

PRESS RELEASE



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City Manager

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Contact:
Peggy Harrell
Senior Fire Safety Education Coord.
972-941-7421

City of Plano Fire Department Facilitates Multi-Agency Mass Casualty Drill

The City of Plano Fire Department is facilitating a Mass Casualty Drill over the next two weeks focusing on local response, county response and local hospital response. Several cities, including Frisco, Murphy, Celina and McKinney, are participating in the drill which began on April 7, continuing on April 8, April 9, April 13, April 14 and April 15.

“The purpose of the drill is to ensure our fire companies and command officers can function with confidence and competently carry out the proper procedures to manage an incident involving a large number of casualties,” said Plano Fire Chief, Hugo Esparza. “The drills enable us to experience all of the components and actions that must be successfully managed and coordinated across the diversity of geographic, organizational, communications and situational obstacles that occur during these types of events.”

Three phases of operations are addressed in the drills. Local Response involves local fire departments in conducting standard functions related to command, triage, extrication, treatment and transport. County Response provides the opportunity to implement and evaluate the *Collin County Mass Casualty Mutual Aid Plan* for emergency medical services providers. The Local Hospital phase targets large and

small hospital participation in testing and evaluating their ability to handle large numbers of injured persons.

The City of Plano Fire Department encompasses a department-wide focus on disaster preparedness, including, among others, specialized training on weapons of mass destruction, mass casualty drills, and high rise building rescue. Plano also coordinates and participates in various interagency operability training drills with surrounding cities to improve Plano's local and regional emergency management disaster response capabilities.

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