

## Planning Mass Casualty Operations

For those emergency management agencies considering the preparation of or revision to mass casualty plans, the CIPIC offers the following actions adapted from those obtained online and initially written by David Lind, a U.S. Navy Disaster Preparedness Operations and Training Specialist, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, WA:

- Identify the different types of disasters that can be expected.
- Assess how these disasters would affect mass casualty operations.
- Anticipate casualties for each type of disaster.
- Estimate the number of casualties that would exhaust available resources.
- Determine who, where, and how collection and triage would be managed.
- Decide what resources would be needed to evacuate casualties.
- Ascertain the evacuation capabilities of local public transportation.
- Understand geographical realities versus available transportation.
- Identify the physical obstacles/limitations to successful evacuation.
- Select the routes, bridges, tunnels, etc., for one-way traffic only.
- Choose the routes to be dedicated exclusively for emergency personnel.
- Comprehend how power outages would affect triage and evacuation.
- Initiate a CERT program to train a force of capable civilian helpers.