

Seeing Yellow:
***Managing the French National Labor
Protest Movement***

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The most important movement since May 1968

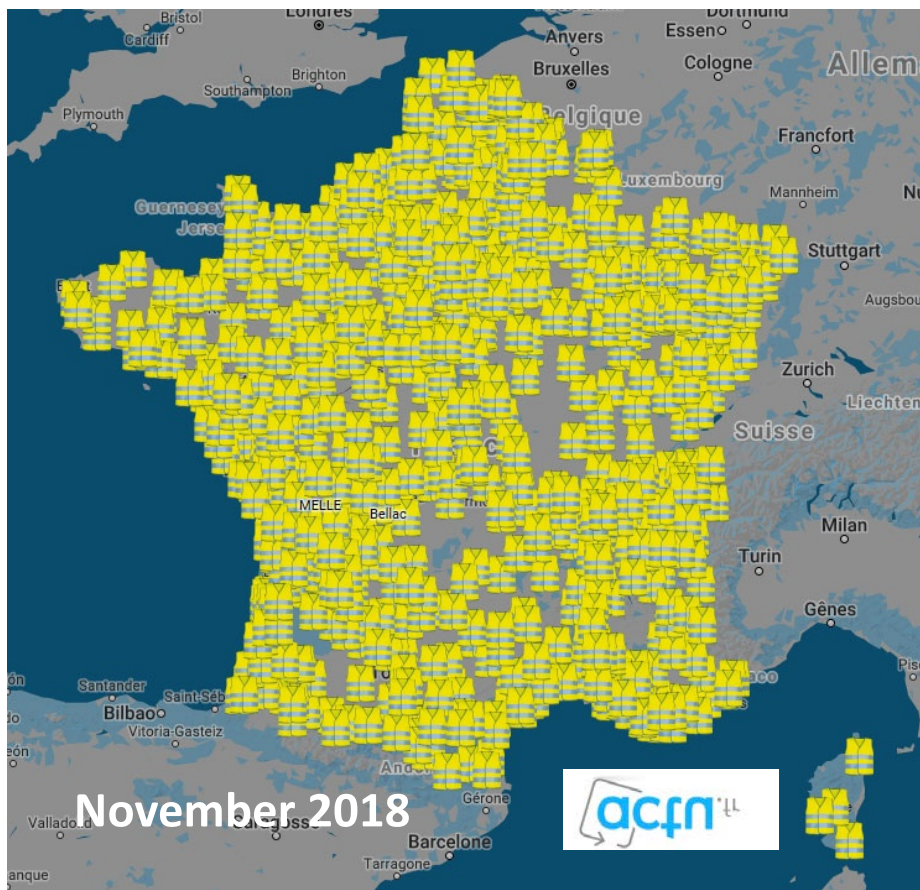
- Multiple currents of protest
- Originally :
 - Low - middle class with recent decrease of revenue (tax and price inflation)
 - Retired people complaining about new taxes
 - Unemployed population asking for more social support
- Mixed with right and left extremists and international activists (“Black Blocs”)

Two main modes of protest

- Blocking of runabouts
 - Near shopping centers, at the entrance of towns
 - On the toll station of national highways
- Mass gathering of protesters in Paris or other regions capitals :
 - Every Saturdays since November
 - In Lyon, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Montpellier ...

The protests were not authorized by the Police authorities but, at the beginning, were non violent

