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HIGH TURR FARMS  
NEW FLORENCE, PA 15944  
412-238-7420

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EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

412-349-1428  
1-800-428-2121

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INCORPORATED NOT FOR PROFIT "1984"

The **SPECIAL MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM, INC.**, is a non-profit, volunteer medical rescue organization based out of Western Pennsylvania. The team, made up of highly skilled and motivated emergency medicine and rescue professionals, has been in existence since 1982. The organization was formally incorporated in 1984. To date, SMRT's primary source of funding for equipment and operational expenses comes from a Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration grant which is administered through the Department of Environmental Resources, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Bureau of Deep Mine Safety.

Since its inception the team has filled a very special need of providing a highly advanced level of medical care and support during mine disasters, industrial accidents, and other types of incidents involving prolonged entrapments. Calls for their services not only come from within the Commonwealth, but from throughout the United States and even other countries. As a result they have had a great deal of experience mobilizing the team and equipment to travel long distances.

Included as part of the team's mission is maintaining a high level of training for these types of incidents, modification of existing equipment to be used in those environments and research and development of equipment and methods of caring for seriously injured or ill patients while they are still entrapped.

The following is a more detailed overview of the **SPECIAL MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM, INC.**, known as S.M.R.T.

*Special Emergency Medical Response for Industry and the Commonwealth*

## SPECIAL MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM

### PREFACE

The Special Medical Response Team was conceived and formed for the Bureau of Deep Mine Safety, and Office of Environmental Energy Management, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to fulfill a need for special advanced emergency medical care, both above and below ground, to the bituminous deep mine industry.

Although the services of this medical team are geared toward the mining industry, it is not for the industry's exclusive use. Because of the special training, organizational structure, tight medical control and discipline of the team, it is suitable for other types of high risk or hazardous incidents requiring advanced emergency medical support.

The Special Medical Response Team is available for use by any local, regional, or state agency or governmental body, i.e., state and local police, state and local emergency management agencies, etc.

In addition, the response of S.M.R.T. is not limited to the Commonwealth. Given the nature of the incident, location, availability of transportation, etc., response could reach into other states, upon official request.

Revised June 1, 1988

## SPECIAL MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM

### **PURPOSE:**

To provide an immediately available, appropriately trained cadre of physicians and paramedics to administer advanced medical care, both above and below ground, specifically for, but not necessarily limited to, mine disasters or injuries; twenty-four hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To provide medical care to all injured personnel in the event of a mine disaster or accident.
2. To maintain an advanced level of emergency medical training and equipment, emergency mine rescue expertise and familiarity with the appropriate mine.
3. To provide experience where new medical techniques and equipment appropriate to mine rescue situations may be developed.
4. To provide an avenue for research into the medical aspects of mine injury, resuscitation, rescue and reduction of morbidity and mortality secondary to mine related accidents.
5. To provide advanced life support and medical care at or near the site of injury or potential injury, thus facilitating advanced and definitive care of injured personnel.
6. To provide close medical support for underground recovery operations in situations with high potential for injury.
7. To interface and coordinate with local emergency services, fire departments and ambulance services regarding the medical response to mine disasters.
8. When response would be to other than mine related incidents, the same basic objectives would apply with special emphasis on providing support emergency medical services.

Revised June 1, 1988

SPECIAL MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

PHYSICIAN CHIEF

PHYSICIAN COMMANDERS

(ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND)

PARAMEDIC CHIEF

PARAMEDIC  
SUPERVISORS

PARAMEDIC  
SPECIALISTS

(ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND)

EACH RESPONDING TEAM WOULD BE COMPOSED OF:

- (1) Physician and Paramedic Chief
- (1) Physician Commander
- (1) Paramedic Supervisor or Specialist

OR

- (1) Physician and Paramedic Chief
- (2) Paramedic Supervisors or Specialists with direct medical command from a Physician Commander or Physician Chief.

NOTE: The Physician Commander and Physician Chief could, in most cases, be the same person.

OR

Depending on the nature and scope of the incident, an entire team response could be generated.

The Physician Chief or Physician Commander would be responsible for overall team control and medical direction. The Paramedic Chief or Paramedic Supervisor would be responsible for team coordination and report directly to the Physician Chief or Commander.

In the absence of a Physician Chief or Commander, the Paramedic Chief or Supervisor would be responsible for overall team control with medical control coming from radio or phone command. If communication is not possible, medical direction would come from written standing orders.

Revised June 1, 1988

## SPECIAL MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM

### CALL UP PROCEDURE FOR ACTIVATION OF THE SPECIAL MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM (S.M.R.T.)

It is the goal of the Special Medical Response Team to mobilize and respond to an incident within one hour or less from the time a call for the team is received. The team is available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

The method of contacting the team, dispatching procedures, and mode of response is outlined below.

#### METHOD OF CONTACTING S.M.R.T.

The Indiana County Emergency Communications Center (911) located in the County Jail at North 9th Street, Indiana, PA serves as the central dispatch agency for the team. Mr. Paul Beatty is the Coordinator and Chief Dispatcher at the center.

