ANNEX: (SRBF)SOUTHERN REGION BURN FRAMEWORK

Overview

This tool is for the voluntary use of the Southern Burn Region and its member institutions. The UNC Burn Disaster Program prepares and maintains the framework of the Southern region burn plan for use in the event of a Mass Casualty event that involves patients with burn injuries requiring burn facilities within the Southern Region.

Purpose

The regional burn disaster plan focuses on the needs, requirements, and requests of the burn center director. It is designed to place the assets and goodwill of the region at the disposal of the impacted or requesting burn center on the plans' activation.

Situation

A mass casualty incident involving fire, explosions, or chemical release is the most common event that would require the initiation of the Southern region burn plan. The cause could be a man made or natural event. The influx of patients from these events usually takes place with little preparation or warning and will not only place near immediate stress on the burn center but also the local and regional medical systems closest to the event.

Planning Assumptions

- Participation in the Southern region burn plan by burn centers in the Southern Region is voluntary.
- All Burn Centers in the Southern Region are included in their facility's emergency action or emergency operations plan.
- The Southern region burn plan, when utilized, will operate as an annex of the disaster hospital's emergency action or emergency operations plan.
- Standard, plain English terms will be used during all communications whenever possible to ensure understanding of all parties.
- The Southern region burn plan will comply with all applicable NIMS requirements.
- The event that triggers the activation of the Southern region burn plan in most situations will happen with little or no warning requiring the immediate ramp up of the disaster hospital's resources.
- The burn center closest to the disaster site will function on its own resources for the first 24 – 48 hours.

- The term Surge Capacity is defined as the capacity to handle up to 50% more than the normal maximum number of burn patients.
- The Birmingham, Alabama Trauma Communications Center will serve as the Southern Region Communications Center (SRCC).
- All maps, driving distances, regional preplans, details of each burn centers preferences and capabilities, essential phone numbers for each center, current burn personnel, and transportation preferences will be kept current by the responsible center and be available upon activation of the Southern region burn plan from the SRCC.
- Activation of all or parts of the Southern Region Burn Plan is at the sole discretion of the Burn Director at the burn center closest to the burn disaster.
- Preferences of the Disaster Burn Center will be followed as per written guideline or by direction of the Disaster Burn Center Coordinator.
- Any decision to change the operational status of the Disaster Burn Center will be made by the Disaster Burn Center Coordinator and relayed to the SRCC
- Whenever possible, upon request to transfer patients, the transportation assets of the receiving burn center will be used to provide patient transfer.

Concept of Operations

The effectiveness of the Southern region burn plan is dependent on the collaboration of the region's burn center directors both before and during an event. The Southern region burn plan is a voluntary operational framework that is heavily dependent on the actions of the disaster burn center's director.

Operational Definitions:

Disaster Burn Center Director – the director of the burn center closest to the disaster or event.

Disaster Facilitator – an experienced burn surgeon remote from the disaster used to facilitate resource and other request from the Disaster Burn Center Director.

Southern Region Communications Center (SRCC)– the central communications point for the Southern Region Burn Plan. The center has access to all pre-plans, burn center preferences and capabilities, current list of burn center personnel, and preferred transport agencies.

Burn Center Condition Terms and Actions

Open – a non – disaster situation of normal burn center operations. All southern region burn centers are listed as open unless the SRCC has been notified otherwise. A burn center listed as open may or may not have open beds on any given day but has sufficient resources to create bed space for new admissions from the normal referral area or from a regional disaster.

Full – a non-disaster situation in which the burn center is full and no additional beds can be created, no patients are ready for floor transfer, no floor beds are available, and /or no additional beds in the intensive care unit can be made available. The burn center director may elect to notify the SRCC of a full status. If the SRCC is notified of a full status then that center will not be contacted for assistance should a regional burn disaster occur.