Hundreds of blocking of roundabouts by protesters

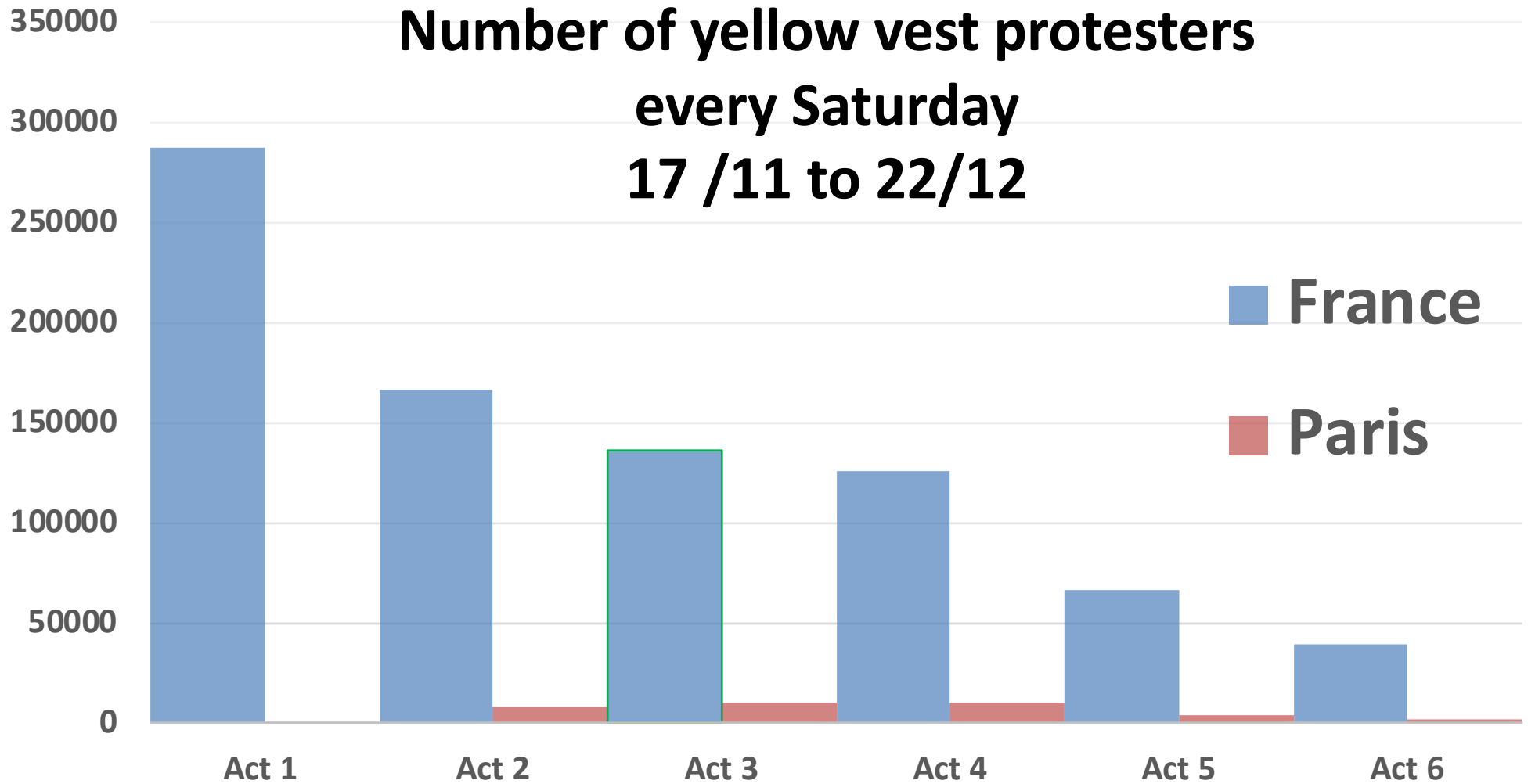


**Violent protest in
Paris November
and December**



Champs Élysées December 8 , 2018

Number of yellow vest protesters every Saturday 17 /11 to 22/12



Looting of luxury boutique, banks
and destruction of street furniture

**Le Journal
du Dimanche**

Massive use of non lethal weapons
for law enforcement



Flash-ball ° and Defensive ball launcher



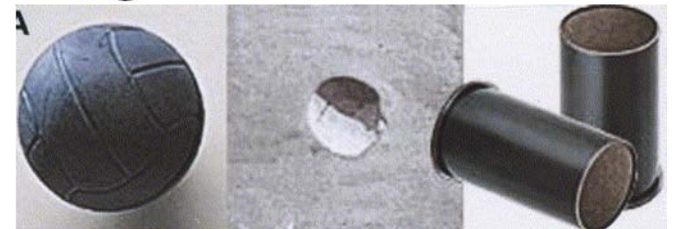
Various types of devices
and 2 sizes of ball



