

April 16, 2007

EMS Response

Lt. Colin Whitmore, EMS Commander  
Capt. Matthew Johnson, EMS Operations Chief



Virginia Tech Rescue Squad

- Established 1969 by four VT students
- Oldest collegiate Rescue Squad nationwide
- Received the EMS Service of the year, 1988
- Received Governor's Award for Outstanding EMS Agency, 2000
- Recognized by American Ambulance Association with Stars of Life Award, May 2007



Virginia Tech Rescue Squad

- Volunteer Student-Run Organization
  - 38 members
- Two Advanced Life Support Ambulances
- One Advanced Life Support Response Vehicle
- Mass Casualty Trailer capable of 30 patients
- Bicycle Team
- Gator MedBed



Training & Preparedness

- Probationary Members attend semester-long introductory course
  - Introduced to Incident Command System
- Active Members attend EMT-Basic course
- Active Members precept number of calls
- Administered a set of drills
  - Medical
  - Trauma
  - Cardiac Arrest
  - Motor Vehicle Accident
  - Tabletop Mass Casualty Drill



Training & Preparedness

- Organize annual Mass Casualty Drill with Life Member Association



Training & Preparedness

- Determined need for revised Incident Action Plan for Large Scale Incidents
  - October 2006
- Approved revised Incident Action Plan
  - March 2007
- Process of Implementing IAP in progress on April 16
  - Annual MCI Drill was scheduled for early May



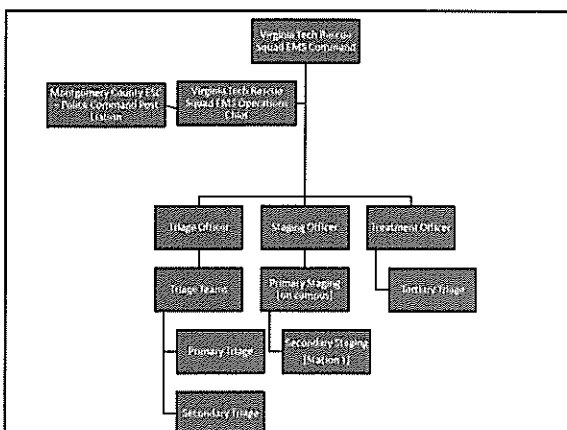
### Triage Basics

- In Mass Casualty Incident patients are treated in a different manner than day-to-day operations
  - EMS providers tag all patients with one of four colors
  - The Virginia Office of EMS uses the START Triage System [simple triage and rapid transport]
  - VTRS employs START Triage on Mass Casualty Incidents



### Triage Basics

- Green: walking wounded [ambulatory]
- Yellow: delayed transport wounded
- Red: critical patients, transported ASAP
- Black: dead on arrival, patient is not viable



7:21am

Virginia Tech Rescue Squad [VTRS] dispatched by Virginia Tech Police Department [VTPD]

4040 Ambler Johnston West for a female subject who had fallen from her loft bed.

Resident Advisor made 911 call.



7:24am

- VTRS Rescue 3 Responding
  - ALS Crew with 3 on-board



7:26am

- Rescue 3 arrives on-scene at WAJ



7:29am

- Rescue 3 crew begins treating the patients



7:31am

- Rescue 3 requests Second Ambulance for second patient



7:32am

- Rescue 3 requests All Available Virginia Tech Rescue personnel to respond to WAJ



7:35am

- Rescue 2 Responding to Ambler Johnston
  - Basic Life Support with 2 on-board
  - EMT-Enhanced on-scene
  - Virginia Tech Rescue Lieutenant on-scene



7:36am

- Virginia Tech Rescue Squad Captain contacts
  - Montgomery Regional Hospital [MRH] with 1 traumatic cardiac arrest and 1 critical trauma alert patient
  - VTPD to request additional Advanced Life Support from Blacksburg Rescue Squad



7:43am

- Rescue 3 en-route to MRH with first patient
- Rescue 3 staffed by
  - EMT-Paramedic
  - EMT-Intermediate
  - EMT-Enhanced
  - EMT-Basic



7:48am

- Rescue 2 requests Carilion Lifeguard medevac helicopter
  - VTPD advises 40 minute ETA from Rural Retreat
  
- VTPD advised to send Lifeguard to Montgomery Regional Hospital



7:49am

- Rescue 2 en-route to MRH with second patient
  
- Rescue 2 staffed by
  - EMT-Intermediate
  - EMT-Intermediate
  - EMT-Enhanced
  - EMT-Enhanced
  
- Virginia Tech Rescue Lieutenant contacts Carilion dispatch
  - Lifeguard helicopters are not flying due to weather



9:02am

- Rescue 3 returns to service
  
- Rescue 2 remains at Montgomery Regional Hospital for restocking



Approximately 9:40am

- Rescue 3 in quarters
- Approximately 6 personnel in station
  
- Overhear call for active shooter in Norris Hall over VTPD radio frequency



Approximately 9:42am

- Implement VTRS Incident Action Plan
  - Virginia Tech Rescue Squad Lieutenant assumes EMS Command
  
- Rescue 3 staffed with Advanced Life Support Crew
  - Standing by at VTRS Station per EMS Command



Approximately 9:42am [cont.]

