

Major Incident Medical 2009 Management & Support Course



Yogyakarta Earthquake
May 2006



Manjimup Bus Crash
October 2008

Context

The bombings in Bali (2002 and 2005) and of the Australian Embassy in Jakarta (2004) and most recently the gun attacks in Mumbai (2008), are indicative of the real possibility that Australians may be affected by a major terrorist incident either overseas or domestically. As the world population and infrastructure grows, particularly in coastal areas, our exposure to natural hazards increases. Floods, cyclones and earthquakes may result in a natural disaster which our community, or our neighbours will need to respond to e.g. Yogyakarta Earthquake (2006) and Tropical Cyclone George (2007). The QF72 aircraft incident and emergency landing at RAAF Learmonth (2008) and the Manjimup bus crash (2008) were a clear reminder that transportation accident risks can and do occur in Western Australia.

What are the MIMMS Courses?

The Major Incident Medical Management and Support (MIMMS) courses teach a systematic and practical approach to field medical management at disasters. The approach can be applied to **any** major incident.

The emphasis is on scene management and pre-hospital care learned through:

- structured lectures;
- a series of table-top exercises;
- practical exercises in radio communication;
- casualty triage exercises;
- workshops; and
- field exercises for command training involving airport and mass gathering incidents (Advanced course only).



MIMMS – held in Western Australia (WA) since 1999

MIMMS Australia has been developed from the United Kingdom (UK) MIMMS Course and adapted to suit the needs of the Australian disaster management system. With WA Department of Health sponsorship, MIMMS was introduced to WA in 1999. To date, over 70 courses have been successfully held in metropolitan, rural and industrial areas.



The courses are open to all registered medical practitioners, registered nurses, paramedics, ambulance officers and emergency first responders. Representatives from the Australian Defence Force, WAPOL, FESA, Industry and other organisations involved in emergency response have been trained with this system.

There are 2 courses available: an **Advanced** course and a **Team Member** course. Maintenance of Professional Standards (MOPS) points are available for medical practitioners from various Medical Colleges.

Advanced Course (previously known as Commander)

This course runs over 3 consecutive days. It is an accredited course with ALSG (UK) and is widely accepted internationally. The content includes **command safety, communication, assessment, triage, treatment and transport.**

The course is competency based and participants are tested in the practical application of the skills taught. This course is particularly relevant for those in senior positions likely to take a coordination or command role, or those involved with staff development/training. A manual and other materials are supplied as part of the course. Instructors are experienced Emergency Management, Medicine and Nursing Specialists and Paramedics.

As the Advanced course is a fully inclusive, comprehensive MIMMS course, there is no requirement to have completed the Team Member course first.

Team Member Course

Following the success of the Advanced courses, and in response to requests from health services, a 1½ day Team Member course commenced in 2001. The course uses those elements of the Advanced course that are relevant for members of a medical/ambulance response team who will have a more "hands on" role in the field rather than a command or coordination role. The course is *usually* held on a Friday evening and all day Saturday in country areas. The course is not currently accredited.

Emergency Service personnel involved in emergency and disaster management (e.g. Police, Fire Service and SES, will find the course beneficial to understanding health and ambulance service roles and operating procedures at a major incident site.

How often are the Courses Conducted and How Do I Apply?

2 Advanced Courses and 10 Team Member Courses are scheduled for 2009. Course dates are detailed on the attached application form and on the DPMU website: www.health.wa.gov.au/disaster
For further details contact the Training and Development Officer, Disaster Preparedness & Management Unit (Phone: 9222 2017; Email debbie.gibbins@health.wa.gov.au).