LBD 40 mm
Defensive ball launcher

Flash-ball° injuries

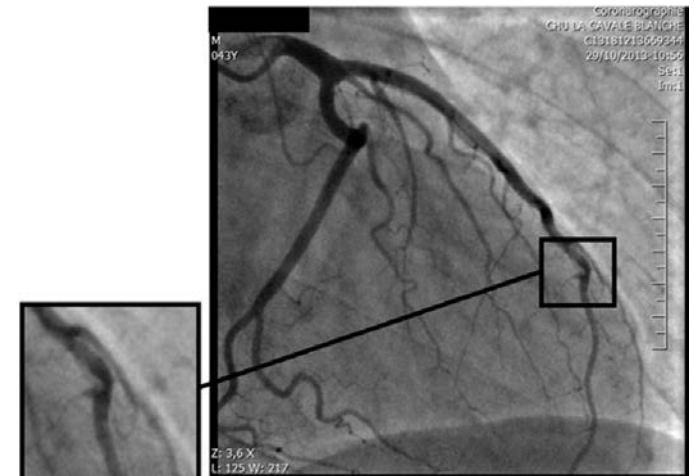
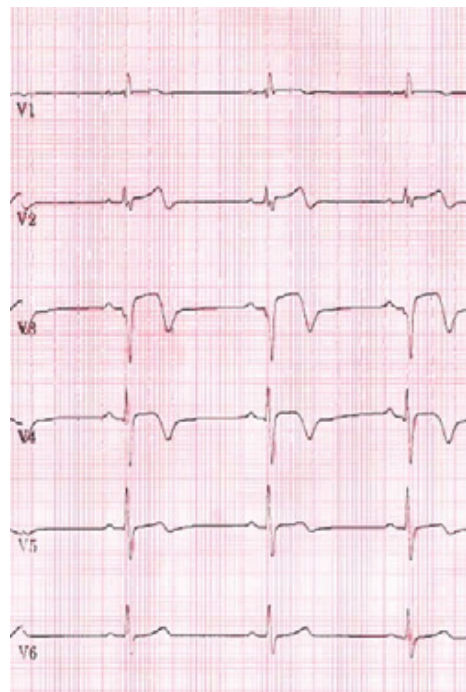
- Rubber bullets
- If fired at very short distance
 - Head injuries
 - Facial trauma : multiples fractures and eyes injuries
 - Thoracic trauma and “commotio cordis”
 - Hands injuries



Probably more than 10.000 rounds fired in November December

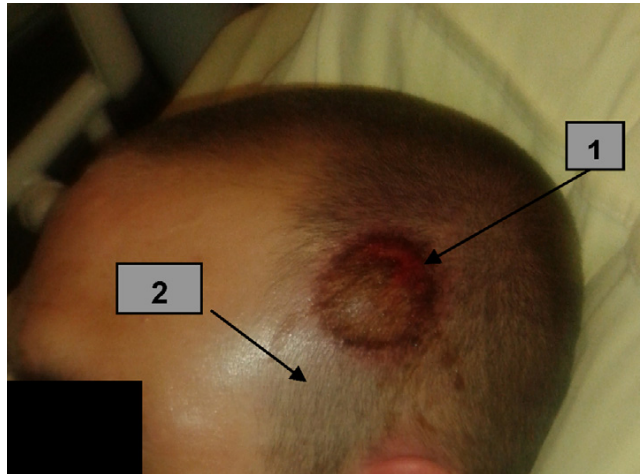
Acute myocardial infarction due to left anterior descending coronary artery dissection after rubber bullet shooting

