Emergency Management's Role in Continued Operations at Stanford Health Care

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**RESPONSE OBJECTIVES**

- Activate Hospital Command Center and **set objectives**:
  
  - Conduct infrastructure assessment
  - Prepare for incoming casualties (regardless of our infrastructure)
  - Gather information on community impact
  - Communicate all of the above

- Mission: Continue to care for patients, staff, and visitors.
Response is overseen by appropriate leadership - Hospital Incident Command System positions (*prepared to make difficult decisions with limited information*).

- HICS consolidates management for 24/7 operations.
- Need decision making authority and signature authority.

Absence of leadership can lead to chaos. Our role is to ensure:

- Safety of staff, patients, and visitors.
- Resources are allocated appropriately by greatest need.
INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

- Must ensure our **buildings are safe** to continue operations!
  - Prioritize buildings with the sickest patients (hospitals), starting with the newest buildings (so that if older sections must be evacuated, we know where we are sending them is safe).
  - Critical business buildings (IT/call centers) and clinics.

- Ensure we have **what we need to continue operations**.
  - Staff
  - Supplies
  - Equipment

**Decision point based on assessment**: Consolidate services based on needs of incident.
PREPARE FOR INCOMING CASUALTIES

- Even if our buildings are totally or partially affected, the public will not know that immediately and will seek treatment.

- How we continue depends on the incident. *Flexibility is key*, e.g., *we would not move to external treatment areas if not necessary.*
Must always consider greater **community impact**. Factors affecting our response:

- Equipment / instruments
- EMS availability
- Other hospitals’ availability
- Road infrastructure
- Staff availability / skill mix
- Ability to move patients

**Factors to consider before moving patients**
EVACUATION DECISION TREE

Event Occurs

Is external atmosphere safe?
Yes
Are transportation/destination resources available?
Yes
Is there adequate time to conduct an orderly Total Evacuation?
Yes
Total Evacuation

No

Is facility able to maintain essential operations throughout?
Yes
Shelter-in-Place

No

Is there time to conduct a Partial Evacuation?
Yes
Partial Evacuation

No

Are all buildings safe and stable?
Yes
Are essential utilities available throughout the facility?
Yes
Shelter-in-Place.

No

Are any areas safe and stable?
Yes
Are basic utilities available in any areas?
Yes
Relocate to these areas and shelter-in-place.

No

Find safest areas of refuge and shelter-in-place.