

# EMS in the Cross-Hairs: The Colorado Shootings

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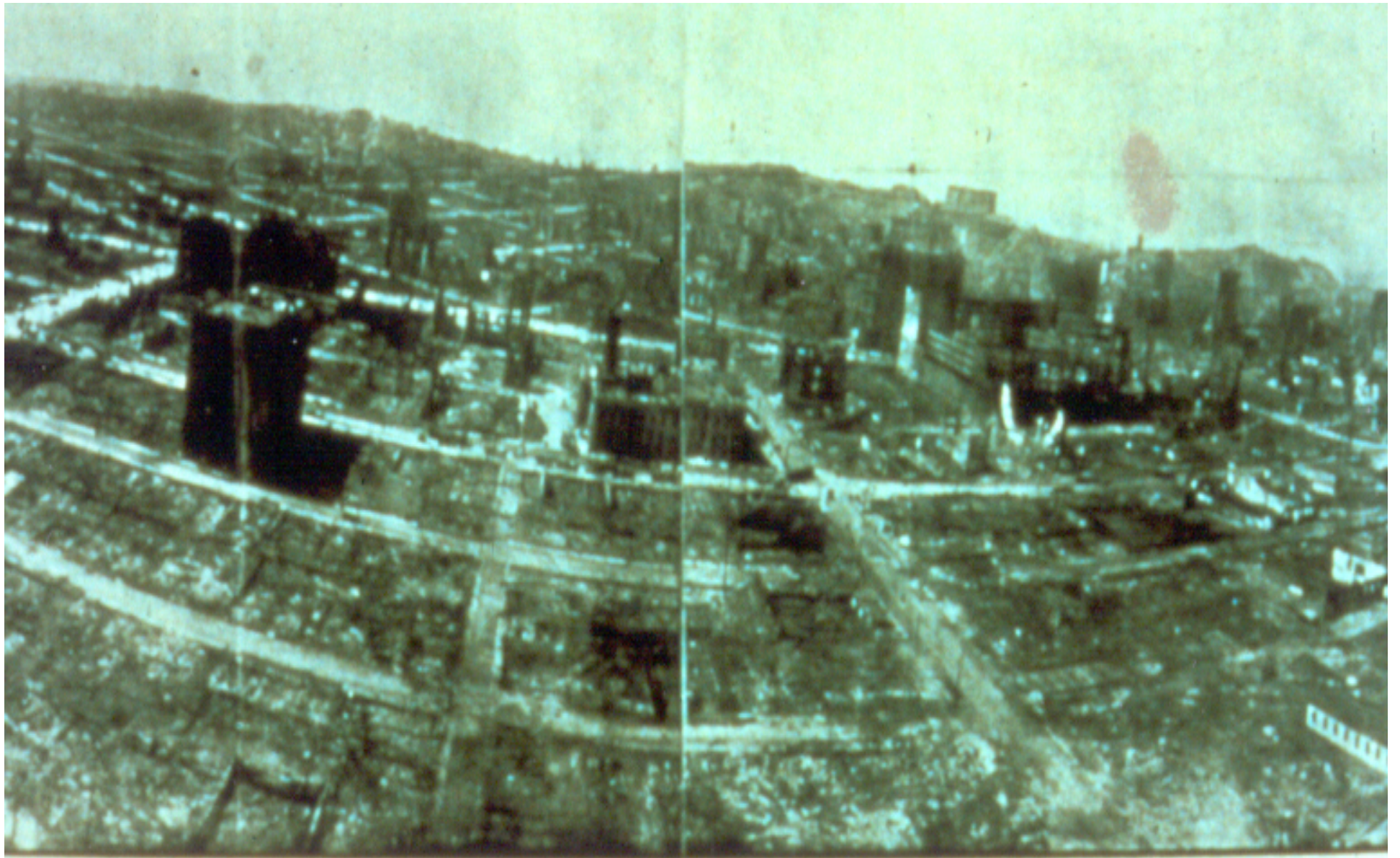
Denver Paramedic Division and Denver Fire  
Department

# Denver General









## Birdseye View of the Ruins of San Francisco.

Supplement to the San Francisco Examiner, May 13, 1906.







# School Shootings

- Buell elementary school; Flint, Michigan
  - 1st grader killed by another 1st grader
- Fort Gibson middle school, Oklahoma
  - 13 year old fires 15 rounds, wounding 4
- Springfield, Oregon
  - 2 teenagers killed and more than 20 injured when a teenager opens fire at a high school
- Jonesboro, Arkansas
  - 4 girls and a teacher are killed and 10 wounded at a middle school