A. Noel et al. / International Journal of Cardiology 184 (2015) 653–654



Flash-Ball °: A case of cranio encephalic trauma

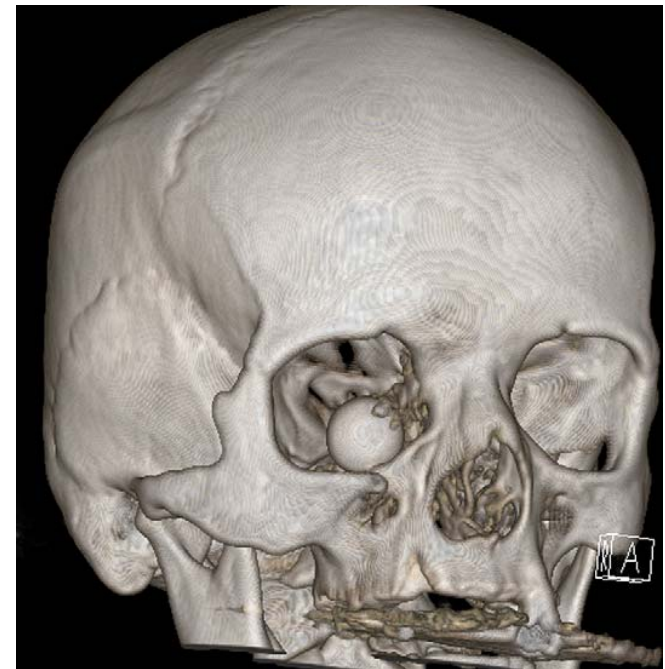
Hiquet J et Al La revue de médecine légale (2016) 7, 28—32



- Emergency neurosurgical evaluation and care
- Left temporal fracture with moderate cerebral oedema,
- Fronto- temporal haemorrhagic contusion along with an extra-dural haematoma and subarachnoid haemorrhage

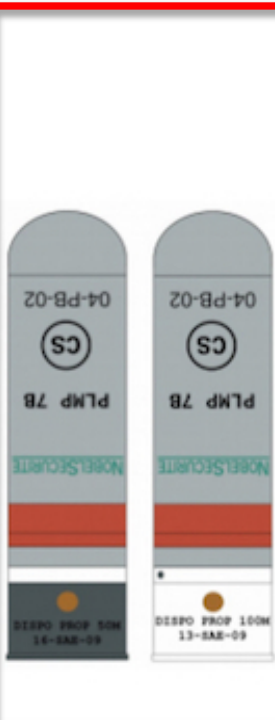

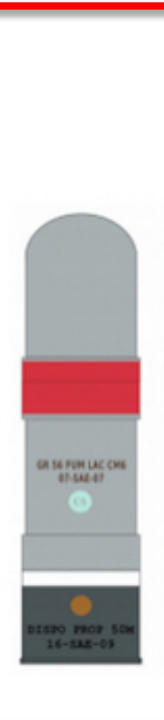









Orbital and ocular trauma caused by the Flash-Ball®

V. Pinaud et al. / Injury Extra 40 (2009) 172–174



- Burst of the ocular globe with foreign body
- Complex orbital and mandibular fracture and soft tissues injuries

Various types of grenades used by the French Polices forces

											
<p>PLMP Nobel Sport</p>	<p>CM5 / CM6 SAE Alsetex</p>	<p>MP7 Nobel S.</p>	<p>GLI-F4 SAE Alsetex</p>	<p>DBD / DMP SAPL Verney Carron</p>	<p>OF F1 SAE Alsetex</p>						
<p>avec Tear gas main</p>	<p>(Blast effect)</p>										

