DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: **DECONTAMINATION TRAILER DEPLOYMENT FOR MASS CASUALTY EVENT** (EMT, PARAMEDIC, HOSPITAL) REFERENCE NO. 1128

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for the release and deployment of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency mobile decontamination trailers to sites where mass casualty decontamination is needed.

DEFINITION:

EMS AGENCY MOBILE DECONTAMINATION TRAILER - The EMS Agency owns and maintains two 32 ft. mobile decontamination trailers that are towed independently by two trucks. These can be deployed as a field resource or to a healthcare facility where decontamination capability is limited or non-existent. Each trailer has the following specifications:

1. Decontamination must occur within 250 feet of a fire hydrant (uses approximately 40 gallons of water per minute).

2. Water is instantly heated to 90 degrees Fahrenheit; trailers are air conditioned.

3. Two ambulatory lanes separated for privacy. Each lane has one wash station and one rinse station. Each station has three wall mounted and one ceiling mounted shower heads. The wash station dispenses detergent soap mixed with water. Two additional ambulatory lanes (each lane capable of handling three (3) victims at a time) can be established externally below two booms on each side of the trailer.

4. Non-ambulatory decontamination can be performed on a 15 ft. roller section on the street side of the trailer below two booms (wash and rinse) with three shower heads on each boom.

5. Internal waste water can be collected in one 1,200 gallon bladder. External waste water flows into a collection basin and can be pumped into another bladder or toward a contaminated area of the operation.

6. An onboard 200 gallon fresh water tank enables the decontamination process to begin prior to accessing a fire hydrant.

7. Able to handle 96 ambulatory victims per hour (this is based on two (2) victims inside and six (6) victims outside showering for five (5) minutes each).

PRINCIPLES:

1. The County of Los Angeles EMS Agency has two mobile decontamination trucks and trailers that are stored and maintained at the County Disaster Staging Facility.

2. The overall authority to deploy the decontamination trailers to the field or to a healthcare facility rests with the EMS Agency who will coordinate the overall response and deployment.

APPROVED: Director, EMS Agency

Medical Director, EMS Agency

3. In any event involving a terrorist attack with a release of a hazardous substance, the EMS Agency, healthcare facilities, and provider agencies shall implement their terrorism notification procedures and monitor the situation.

4. EMS Agency mobile decontamination trailer deployment shall be for incidents in which a hazardous substance is responsible for the casualties. The incident must be a true mass casualty incident which exceeds the provider agencies' decontamination capability or healthcare facilities' resources to deal with the patient load. As a general guideline, the incident should involve at least fifty (50) patients.

5. EMS Agency mobile decontamination trailer(s) may be pre-deployed for special events.

POLICY:

I. Types of Deployment

A. Field Deployment – This scenario involves the deployment of a decontamination trailer to an incident site in a public area. This would occur in the case of an overt chemical or radiological substance release in a populated area such as a stadium or inside a building.

B. Healthcare Facility Deployment – This scenario may involve an overt or covert chemical or radiological substance release in which the first sign might be the unexplained surge of patients seeking treatment at local hospital, clinic, or field treatment site for symptoms indicating exposure to or contamination with a hazardous substance.

C. Training Deployment – A scenario involving simulated or actual decontamination of volunteer victims in the field or at a healthcare facility during an exercise or drill.

II. Role of the EMS Agency

A. Deliver the trailer(s) to the decontamination site and deploy to a state of readiness.

B. Facilitate the integration of provider agency staff/trained healthcare facility decontamination team members into the operation and utilization of the decontamination trailer(s).

C. Coordinate and facilitate training on decontamination trailers for provider agency and healthcare facility staff.

D. Maintain and store the decontamination trailers.

III. Role of the Provider Agency

A. Notify the EMS Agency via the Medical Alert Center (MAC) by either telephone at 562-347-1789, ReddiNet or HEAR of the incident.

B. Determine whether first responder decontamination resources are sufficient to handle the incident. If provider agency's decontamination resources are

adequate to deal with the patient load, generally no other assistance would be requested.

C. If additional decontamination resources are required, request the deployment of decontamination trailer(s). Provide the MAC with the following information:

1. incident location
2. contaminant (if known)
3. number and severity of victims
4. chief complaint of patients

E. Provide personnel in appropriate level of personal protective equipment (PPE) to staff the trailer(s) in order to perform decontamination and/or assist victims with self-decontamination.

F. Coordinate with the local law enforcement agency for force protection and scene control.

IV. Role of the Affected Healthcare Facility

A. Notify the EMS Agency via the MAC by either telephone at (323) 722-8073, ReddiNet, or HEAR of a possible mass casualty event requiring decontamination. The healthcare facility shall provide the MAC with the following information:

1. contact person (Incident Commander or Liaison Officer)
2. decontamination site location
3. contaminant (if known)
4. number and severity of victims
5. chief complaint of patients

B. The healthcare facility shall determine whether its resources are adequate to deal with the patient load. If the healthcare facility's resources are adequate to deal with the patient load, generally no other assistance would be requested.

C. If the healthcare facility requires additional resources to deal with the patient load, the staff would request deployment of the mobile decontamination trailer(s) from the EMS Agency and/or request fire department/HazMat assistance.

D. Provide personnel in appropriate level of personal protective equipment (PPE) to staff the trailer(s) in order to perform decontamination and/or assist victims with self-decontamination.

CROSS REFERENCE:

Prehospital Care Manual:
Ref. No. 519, **Management of Multiple Casualty Incidents**
Ref. No. 807, **Medical Control During Hazardous Material Exposure**
Ref. No. 1104, **Disaster Pharmaceutical Caches Carried by First Responders**
Ref. No. 1106, **Mobilization of Local Pharmaceutical Caches (LPCs)**
Ref. No. 1225, **Nerve Agent Exposure**