Divert – Disaster Situation. A regional burn center has a burn disaster in progress. The affected burn center can handle all patients and no further patients are expected. The affected burn center will automatically close for a pre-determined period (2-4 days). During the closure the normal burn referrals will go to the next closest burn center. The closure will be re-evaluated frequently by the disaster burn center director and may be extended or shortened as the situation warrants. When the SRCC is notified of a "divert" situation the Southern region burn plan is automatically activated. The disaster facilitator will take the following actions upon activation:

- Notify the next closest burn center to prepare for subsequent admissions
- Makes contact will all Southern Region Burn Center Directors, the Southern Region Burn Director, the ABA central office, and the Burn Specialty Team Commander to advise them of the disaster situation.
- Coordinates with the Disaster Burn Director on request for further assistance or resources
- Requests for information and offers of assistance are handled through the disaster facilitator.

Off-load – Disaster Situation. This is a notification to the SRCC of a burn center's status that a burn disaster incident is in progress that will likely exceed local capabilities. Conditions included may include:

- The burn center is already overloaded and will not be able to accept all patients

- Additional patients from the incident are expected.
- The situation is on-going, unpredictable, and unstable

The declaration of an off-load status may denote

- The need to either offload patients already in the disaster hospital.
- The need to divert any further admissions or non disaster local admissions.

In a off-load situation it is the responsibility of the Disaster Burn Center's Director to notify the SRCC and activate the Southern Region Burn Plan. Once activated the Disaster Facilitator will patients will be accepted at other burn centers and transports will be arranged. Ideally the transportation of patients will begin within 24 to 48 hours. The Disaster Facilitator or Burn Specialty Team commander can also assist with the activation of NDMS as needed or requested.

Return – This denotes when the situation is again under control and the burn center is back to normal operations. The burn center will be listed as "open" by the SRCC. Once the change has been made to normal operations then the status of transferred patients will be discussed. A collaborative discussion between the burn centers and the transferred patients and families will result in a decision to continue care at the transferred facility or selectively move patients back to the referring facility on a case by case basis.

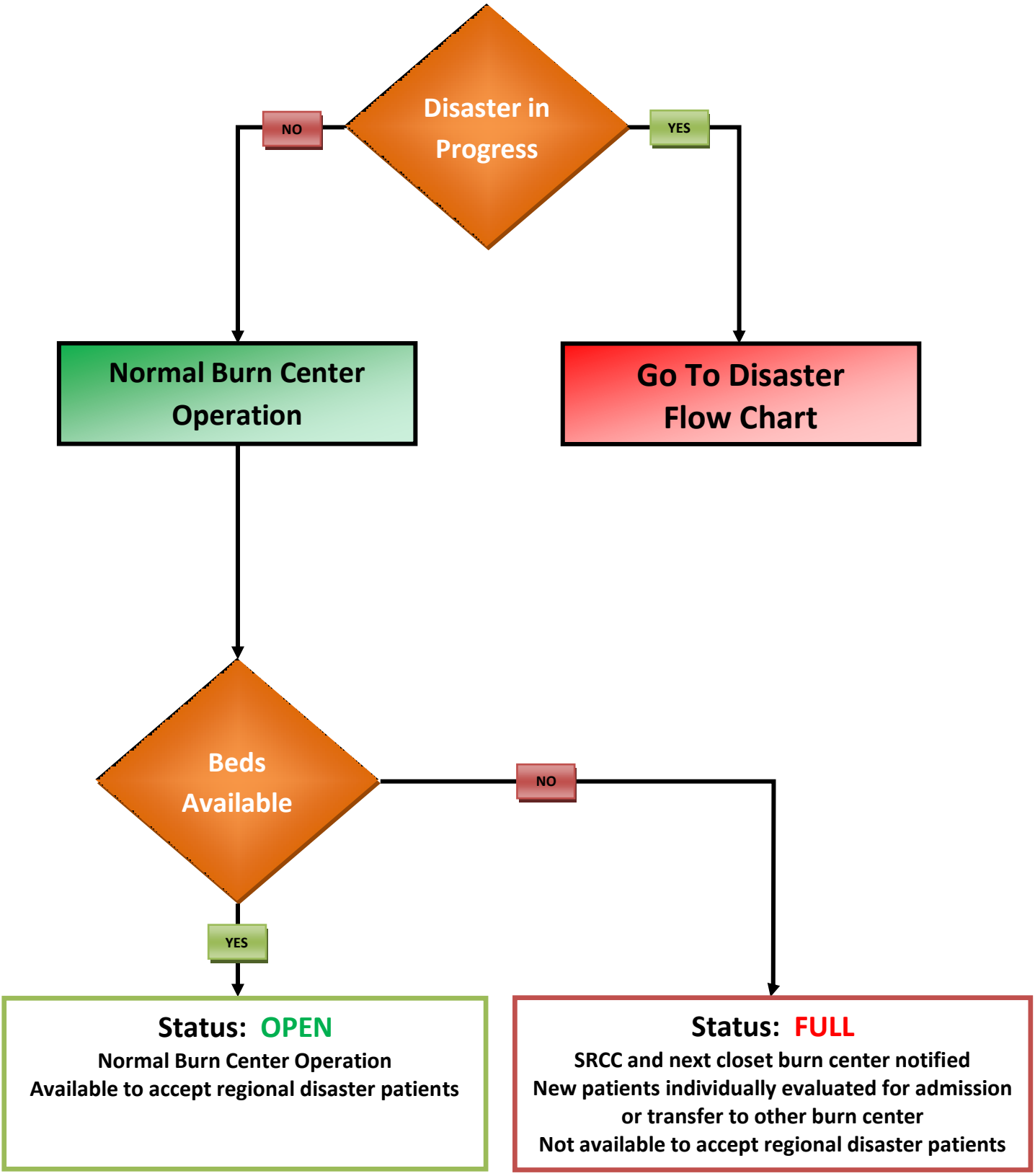
Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