Tear gas grenade

Not very dangerous in open air

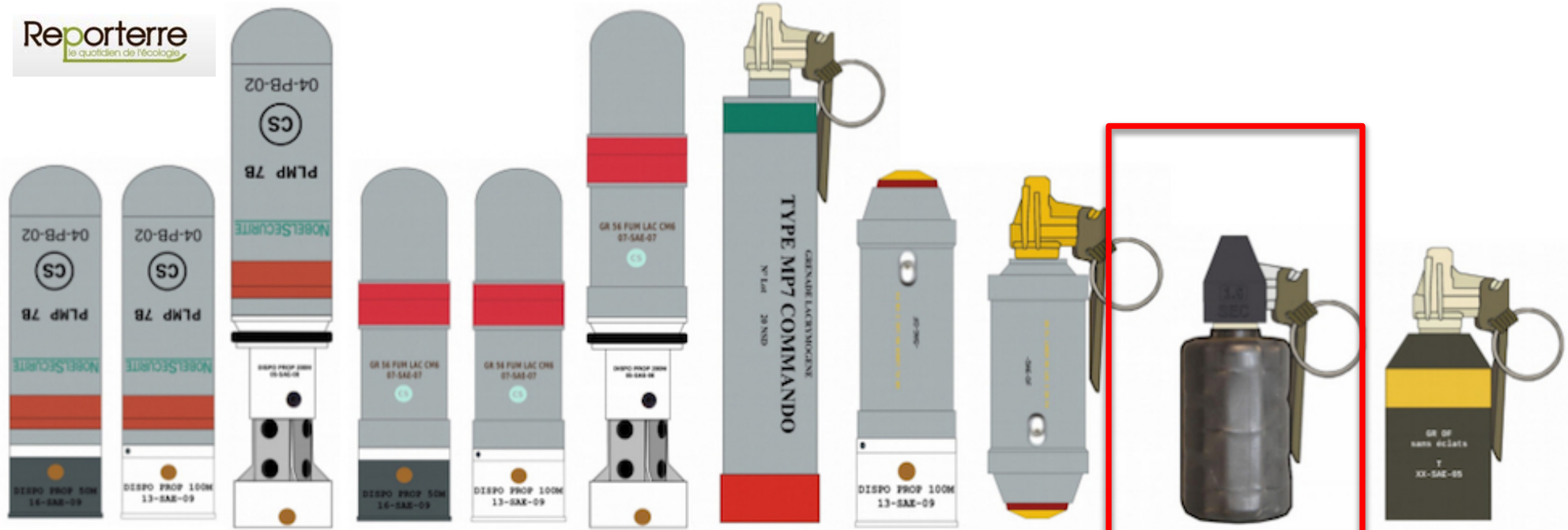
- Unless previous respiratory medical history
- Or explosion during attempt of pick up and re throwing



**SUD
OUEST**

Various types of grenades used by the French Polices forces

Reporterre
le quotidien de l'écologie

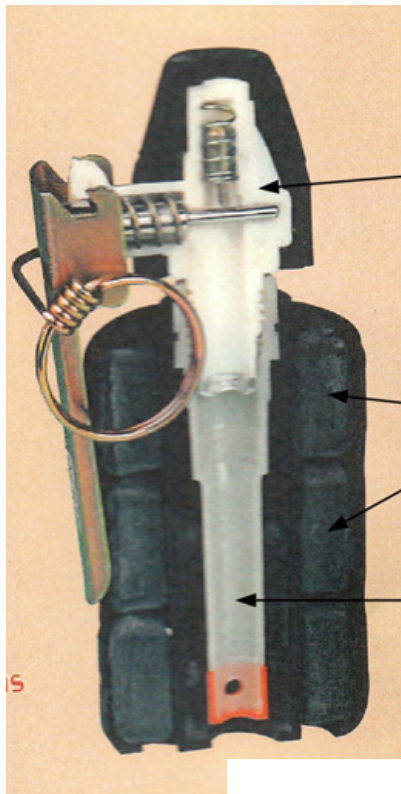


PLMP Nobel Sport	CM5 / CM6 SAE Alsetex	MP7 Nobel S.	GLI-F4 SAE Alsetex	DBD / DMP SAPL Verney Carron	OF F1 SAE Alsetex
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ave	Tear gaz	rain	G	Blast effect	l)
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Rubber stinger grenade "DMP"

V. Sclan et al. Forensic Science International 223 (2012) e18–e21



Ignition plug and pin (distributor cap for manual operation)

Trapezoidal rubber projectiles

Tube where the pyrotechnical charge is packed



18 projectiles of 10 g 3 g of explosive

Rubber stinger grenade

- Hands or feet torn off by the explosion like any grenade
- Facial injuries caused by projectiles and grenade debris



V. Scolan et al. Forensic Science International 223 (2012) e18–e21

Injured count January 30 2019

- 144 severely injured Yellow Vest protesters and journalists *
- Including 92 injured by LBD 40 or equivalent
- At least 14 victims lost an eye
- Hundreds of lightly injured protesters or bystanders
- Multiples non severe injuries in Police forces

