospitals



The Traffic Box



Security Measures

- Air space restricted – medical helicopters
- > 1000 providers credentialed by USSS
- City encouraged visitors to use mass transit
 - Stations within Box closed
 - Riders walked rest of way, including elderly, infirm

Pilgrimage







Answer #1: Uncertainty

- No one really knew how many would come
- Pope Francis very popular
 - Crowds for previous masses up to 6 million
 - Initial predictions 1-3 million at mass
- How many patients?
- How sick would they be?

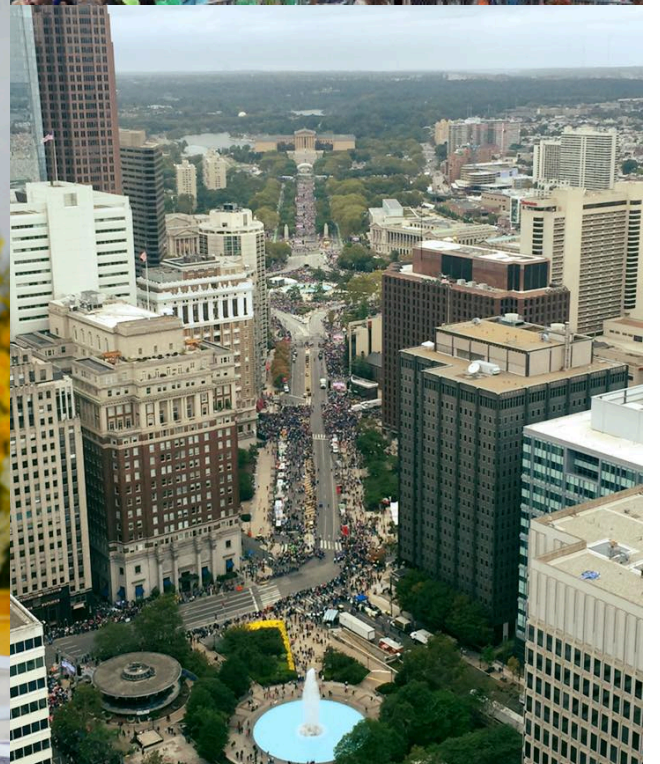
Consequences of Uncertainty

- Not clear how many supplies needed
 - Or providers, or ambulances
- Planning based on changing predictions
- Hospitals slow to free up staff to volunteer
- Scramble for volunteers and ambulances

I SURVIVED THE
**PHILADELPHIA
POPEAGEDDON**

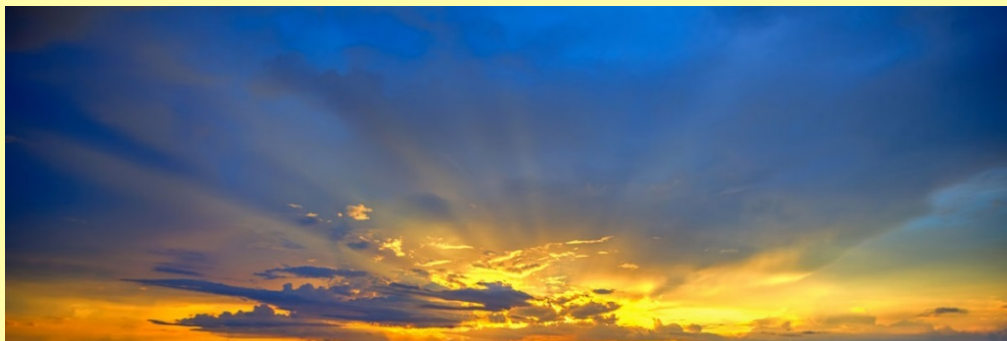
09.25.15 - 09.27.15





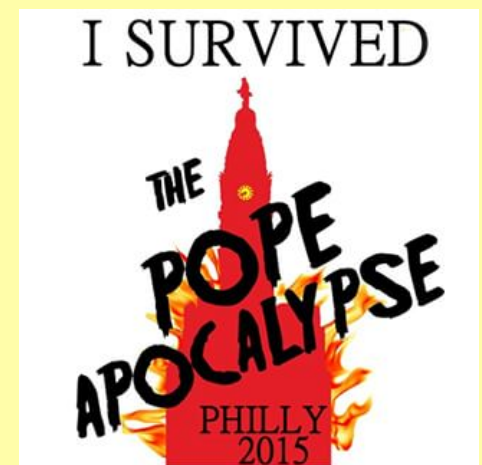
Patient Encounters

- ~ 800,000 attended mass
- 10 medical tents treated 199; 21 transports
- 423 responses in “The Box”: 129 transports
- Activity for entire EMS system: about normal
- Blessing of good weather: temps 60°F-72°F



Answer #2: Done Differently?

- Given uncertainty, preparation appropriate
 - More than we needed, ready for much more
- Areas to improve:
 - Communication from planners to providers
 - Credentialing
 - Messaging to public



Questions

