Managing an Additional Mass Gathering Event Within a Mass Gathering

Dan O’Donnell, M.D.
Medical Director IEMS/IFD
Welcome Race Fans
How Do We Prepare

• 34 ambulances
  – 7 on the track
  – 15 on the grounds
  – 12 outside the track

• 12-15 carts

• 10-15 First aid tents

• Other
  – Cooling stations
  – Cooling buses
Infield Care Center

• 18-20 bed **FULLY FUNCTIONAL** hospital
• Physician coverage
  – 8-10 ED docs
  – 1 trauma surgeon
  – 1 Neurosurgeon
  – 1 Orthopedic Surgeon
• Nursing Coverage
• Legal
And on a Typical Day....

- Typically 28-30 ambulance transports to Infield hospital
- 150-200 people treated in hospital
- Many others seek first aid/cooling
- Fluctuates with weather
But What Happens
The Snake Pit

- Electronic Dance Music Festival with over 50,000 attendees
- All concentrated in 1 place
- New set of problems
  - Younger crowd
  - Different intoxicants
2018 Snake Pit

• 363 Runs for the Day
  – > 110 were from the snake pit
• By 11 AM > 90 patients from snakepit transported to infield care hospital
  – 1 requiring intubation
• By 1200 → Infield hospital overwhelmed and on Diversion
• All ambulances go directly from “scene” to hospital
What This Does to the System

• Hospitals
  – Starting to get overwhelmed with increased ambulance traffic
  – Still have to care for the city
• EMS service
  – Being called to assist with transport
  – Still have to care for the city
• Patients/friends/family
  – Now being separated
  – Reunification???
How We Adapted

• Now treat as 2 large events
• Dedicated field hospital assigned to snake pit
  – Staffed with EMS MDs and RNs
  – Ability to treat and hold
  – Will make transport decisions
  – Fully incorporated into MCI plan
• Will work with primary infield hospital for coordinated transport of patients to area hospitals
Conclusions

• Be able to recognize the potential for 2 large events in 1
• Recognize the differing needs/acuity that can happen within your Mass Gathering Event
• Be able to adapt a plan that “has been working for years”
• Look for ways to utilize your skill set to help develop a plan that works for your system.
Thank You and Wish Me Luck!!

Dan O'Donnell,
Dapodon@iu.edu
@cubsbank