Around 60 claims on Police violence

On going National Data base of victims

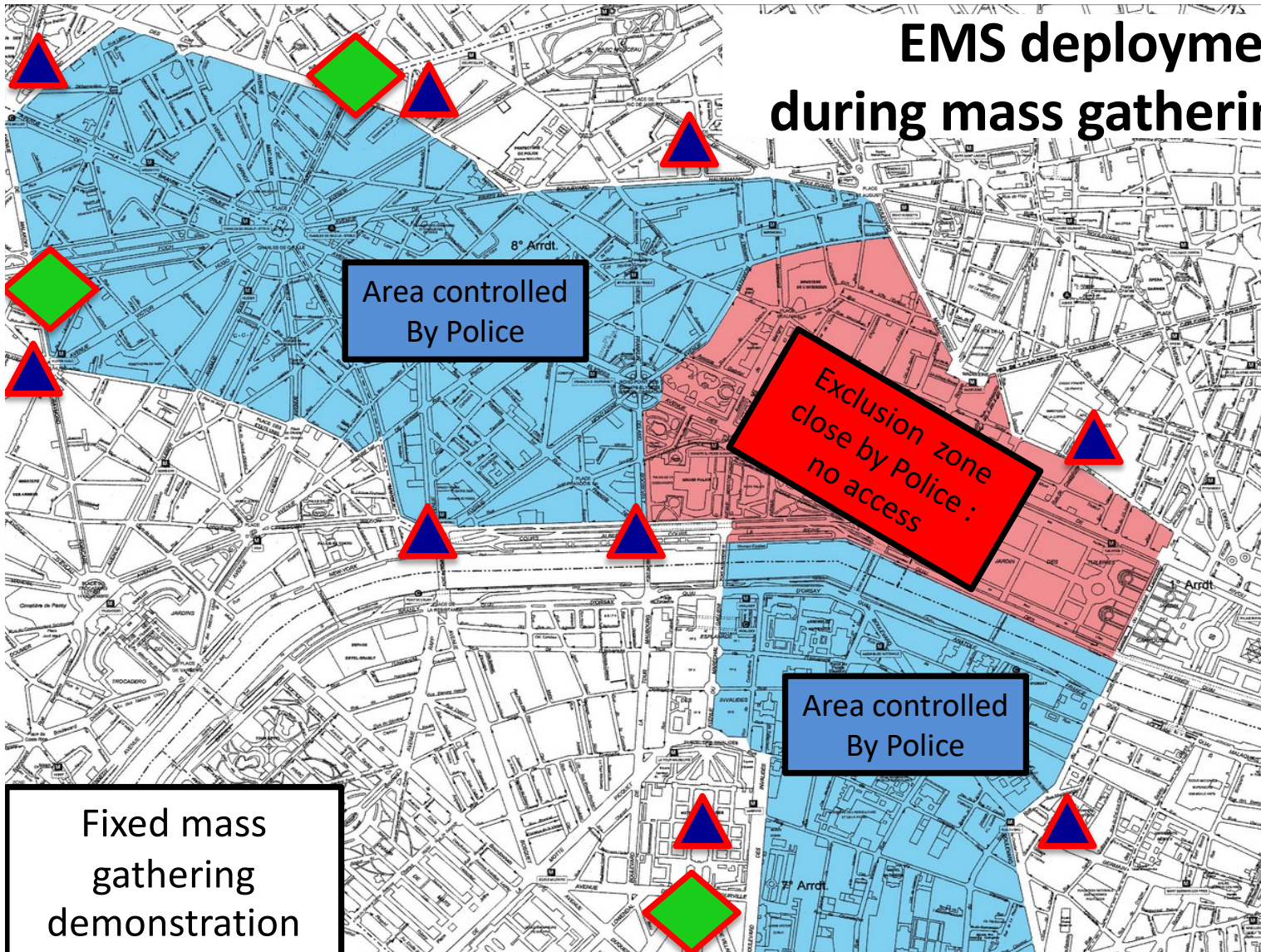
*According multiple media sources

Deaths count related to the protest

- 11 French citizens in roundabout blocking traffic accidents
 - Including 5 Yellow Vests
 - 2 YV cardiac arrests non related to violence
 - No death directly related to Police intervention



