DNC: Lessons Learned

Christopher B. Colwell, M.D.

Medical Director, Denver Paramedic Division and Denver Fire Department



Introduction

- Bid awarded Jan.2007
- Dates: Aug. 25-28, 2008
- 75,000 projected attendees
- 15,000 media
- Unknown number of protestors



Planning Phase

- National Response Framework (NRF)
 - Emergency Support Function (ESF) 1-15
 - Secret service committee structure does not incorporate NRF
 - ESF 8 (public health and medical) had to be re-created
 - Insert early



Funding

- There will not be enough funding
 - 50 million
 - Some will come from out-of-pocket
- Law enforcement is our friend
 - Not in all things
- Wish-list: Pick what you absolutely need
 - Then don't give in
 - Avoid "big net" approach



Plan for What Will Happen

- Balance planning assumptions between catastrophe and reality
 - Realistic planning assumptions
 - Load and unload
 - Disabled





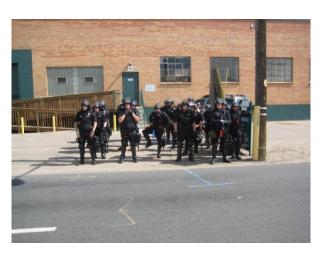
Focus on What You Do Well

- Now is not the time to try something new
- Focus on what you should already have in place
 - What would you do if faced with a big event today
- Drills
 - This was the best incentive to do hospitalwide drills



Education

- Practical education of our non-medical partners
 - Police were worried about exposures
 - Stool, urine, blood, white powder
 - Education tool to learn about what a real exposure is
 - Prevention
 - Water
 - Hydrated





Who Will Be There?

- National Guard
- DMATs
- Secret Service medical
- Many others







Mobility

- Important
- Not always easy







Get Help

- Reach out to other cities that have hosted similar events in the past
 - Boston
 - New York
 - Los Angeles







Staffing

- At the venue
 - Go heavy
 - Distribute as selfsufficient strike teams on each level
 - Changing levels becomes more difficult as venue fills up
 - Same personnel each day means more efficiency



Medical Care

- On-site medical aid stations with robust capabilities
 - Broad formularies
 - Adequate bed space
 - Medical staff
 - On site physicians/ nurses/paramedics
 - Reduced ambulance transports
 - Surges
 - No one wants to leave the venue





Bike Teams

- 6700 miles biked
- 673 calls
- Prevented 253 ambulance responses
- Very popular





Credentialing

- Be able to do on the fly
 - Injuries
 - Sick
 - Lost
 - Stolen
- Credential early!
- Relationship building is essential
 - Secret service



Flexibility

- In medical care area
 - VIPs bring doctors with them
 - Secret service physicians
 - Many will have opinions



Conclusions

- Don't completely rework your system
- Do well what you do often
- Plan ahead
 - Be ready for what will happen
 - And early



Conclusions

- Take advantage of the opportunity
- Be flexible
 - Be ready for lastminute changes
- Enjoy!