\*Anyone needing the services of S.M.R.T. should call the following numbers:

Within the (412) AC 349-1428

Outside the (412) AC 1-800-482-2122 (WITHIN PENNSYLVANIA ONLY)

The dispatcher at Indiana County 911 will ask for the following information:

1. Full name and title of caller.
2. Call back phone number.
3. Exact location of the incident.
4. Exact nature of incident and what type of emergency response is on scene at present.
5. Number of victims.
6. If available, type of injuries.

Given the information above, the dispatcher will advise the caller that an official from the team will be returning their call immediately. The dispatcher will not offer an estimated time of arrival of the team at this point.

The dispatcher will then activate the teams Group Alert paging system (to be activated twice). The first team official to respond by calling the 911 dispatcher will be given the information obtained above. That team official will then call the agency requesting S.M.R.T. and then determine an appropriate response. This information will be given to the other team members responding, and a meeting place will be announced.

## SPECIAL MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM

### DISPATCHING PROCEDURE FOR THE S.M.R.T.

Each team member is available by pager.

During the "alert" phase of the call-up when paged, each team member will phone Indiana County 911 and let the dispatcher know that they are available and what their location is.

While the call-up is taking place, the team official will be obtaining additional information from the caller so he can make a decision on: mode of response, number of team members required to respond, etc. Once this information is obtained, the official will provide instructions to Indiana County 911 as to mode of transportation and mobilization of the team.

Indiana County 911 at this point will notify team members to "mobilize" and provide them with instructions provided by the team official.

Indiana County 911 will make the arrangements for transportation if necessary.

### MODE OF RESPONSE FOR THE S.M.R.T.

The mode of response for the Special Medical Response Team will come by one of the following:

1. Ground transportation - within a 50 mile radius.
2. Helicopter - within a 150 mile radius.
3. Fixed wing - outside a 150 mile radius.

The mode of response could be a dual response with one team coming by air with a back up coming by ground, or air in a second craft.

The team official will decide how the response should come based on the quickness of the response required, how far away the incident is, the number of team members required and where they are located in relationship to the incident.

If ground transportation is the mode of choice, it will be provided by one of the following:

1. S.M.R.T. rescue truck
2. Private vehicle - S.M.R.T. vehicles
3. Fire Department or E.M.S. vehicles - available through Indiana or Westmoreland County 911
4. State Police - Troop A  
(412) 357-2888 Indiana County  
(412) 832-3288 Westmoreland County

## SPECIAL MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM

If air transportation is the mode of choice, one of the following will be used:

### A. Fixed Wing

1. Life Flight - (412) 359-3333  
Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA
2. Civil Air Patrol - 1-800-851-3051
3. State Police - (412) 832-3288  
Westmoreland County
4. Corporate Jet
5. U. S. Air Force

### B. Helicopter

1. State Police - (412) 832-3288  
Westmoreland County
2. Life Flight - (412) 359-3333  
Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA
3. Corporate Jet

Revised June 1, 1988

SPECIAL MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM  
QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

PHYSICIANS:

Physicians will be trained in emergency medicine.

In addition, the following is required:

- Advanced cardiac life support (ACLS), American Heart Association, provider level.
- Advanced trauma life support (ATLS), American Heart Association, provider level.
- Mine hazards.
- Mine self rescuer and self contained breathing apparatus.
- Mine rescue training.
- Development of and training in medical response to the mine disaster situation.

PARAMEDICS:

Paramedics will be trained a minimum of a P11 level, and must be current with their continuing education requirements, as necessary to satisfy the state requirement, and their medical director's requirement. In addition, the following training is required:

- Advanced cardiac life support (ACLS), American Heart Association, provider level.
- Mine hazards
- Mine self rescuer and self contained breathing apparatus.
- Mine rescue training
- Development of and training in medical response to the mine disaster situation.
- State certified in basic fire fighting.
- State certified in basic rescue practices.
- State certified in hazardous materials.
- State certified in advanced self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

The Special Medical Response Team is to have on-going training at regular intervals to maintain familiarity with mine environment, mine injuries, special high risk, or hazardous incidents, and appropriate medical care and rescue techniques.

To be included would be specific training on:

1. Physiology of respiration
2. Toxicology of gases
3. Burn management
4. Massive trauma
5. Percussion injuries
6. Crush injuries
7. Electrical injuries



Special Medical Response Team  
Qualifications and Training Requirements  
Page 2

In addition to the usual skills and techniques that paramedics are certified to perform, training will be provided so the paramedic team members can be certified and authorized to:

- Do tracheal intubation
- Insert central lines
- Insert chest tubes
- Use nitros oxide
- Give specific medications as shown on the equipment list.

All skills and procedures performed by all the paramedic team members will be certified by the team physician chief. Application and use of those skills and techniques will be prescribed in a special set of medical protocol.

Performance of advanced life support measures by any paramedic team member will be accomplished through:

1. On scene medical command, given by the physician chief or physician commander.
2. Radio or phone medical command, given by the physician chief or physician commander.
3. In the absence of on scene command or communication the paramedic team members will function by a special set of standing orders issued by the team physician chief.

Records on all team members, relative to training, continuing education, credentialing will be kept by the team paramedic chief.

Formulated: 10/15/83  
Revised: 7/1/88