EMS deployment in Paris during mass gathering of protesters

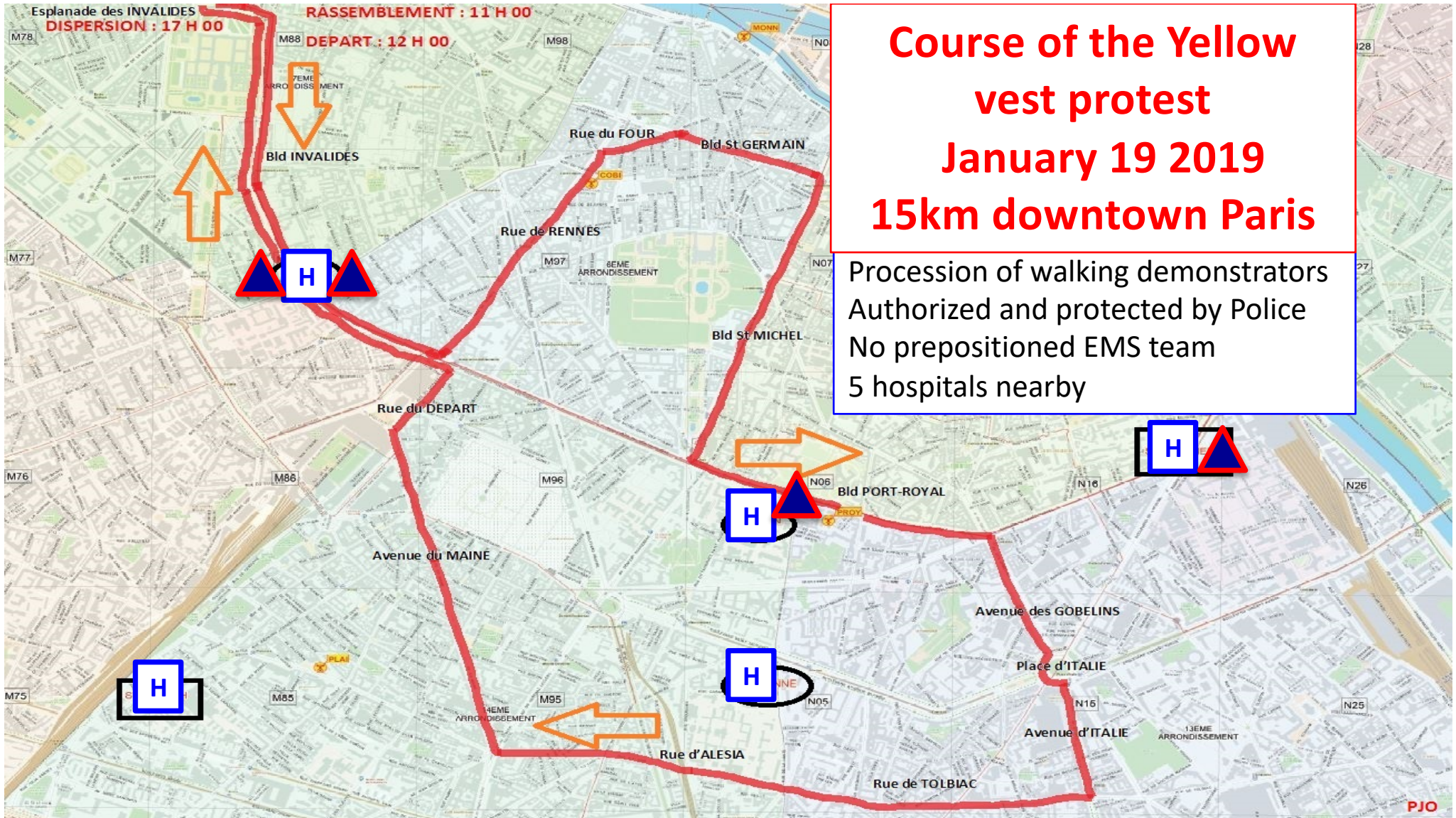


Casualties
collecting
points



Pre positioned
EMT and SAMU
teams





**Course of the Yellow vest protest
January 19 2019
15km downtown Paris**

Procession of walking demonstrators
Authorized and protected by Police
No prepositioned EMS team
5 hospitals nearby

