



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

911 Communications * Emergency Management * EMS * Beach Safety * Animal Control



"We protect the health, safety, and welfare of our community with pride and professionalism!"

November 24, 2008

Robert K. Waddell, II
1302 East 5th Avenue
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

Dear Mr. Waddell,

Please forward this to the appropriate public officials interested in improving the quality of their triage and trauma care system.

In October of 2003, Okaloosa County, located in the panhandle of Florida, chose to implement the SACCO Triage Method (STM) for the Department of Public Safety. The following describes the basic implementation process.

- April through May, 2004, all EMS personnel received classroom training in STM. Additionally all paid Fire Department staff and most volunteer staff throughout the county were trained. Staff for local hospital Emergency Departments and both Air Force Bases were invited to participate; many individuals did so.
- June 1, 2004, all ambulances operating within the Okaloosa County EMS (OCEMS) System were stocked with STM triage tags and STM computer support software was installed at the County Dispatch Center.
- September, 2004, OCEMS participated in a disaster drill with the 6th US Army Ranger Training Battalion stationed at Camp Rudder. The drill had an objective to evaluate the interoperability of STM with other triage schema. The interoperability of STM proved to be significant.
- 2004 - Present – The Okaloosa County Director of Public Safety and Chief of EMS continue to support the use of STM for daily operations and for mass casualty events. Each continues to support the Florida Department of Health as they move to update and evaluate STM.

The priorities for future development include:

- Implementation of STM for future data evaluation and analysis of trauma care within Okaloosa County.

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- Implementation of STM for Trauma Care resource utilization.
- Implementation of the STM for daily Emergency Healthcare Services operations.
- Implementation of STM for disaster and mass gathering planning and preparedness.
- Implementation of the STM for multi and mass casualty events.

As Emergency Medical and Emergency Management professionals, we look forward to working with the Think Sharp Organization on additional training, implementation, and operational opportunities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 651-7150.

Sincerely,

Al Herndon

(electronic signature)

Al Herndon
Chief, Okaloosa County EMS
Okaloosa County, Florida