SPECIAL EVENTS EMS ACCESS AND RESPONSE/EGRESS ROUTE CHECKLIST

Major events can overwhelm normal ambulance movement if access routes, staging locations, and egress paths are not planned in advance. Road closures, barricades, pedestrian density, rideshare traffic, vendor areas, and law enforcement perimeters can all delay EMS movement at the exact moment time matters most. This checklist is intended to help fire service leaders and partner agencies identify, protect, and manage EMS access and egress routes before the event begins and throughout each operational period.

- ☐ Identify primary and alternate EMS access routes for the venue and all support areas
- ☐ Identify primary and alternate patient egress routes from the venue, fan areas, and temporary support spaces
- ☐ Protect ambulance corridors from barricades, vendor overflow, parked vehicles, and pedestrian encroachment
- ☐ Confirm route access with law enforcement, transportation, and event organizers before the event opens
- ☐ Pre-designate ambulance staging areas with direct access to ingress and egress routes
- ☐ Ensure staging locations do not trap units inside a closed or congested footprint
- ☐ Identify where foot teams, bike teams, carts, or smaller medical units are needed because ambulances cannot get close
- ☐ Validate turning radius, gate widths, barrier spacing, and choke points through physical site visits
- ☐ Coordinate routes for routine patient transport separately from MCI evacuation routes
- ☐ Identify hospital destination routes likely to be affected by event traffic, street closures, or post-event surges
- ☐ Build alternate transport plans for periods of peak congestion, weather impacts, or security lockdowns

- Include EMS access and egress routes on the common event map used by command and field supervisors
- Mark route control points and identify who has authority to open barriers or clear traffic for EMS movement
- Reassess routes each operational period for layout changes, construction, weather, or emerging congestion
- Test route plans during exercises or site walkthroughs rather than assuming the map will hold on event day
- Protect designated EMS ingress and egress routes through the post-event flush, not just during the event itself
- Do not terminate or repurpose EMS routes solely to accelerate spectator exodus without a coordinated emergency access alternative
- Recognize that the end of the event may increase medical calls, altercations, pedestrian strikes, and delayed egress emergencies at the same time access is most vulnerable
- Coordinate in advance with law enforcement on which routes must remain open for EMS regardless of crowd release plans
- Identify who has authority to preserve, reopen, or clear EMS routes during peak outbound movement
- Establish alternate EMS routes if primary corridors are expected to be compromised during spectator exit
- Include post-event route protection in the traffic control plan, not just pre-event ingress and event-time operations
- Reassess staging locations before the event ends so ambulances are not trapped behind closures or pedestrian surges
- Assign field supervisors to monitor route viability during the exodus and report degradation immediately
- Ensure event shutdown plans do not begin dismantling barriers, lanes, or control points in a way that cuts off EMS movement