

BOOK REVIEW

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Review of: *Mass Fatality and Casualty Incidents. A Field Guide*

REFERENCE: Jensen RA. Mass fatality and casualty incidents. A field guide, CRP Press. Boca Raton, FL, 2000. 245 pp., \$39.95.

The author recommends that you read through this entire "field guide," and that you ask yourself how you or your agency fits into the response to mass fatality and casualty incidents. This seemed like strange advice for a book with a "field guide" format, including numerous lists and outlines of procedures. However, having followed the author's advice, I concur with his recommendation.

The text which holds this book together reflects Mr. Jensen's extensive experience with both military and civilian mass fatality incidents, and a profound sensitivity to the emotional needs of all concerned, including emergency response personnel, investigators, survivors, victims' families/loved ones, and the public at large.

This "field guide" is organized into 11 chapters and a two-part appendix. The first four chapters suggest strategies for senior

leaders in overall incident management, discuss key points in establishing a mass fatality incident response, coping with the responder and community reactions to mass death, and laws and regulations concerning bloodborne pathogens and hazardous materials.

Chapters 5 to 10 discuss search for and recovery of fatalities, morgue organization and operations, recovery of personal effects, family assistance, media relations, and logistical support.

Chapter 11 describes the Federal Response Plan, various federal laws governing mass fatality incident response, and how operations should proceed during a multiagency response.

The first appendix lists recommended equipment for the various phases of the incident response. The second appendix provides a place to record local and national points of contact, and a short list of organizations that may be able to provide specific support.

This "field guide" should be read by everyone who might be involved, even at the periphery, of a mass fatality/casualty incident. It should be "required reading" for anyone who may have some planning or management responsibility for dealing with such incidents.

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