THE ROLE OF MARS IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Because every life counts
KEY STRATEGIC ROLES

• Communication
• Co-ordination of rescue teams at a disaster scene
• Triaging
• Pre-Hospital Patient management & Patient evacuation
• Training

Because every life counts
Communication is key to the ambulance services, as it links the service provider to the scene.

MARS operates in partnership with all major communication service providers and has the following emergency lines:

- 112 - Econet
- 114 - NetOne
- As well as a number of Tel-one lines in its numerous branches (04-771221 Emergency only)

Contact Persons and Contact Facility Networks

- All provincial, district and private hospitals are part of our contact facility network
- We have contact persons in every province and district including areas where we have no physical presence
Co-ordination of rescue teams

Because every life counts
CO-ORDINATION OF RESCUE TEAMS

- In cases of disasters MARS is a key and focal player in a team of rescuers.
- On receipt of a disaster call, MARS alerts all the necessary players in the Emergency Rescue service.
- MARS coordinates the handling and transportation of the patients at scene.
- MARS’ team of well trained staff are great team players to ensure that many lives are saved.

*Because every life counts*
Critical Partners

- Police
- Fire Brigades & Ambulance services
- Army
- Air force
- Zimbabwe Traffic Safety Council
- Civil protection
- C A A Z
- Other Private Ambulance Services
- Hospitals (Public and Private)
- VID
Triaging

- Triaging involves an assessment of the extent of injury of patients. This enables the rescue team to attend to and evacuate the most critical patients first.
- Triaging will also determine the most appropriate medical facility for the patients.
- MARS has highly skilled staff to manage the critically injured at scene and during patient evacuation.
Pre-Hospital Patient management & Patient evacuation
EMS Training School

- Initially MARS sought competitive EMS training from neighboring South Africa and Queensland Ambulance service of Australia

- The school subsequently got affiliated & registered with RCSA & AHA following training received from these institutions

- Back home, MARS spear headed the establishment of AHPC as a governing board for EMS training and operations
How to improve Disaster Management

- There is an on-going change in disaster management and patient evacuation systems, hence there is need for:
  - Attending international conferences/workshops and meetings
  - Information dissemination through skills training and knowledge sharing at meetings
  - Professional body to ratify new guidelines and operations
  - Mitigation efforts through joint campaigns to prevent disasters
  - First responder protocols
Disaster Preparedness

- Capacitate Disaster Preparedness Teams at all levels through training and equipment supplies
- Duty free medical and rescue equipment for private ambulance services that participate in disaster management
- Frequent mock rehearsals at all levels and monitoring by the national disaster team
- Introduction of a national toll free emergency number that will enable the distressed caller to access all emergency services.
Some Major Disasters Managed

- Vic Falls NRZ passenger train disaster
- Mhunga bus disasters (all of these)
- Tenda bus disasters
- Charles Prince plane crash
- NRZ Harare station passenger train crash
- Pioneer – Chinhoyi bus disaster
- Nyanga ZNA disaster
- Selous bus disaster with joint response with the army
- Livingstone Helicopter crash – including the mock airport plane crash
THANK YOU
WELCOME ON BOARD
THE MEDICAL FLYING
WING OF AFRICA
MEDICAL AIR
RESCUE SERVICES
(MARS)