- Virginia Tech Rescue Squad Lieutenant contacts Montgomery County Emergency Services Coordinator
  - Requests all county squads be placed on standby
  - Requests Emergency Services Coordinator respond to VTRS Station



9:46am

Virginia Tech Rescue Squad [VTRS] dispatched by Virginia Tech Police Department [VTPD]

Second Floor Norris Hall for multiple subjects wounded.



9:46am

- Virginia Tech Rescue Squad Lieutenant establishes EMS Command with VTPD
  - Units are standing by
  - Will not proceed until cleared by VTPD
- VTPD acknowledges
- Rescue 2 is responding from Montgomery Regional Hospital



9:48am

- Initial Staging Area established at Blacksburg Station 1
- Emergency Services Coordinator is advised of change in Staging location
  - Is asked to supply All Available county units to Blacksburg Station 1



9:54am

- VTPD advises they will have multiple patients
  - Information is transmitted to Emergency Services Coordinator
  - Emergency Services Coordinator resets pages for county units and identifies MCI situation with Montgomery County Dispatch



9:56am

- First patients begin moving out of Norris
  - Tactical medics from VTRS and BVRS have been inside the building
  - Triage has begun inside Norris Hall by Tactical Medics as rooms are deemed safe



9:56am

- Staging Area placed at Old Turner and Stanger Streets once VTPD has cleared EMS to enter
- Treatment Area established at Barger and Stanger Street
  - Mass Casualty Trailer is deployed to Treatment Area



9:57am

- EMS Command advises all units operating on the scene to switch to Primary Tactical frequency VTAC1

RES **VT** CUE

9:57am

- Rescue 3 sent to Old Turner and Stanger to pick up wounded patients that are being extricated from Norris Hall by Police Officers
  - Transported to the Treatment Area
- VTPD has not cleared the scene for EMS entry
  - No units have entered the scene other than Tactical Medics

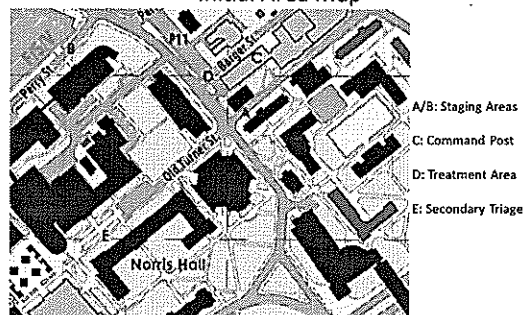
RES **VT** CUE

10:08am

- Primary Triage is taking place in Norris Hall
  - Tactical Medics
- Secondary Triage is planned at the entrance to Norris Hall
- Multiple EMTs, ALS personnel, and Nurses have arrived from surrounding areas
  - Staffing Treatment Area

RES **VT** CUE

Initial Area Map

RES **VT** CUE

10:09am

- VTPD advises that the shooter is down and PD has cleared the building for EMS entry
- Initial Triage Team enters the area on Rescue 3 and proceeds into Norris Hall with Police escort
- Secondary Triage established on Norris Lawn

RES **VT** CUE

Approximately 10:20am

- Surrounding hospitals have been contacted and capacity numbers are in the Command Post
- Triaged Red(critical) patients are being transported directly from secondary triage
- Triaged Green and Yellow(non-critical) Patients are being re-triaged at the Treatment Area

RES **VT** CUE

Approximately 10:20am

- Ambulances are transporting patients to surrounding hospitals per the capacity numbers provided by the hospitals.



10:38am

- Rescue 2 moves from the Treatment Area to Norris Hall with equipment and additional Triage teams.



10:47am

- Triage Teams have cleared the second floor of Norris Hall of all viable patients.
- Transport of critical patients is complete.
- Final Triage Black Patient count is 31.
- Triage Teams begin to find patients who had jumped from second floor windows with injuries.



10:58am

- EMS Operations is notified of a third shooting incident in the tennis court area on Washington Street.
- Triage Teams are staged in ambulances to respond to the tennis court area once VTPD clears the scene



11:13am

- VTPD advises EMS Operations there is no additional incident at the tennis court area (the call is unfounded).



11:18am

- The Ambulance Staging Area is relocated to Perry Street.



12:22pm

- EMS Command stages six ambulances at the top of Barger Street in case of another incident.
- Secondary Staging is at Blacksburg Station 1.



3:47pm

- Units are staged to begin transporting the deceased to the Medical Examiner in Roanoke.



8:00pm

- All of the deceased have been transported to the Medical Examiner in Roanoke.



8:01pm

- EMS Command is terminated and the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad returns to normal operations.



### EMS Response

- 14 Agencies
- 27 ALS Ambulances
- Over 120 EMS Personnel were on-scene



### EMS Response – 14 assisting agencies

- Montgomery County Emergency Services Coordinator
- Blacksburg Rescue Squad
- Christiansburg Rescue Squad
- Shawsville Rescue Squad
- Longshop-McCoy Rescue Squad
- Carilion Patient Transportation Services
- Salem Rescue Squad
- Giles Rescue Squad
- Newport Rescue Squad
- Lifeline Ambulance Service
- Roanoke City Fire and Rescue
- Vinton First Aid Crew
- Radford University EMS
- City of Radford EMS



### Summary

- The EMS response was outstanding
- All patients were transported within an hour
- Critical patients were transported immediately
- Triage system was executed without fault



### Summary

- The Virginia Tech Rescue Squad Incident Action Plan was executed with great success
- Volunteer Rescue Squads exceptional working relationship
- Interagency training exemplified

