

Vulnerable Population Response Summary

Coral Gables Fire Rescue



Interagency Collaboration and Information Sharing

- Police and Fire Command Staff attend Regional Domestic Security Task Force Meetings
- Fire Command Staff participate in the Urban Area Security Working Group
- Participate in the Fire Officers of Miami Dade Meetings
- FUSION Center Intelligence
- Miami Dade Office of Emergency Management Multi-Area Command Group for FIFA – State Coordinator for Fire Rescue Assets



Florida Training Requirements & Framework

- Included in Paramedic initial and continuing education
- 150 Hours of Patient Assessment Training which includes Abuse / Neglect / Exploitation / Sexual Assault victims
- Recognition and trauma-informed care focus
- Understanding Florida Statutes
- Coordination with law enforcement
- Demonstrate appropriate scene management for patients with special challenges



Defining Patients with Special Challenges

(Florida Paramedic Curriculum)

Paramedics receive training and must be proficient in the management of the patient with special challenges including:

- Domestic partner abuse
- Elder abuse
- Child abuse
- Sexual assault
- Identifying typical abuser profile
- Identify the profile of the "at-risk" individuals



Common EMS Protocol

- Fire Departments throughout Miami Dade County use the same protocol including Miami Beach, Miami, and Hialeah
- All Medical Protocols are reviewed and approved by the Fire Department Medical Director
- Paramedics must pass an annual protocol examination, Rescue assignment consideration , and during the promotional examination process



Common EMS Protocol

- The Fire Department has an EMS Protocol for abuse, neglect, exploited, and vulnerable population
- Protocol complies with Fl. Statute .415 Mandatory Reporting
- Additionally, the Fire Department has an EMS Protocol for the management of sexual assault victims.
- Considers the psychological trauma associated with this emergency
- Provides for evidence preservation



Behavioral Indicators for Coral Gables Firefighter/Paramedics

- Repeated emergency incidents at the same location
- The Interaction with others in the home/business
- Patient's physical signs upon examination
- Patient's response to Paramedic questioning
- Fearful behavior or lack of Identification
- Evidence of labor or sexual exploitation



CGFR EMS Common Protocols

Abuse, Exploitation & Sexual Assault

- Environmental Scan Ensuring Scene identification & Safety
- Patient Management protection of privacy
- Trauma-informed communication
- Scene Management/ Crowd Control
- Follow specific EMS Protocol for vulnerable population
- Document objectively and thoroughly



CGFR EMS Common Protocols

Abuse, Exploitation & Sexual Assault

- Universal assessment; treat life-threatening injuries first
- Explain procedures & obtain consent if patient alert
- Transport to closest appropriate facility
- ALS Rescue transport required
- Notify police if not already on scene
- Use of specific language for radio communications
- Avoid one-on-one male caregiver situations



CGFR Response & Best Practices

- Common Public Safety Answering Point – 911 Center
- Integrated response with CGPD on most calls for service
- Unified Command Intelligence Meeting during Major Events or significant trend throughout Miami Dade County



Mandatory Reporting & Legal Responsibilities

- Coordinate with Police Department on Frequent Emergency Incidents of Suspected Abuse
- Florida Abuse Hotline: 1-800-962-2873
- Complete Hotline Form & document in PCR
- EMS must report even if police/hospital involved
- Mandatory reporting required for minors
- Report unlivable/self-neglect conditions when appropriate



Preparation for Major Events

- During major event planning the Fire Department will assess operational response readiness, training and prevention
- Firefighters will receive training/updates through Roll Call Announcement, Intelligence sharing situational reports, and real time information
- All Personnel are assigned through the Training Portal training courses on Human Trafficking Awareness
- Online courses area accredited through CAPCE
- The course content reinforces the paramedic training and reporting criteria previously mentioned in our common protocol and paramedic training



Preparation for Major Events

- Unified Command Staff Briefings
- Partner agency with CGPD, FOAM-D and RDSTF receiving current threat analysis from the Southeast Fusion Center
- Participated in “Major Event” tabletop training for FIFA World Cup, G20 Miami 2026 and other scheduled large events



Summary

- Paramedics have training in recognition and management of vulnerable and/or exploited victims
- Coral Gables Fire Department utilizes a common protocol for the assessment, management, and reporting criteria of abuse, neglect, exploited, and vulnerable population; including sexual assault
- Coral Gables Fire is providing awareness training to our Paramedics that reinforce protocols and reporting criteria



Summary

- Coral Gables Police and Fire utilize a joint PSAP – 911 Center that identify potential instances of vulnerable/exploited victims
- The City incorporates an integrated response with Police and Fire to most incidents
- Coral Gables Fire Department collaborates with the Police Department in case management and information sharing
- The Departments participate in Regional Security Working Groups that provide for critical information and potential threats to vulnerable/exploited victims throughout our region



QUESTIONS

