



Emergency Preparedness at TRMC Part 1: What You Need to Know

Trinitas Regional Medical Center has an Emergency Preparedness program that is charged with providing support during disasters and other emergencies that originate on-site, or off-site events that impact the hospital operation such as fires, floods, snow storms, utility failures, hazardous materials releases and mass casualty incidents. The medical center has an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that can be found on the hospital intranet. Updates on a current incident are also posted on the intranet. Trinitas has supplies for multiple casualty patient decontamination, as well as supplies for a surge or influx of patients into the hospital. Training in emergency preparedness is ongoing.

CODE TRIAGE, EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

The term “**CODE TRIAGE**” informs all TRMC departments and employees to activate their plan elements in response to a known or perceived situation impacting the hospital. It applies to an internal or external emergency. An **INTERNAL DISASTER** is an event which causes or threatens to cause physical damage to the hospital and/or injury to hospital personnel or patients/visitors within the facility. An **EXTERNAL DISASTER** is an event which is not threatening to the hospital or its staff, but requires expansion of services to receive an influx of casualties to the Emergency Department which will overtax or threaten to overtax the routine capabilities of the Emergency Department.

In the event of a disaster situation the Administrative Supervisor, Administrator On-Call, or the Incident Commander may determine that there is a need to activate the **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**. The **primary EOC is located in the WSC Board Room, North Tower, First Floor**, and is staffed by key members of leadership. The emergency is generally managed from the EOC where necessary communications equipment, forms, etc. are located.

OPERATIONAL RESPONSE LEVELS

TRMC operates in four operational response levels dependent on situations in and around the City of Elizabeth that could result in an emergency, as well as the status of an ongoing internal or external disaster.

Level 1—Normal Operations

- Leadership and key staff continually monitor conditions.
- Under Level 1 there are no significant known impacts to TRMC
- Typical during day-to-day operations

Level 2—Enhanced Operations

- Emergency Management staff and key members of leadership have identified a situation that has potential to effect operations.
- Communication between EM staff & leadership is enhanced. This may include briefings, emails, text messaging and conference calls. Situation Reports may be issued, (can be viewed on the intranet).
- Departments should review emergency plans, staffing, and resource needs.
- May be thought of as the “heightened risk” period.

Level 3—Limited Activation

- The EOC or another command area ED, Nursing Office is activated with limited staffing as determined by the Administrative Supervisor or Incident Commander.
- Briefings are held as needed and situation reports are typically issued
- This is the typical operational status for an emergency of lower impact, nights, or slower operational periods for a protracted event latter stages/demobilization
- A Code Triage would typically be called for a Level 3 operational status.

Level 4—Full EOC Activation

- Hospital Incident Command (HICS) is implemented
- The EOC is fully operational and staffed
- Operational status during the height of an emergency
- Regular briefings are held and regular situation reports issued
- A Code Triage is called for a Level 4 operational status