# Columbine High School Shootings



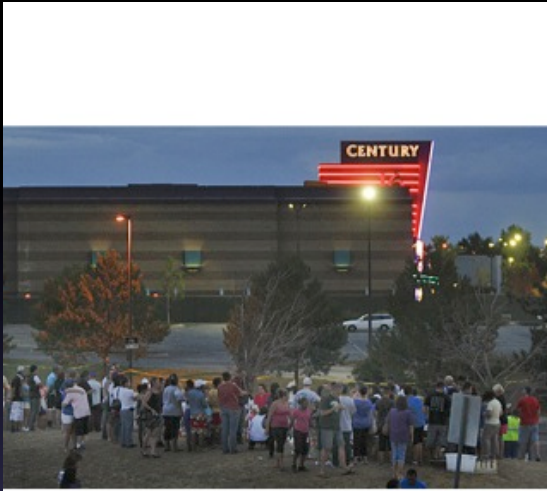


# Safeway Shootings

- Denver, Colorado
  - June 25th, 2006
  - 4 dead, 14 wounded



# Aurora Shootings





# Bus Crash

- 8:30 AM on Wednesday morning
- 38 passengers and 1 driver
- 4 critical, 2 serious
  - Everyone else has neck pain



# Louis Pasteur

- “Chance favors the prepared mind”





# Disaster

- Any situation that overwhelms the community's resources or ability to respond to that situation



# Disaster Management

- A change from *priority for* to *access to*
- Are you ready to ration care?





# Diversion

- 11:20 Hours - Report of Explosion and Grassfire at Chatfield and Wadsworth “*Don’t know if it was a car or what it was, but they’re on Wadsworth Blvd. NB between Chatfield and Ken Caryl. There was an explosion in the backyard. I don’t know if it was a car or a propane tank, a big ball of fire, now there is smoke. There are several people pulled off to the side of the road*”



# Diversion



# Communication

- Arrange in advance
  - Different agencies on different frequencies
  - Appropriate and necessary
  - Cell phones useless
  - Batteries





# Temptation

- Rush and treat
  - Is the scene safe?
    - What good is done by adding to victim list
  - Where are efforts needed most?
  - “The good of the many over the good of the few”



# Temptation

- Rush and transport
  - Rush to nearest hospital
  - Simply transplant disaster
  - Equal and appropriate distribution
  - Avoid self-destination
  - Walking wounded



# Temptation

- Rush to scene
  - Rest of the city still needs care





# Organization

- Everyone will arrive
  - Staging is critical
    - Vehicles everywhere
    - Crowds
  - Staging in the ED as well!



# Ambulance Bay











# Identification

- Triage area
- Physicians
- Freelancers
- Sniper incident
- Hospitals must do the same



# Resources

- Victims AND providers
  - Water
  - Clothing
  - Equipment
- Pediatrics
  - Equipment
  - Trauma centers
- Destination for families?





# Call Down

- Communicate the incident is over
  - Plane crash in Washington D.C.



# Media

- Onslaught WILL occur
  - At scene
  - At hospital
  - For weeks on end
- Aid versus hinder
- PREPARE!
  - Information to release
  - Variations on a story









# AFTERMATH

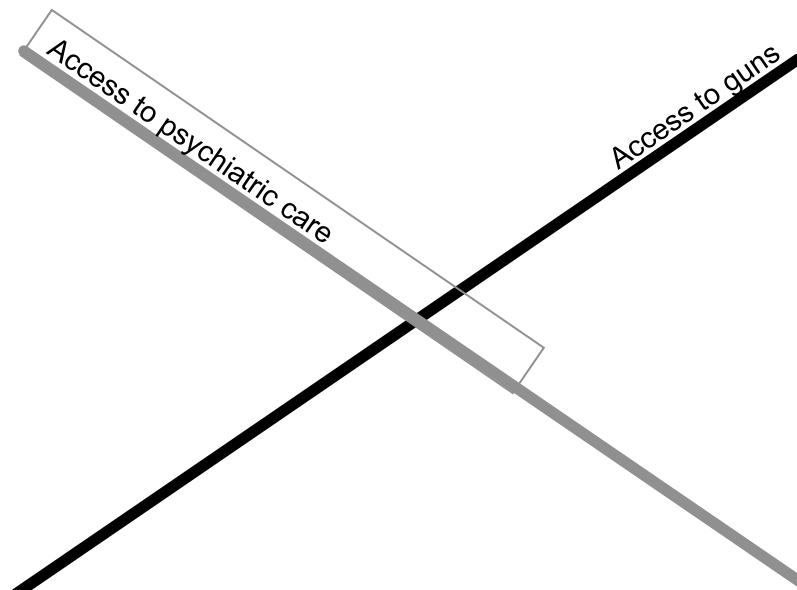
- **Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD)**
  - Involved personnel
  - Off duty personnel
  - Spouses
- **Staff support**
  - Take care of your own
- **Incident review**
  - Constructive vs. armchair quarterbacks
- **Don't underestimate the impact this can have**



# Why?



## Why Colorado?



Time



# Summary

- It can happen to you
- Beware of second hit
  - Never let your guard down
- Have a plan
  - Use it
- Drill
- Communication and cooperation are the keys