Consequences for EMS

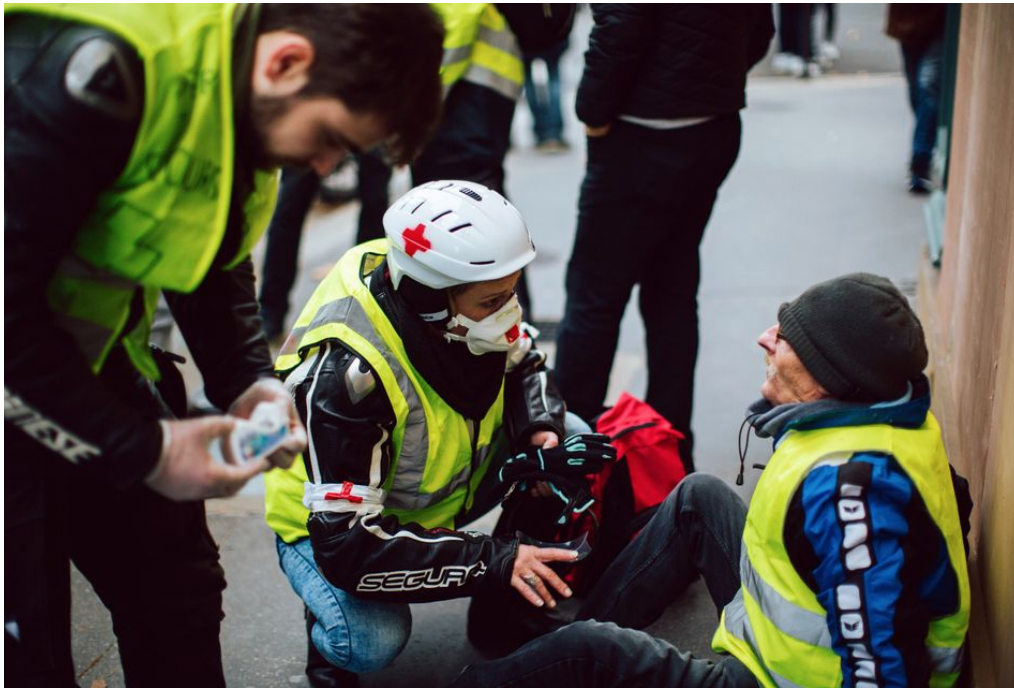
- Difficult access to the victims
 - In violent area
 - Trying to escape Police
- Difficult triage :
 - Many blunt trauma related to non penetrating rubber bullets
- But no violence against SAMU and very few against fire brigade EMTs

Consequences for the EMS

- Major impairment of everyday care
 - Massive traffic jams
 - Paris divided in 2 parts : repositioning of SAMU teams
- Very difficult access for several hours to everyday patients in
 - controlled zones or violent areas
 - exclusion zones : 4 meters heights anti riot barriers, 1 check point entry
- Shortage of EMT teams related
 - Multiple intervention for fires in the crowd
 - Teams blocked in traffic jams

“Streets Medics”

- Group of unofficial rescuers taking care of protester victims of violence
- No relationship with EMS teams, equipment and skills uncontrolled
- Same political involvement as protesters



“Street medics” helping Fire brigade EMT



**SUD
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Bordeaux city in December

Consequences for the hospitals

- Multiple walking casualties spontaneously referring to nearest hospitals already overcrowded by medical patients (flue)
- Need of inter hospital transfers of victims to specialized units (neurosurgery, ophthalmology)

Conclusion

- The most important protests since 1968
 - Massive use of non lethal weapons by Police forces creating a limited number of severe injuries but needing specialized care
 - Deaths mostly related to traffic accidents not to violence
- Difficult organization of everyday care during mass gathering of protesters