

Medical, Ambulance and First Aid Management at Events

A summary of the Medical, Ambulance and First Aid Management recommendations made in the 1999 version of the “Guide to Health, Safety and Welfare at music and similar events.”

The aim of this guidance note is to set out the responsibilities of an event organiser to ensure that medical, ambulance and first aid assistance, as appropriate are available to all those involved in an event. The event organiser must minimise the effects of an event on the healthcare provision for the local population and, where ever possible, reduce its impact on the local health service facilities and the ambulance service.



This document is a summary. Organisers of either large or high risk events should refer to the full document **HSG 195** available from HSE Books on 01787 881165 or on www.hse.gov.uk. (This document is being updated during 2010 and a new version will be available in 2011.)

The number of people requiring medical attention at any event will depend on the length, nature and risk of the event. You must prepare for the treatment of either injuries or ailments arising from the event and from people attending with pre existing conditions which have been worsened by the event.

Statistics show that approximately 1-2% of an audience will seek attention and around 10% of these will require further treatment on site. 1% of those seeking medical treatment will require referral to hospital. It should be recognised that environmental conditions, the weather and the nature of the event can increase these numbers.

The Event

The event must be robustly **risk assessed** before any decision is made about medical provision.

Consider what medical facilities are to be available during the build up to an event and while people are arriving and queuing. Similarly maintain cover while people are leaving and the event is closing down.

Ensure adequate cover throughout the event.

Provide signage about the location of medical facilities.

Consider access and egress routes for emergency vehicles.

Avoid taking vehicles through crowds. Bring casualties to vehicles where possible.

Maintain a medical event log which should include names and addresses of people treated, actions taken and treatment given. You may need this information later if an accident has to be reported under the provisions of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. All major injuries and anything requiring a visit to hospital is reportable.

Medical, Ambulance and First Aid Provision

This will depend on the nature of the event. See appendix 1 for tables which can be used to calculate the provision for large events.

For small and low risk events the minimum provision for first aiders is 2 per 1000. No event should have less than 2 first aiders. Consider raising this figure for street carnivals and any events attended by young children.

Definitions and competencies

First Aider –

- Be at least 16 years and less than 65 years
- Have no other duties or responsibilities
- Have identification
- Have protective clothing
- Have relevant training, experience and knowledge of first aid at events
- First Aiders under 18 must not work unsupervised

First Aiders must hold a current certificate of first aid competency issued by St John's Ambulance, Red Cross or St Andrew's Ambulance. They must have experience of first aid at crowd events. A First aid at work certificate is not sufficient.

Local Authority consultation

Events are covered by the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Local Authorities are likely to be the enforcing authority for the Act at most events. Discuss your event with Shepway at the earliest opportunity. We are there to help you run a safe event. Organisers of larger events may be invited either to an Events meeting if your event is to be held on land where the Council has an interest or to the Safety Advisory Group if the event is to be held on private land.

APPENDIX 1

Table 1.

Item	Details	Score
A) Nature of event	Classical performance	2
	Public Exhibition	3
	Pop/Rock Concert	5
	Dance event	8
	Agricultural/Country Show	2
	Marine	3
	Motorcycle Display	3
	Aviation	3
	Motor Sport	4
	State Occasions	2
	VIP visits	3
	Music Festival	3
	Bonfire/ Pyrotechnic display	4
	New Year Celebrations	7
	Demonstrations/Marches/Political Events	
	Low risk of public disorder	2
	Medium risk of public disorder	5
High risk of public disorder	7	
Opposing factions involved	9	
B) Venue	Indoor	1
	Stadium	2
	Outdoor in confined location (e.g. Park)	2
	Other outdoor (e.g. festival)	3
	Widespread public location in streets	4
	Temporary outdoor structures	4
	Includes overnight camping	5
C) Standing/ Seated	Seated	1
	Mixed	2
	Standing	3
D) Audience Profile	Full mix, in family groups	2
	Full mix not in family groups	3
	Predominantly young adults	3
	Predominantly children and teenagers	4
	Predominantly elderly	4
	Full mix, rival factions	5
Add A+B+C+D	Total Score for Table 1. =	

Table 2.

Item	Details	Score
E) Past History	Good data, low previous casualty rate (up to 1%)	-1
	Good data, medium previous casualty rate (1% - 2%)	1
	Good data, high previous casualty rate (more than 2%)	2
	First event no data	3
F) Expected Numbers	Up to (<)1000	1
	<3000	2
	<5000	8
	<10000	12
	<20000	16
	<30000	20
	<40000	24
	<60000	28
	<80000	34
	<100000	42
	<200000	50
<300000	58	
Add E+F	Total Score for Table 2 =	

Table 3.

Item	Details	Score
G) Expected Queuing	Less than 4 hours	1
	More than 4 hours	2
	More than 12 hours	3
H) Time of year (Outdoor events)	Summer	2
	Autumn	1
	Winter	2
	Spring	1
I) Proximity to definitive care (Nearest suitable A&E facility)	Less than 30 mins by road	0
	More than 30 mins by road	2
J) Profile of definitive care	Choice of A&E departments	1
	Large A&E departments	2
	Small A&E departments	3
K) Additional hazards	Carnival	1
	Helicopters	1
	Motor Sport	1
	Parachute display	1
	Street theatre	1
L) Additional on site facilities	Suturing	-2
	X-ray	-2
	Minor surgery	-2
	Plastering	-2
	Psychiatric / GP facilities	-2
Add G+H+I+J+K Subtract L	Total Score for Table 3 =	
Add 1	Total Score for Table 1 =	
Add 2	Total Score for Table 2 =	
Total	Total Score =	

Table 4.

Use the score from tables 1, 2 and 3 to gauge the level of resource indicated for the event.

The numbers indicate the resources to be available at any one time during the event and not the cumulative total for the whole event.

Score	Ambulance	First Aider	Ambulance Personnel	Doctor	Nurse	NHS Ambulance manager	Support Unit
Up to 20	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
21-25	1	6	2	0	0	Visit	0
26-30	1	8	2	0	0	Visit	0
31-35	2	12	8	1	2	1	0
36-40	3	20	10	2	4	1	0
41-50	4	40	12	3	6	2	1
51-60	4	60	12	4	8	2	1
61-65	5	80	14	5	10	3	1
66-70	6	100	16	6	12	4	2
71-75	10	150	24	9	18	6	3
Up to 75	15+	200+	35+	12+	24+	8+	3

An ambulance paramedic crew consists of a paramedic plus an ambulance technician.

The Shepway DC Environmental Health Commercial Team can be contacted:

By e-mail to arthur.atkins@shepway.gov.uk or environmental.health@shepway.gov.uk

At the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY.

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