- The chief responsibility to activate and de-activate the Southern Region Burn Plan lies with the Disaster Burn Centers Director.
- The Southern Region Burn Plan functional diagram denoting organizational and individual responsibility is contained in the Burn Center Status – Disaster Situation Flow Chart located in Appendix 2 of this annex.
- All other obligations and responsibilities not addressed by this annex should be addressed in the Emergency Action or Emergency Operations Plan of the burn center or the burn center's parent facility/organization.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Burn Center Status – Non-Disaster Situation Flow Chart
- Appendix 2 : Burn Center Status – Disaster Situation Flow Chart

The Southern Region Burn Disaster Framework
Burn Center Status – Non-Disaster Situation Flow Chart



The Southern Region Burn Disaster Framework
Burn Center Status – Disaster Situation Flow Chart

Disaster in Progress
Burn Patients Transported to closest available burn center
Burn Center Director notifies SRCC

SRCC Actions

- Pages on-call Disaster Facilitator ☐

Disaster Facilitator Actions

1. Review Pre-Plan ☐
2. Review Burn Center Preferences ☐
3. Review Regional Burn Assets ☐
4. Contact Burn Center Director at Disaster Hospital ☐
5. Inform Southern Region Director ☐
6. Inform ABA National Leadership ☐
7. Inform Regional Burn Center Directors ☐
8. Inform Burn Specialty Team Leader ☐

On Going Communication

On Going Communication

Disaster Burn Center Director

PERFORMS AN ON GOING ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION AND NEEDS

MAKES REQUEST OF THE FOLLOWING AS NEEDED:

- Requests Activation of Regional Disaster Plan ☐
- Requests Diversion of Further Local Admissions ☐
- Requests Patient Transfer to Other Centers ☐
- Requests Supplies from Vendors or Other Centers ☐
- Requests Advice and Assistance to Civil Leaders For Activation of the NDMS system ☐
- Requests Termination of Disaster Status ☐
- Requests Return of Transferred Patients ☐

Disaster Situation is stabilized?

NO → Local Capabilities Exceeded or Additional Patients Expected or Situation is Unstable, On-Going, or Unpredictable

YES → Burn Resources Sufficient?

NO → Local Capabilities Exceeded or Additional Patients Expected or Situation is Unstable, On-Going, or Unpredictable

YES →

Status: OFFLOAD
Mass Casualty Situation Exceeds Local Resources
Patients will be transferred to other burn centers
New Admissions will go to the next closest burn center
Possible us of Burn Specialty Teams
Daily Status Re-Evaluation

Status: DIVERT
Burn Center can Handle all Present Admissions
No Further Disaster Admissions Anticipated
Burn Center Closes to all New Admissions for 2-4 days
New Local Admissions go to next closest burn center
Possible use of Burn Specialty Teams
Daily Status Re-Evaluation