

Management of the amok-assault of Muenster Germany

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Introduction

On April 7th. 2018 a van was deliberately driven into a group of restaurant guests in the historic city-center of Muenster, Germany. The driver committed suicide by gunshot straight after the assault. 25 people were injured, 3 declared dead on scene.

Development

Triage was initiated and resulted in 6 patients in acute life-threatening condition ("red"), 6 severely injured ("yellow") and 13 with minor injuries ("green"). During the start of the rescue-attempt police recognized explosives in the back of the van. Additionally, eye-witnesses reported that two men had fled the incident-scene carrying weapons. The scene was therefore declared unsafe by police and had to be evacuated during the rescue. Patients had to be carried on stretchers or led to a save area secured by armed police.

Results

All patients received advanced trauma life-support care. Of the 6 patients in life-threatening condition 3 reached the trauma-centers within 45 minutes after the incident. 3 other patients either needed extrication or anesthesia (severe head-injury). These patients were hospitalized between 70 and 100 minutes after the attack. Autopsy proved all 3 deaths inevitable. One additional patient died 18 days after the incident.

Conclusions

Immediate evacuation of an incident is a major burden for triage, patient-care and transport. Mass-incident-equipment is needed at an early state. In this case the explosives found were not equipped with lighting. The reports of additional suspects were proved to be false.