



Survival Factors Group
Interview With San Juan County
EMS Medical Director

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Dr. Mahana Fischer
Physician and San Juan County EMS Medical Director
Telephonic Interview on 1/27/09

The following are responses to specific questions asked;

What involvement did the UT Bureau of EMS have post accident?

Their only involvement he was aware of was the post-accident debriefing held at San Juan Hospital approximately 2 weeks after the accident. Discussions were held on how to improve the total response and the only solution mentioned was improved communication.

The NTSB has concluded that the first response by EMS went well, do you agree?

Dr. Fischer stated, "Absolutely", other than the communication difficulties on-scene and the weather circumstances, everything went as well as possible.

Where any of the ambulances refused or diverted from ER access due to the shear numbers?

No. Physicians and nurses were called in at all the treatment facilities and they were prepared to handle all the injured.

Did you have an awareness of the number/location of intensive care unit beds?

No, I was only concerned with triaging the injured people on-scene.

What were the differences between the on scene triage and triage at the clinic, and at San Juan Hospital?

Plenty, on-scene we have little if any equipment to access injuries. At the hospitals and clinics, they have the equipment and instruments that we didn't have on-scene.

The EMT's would point out the most severely injured or ones with life threatening injuries and I would start by checking their breathing, then vascular and their neurological condition, and lastly skeletal deformities.

Was there a guideline/protocol used for triage?

The Incident Command system was used and we used the color coding tag system while doing triage.