

AMSA Mine Rescue First Aid Event Standard

Due to the complex scenarios used for the first aid event and a large volume of casualties and judges required for this event, a standard is helpful to ensure critical planning elements are addressed and timelines are met to ensure all parties involved are coordinated prior to the competition.

Event Layout and Setup

The First Aid event is typically held indoors utilizing half of a rink at the Tri-leisure. This area has flooring that can support up to a 5-ton truck and does not require flooring to be installed prior. The rink is divided in half using tarps supplied by AMSA draped over a rope which is stretched out between the bleacher handrail and a support beam by the penalty boxes on the opposite side.

Teams typically enter the First Aid event from the event held on the opposite side of the same rink (through the tarp) and exit through a door leading to a hallway to the next event. This could be changed but will affect the rotation for other events. This should be confirmed in the planning phase with the AMSA Competition Planning Committee.

Planning and Resources Requests

The First aid event typically requires many casualties. The casualties are usually volunteers from schools (high school drama class) and clubs (such as the Air Cadets). Keep this in mind as you are creating the event. Having school kids and non-mining people play a role that are not familiar with can be confusing for them and the teams asking them questions about their condition and what they were doing leading up to the incident. When planning your scenario, knowing the number of casualties is the most critical first step. Having just enough casualties to make the event challenging and making the event achievable is a balance but is very important.

A Scoresheet template is already created for the First Aid event. When building score sheets for each casualty use the same template so scoring remains consistent. It is best that each casualty has a dedicated judge so items are not missed, and full attention can be given by each judge. This means that the number of judges should be the same as the number of casualties. Make sure you have reviewed each casualties' signs and symptoms with a knowledgeable source (at least at the same level of training as the competitors) to ensure the judging is accurate to the conditions found. Lastly, on each judging sheet you should put a description of the casualties' physical injuries. This is used by the Moulage Team to prepare for and be able to mock the casualties' injuries for the event.

The First aid event often requires multiple equipment and props. These props and equipment, unless you can provide them yourself, must be requested from the Competition Planning Committee. This needs to be done at the time of reviewing the scenario with AMSA and the Mine Rescue Committee. Ensure the equipment will fit through a 10-foot by 10-foot overhead door and does not exceed the rink floor weight (5-tons has been done but heavier would require confirmation/approval with the Tri-leisure center).

Planning Timeline

October/November – The Committee meets to assign events. The First Aid Event is chosen or delegated during this AMSA Emergency Response Committee meeting.

January – The event overview, event layout diagram, team briefing, scoresheets, equipment list, moulage requirements and spectator event briefing need to be completed for review and approval by the Emergency Response Committee. This is done at the AMSA Emergency Response Committee meeting.

May – Confirm with the Planning Committee that all equipment is arranged and scheduled. Make sure you have all the supplies needed for the event.

June - (day prior to AMSA Competition) Setup the event the day prior. Give the Head Judge a walkthrough of the event and review the hazard assessment to ensure no unexpected hazards are present.

Event Setup and Prior Day Briefing

Competition Volunteers Meeting - The afternoon prior to the competition is the judges and volunteers meeting. This is a short meeting so time must be utilized effectively. Not all volunteers are familiar with the event or the hands-on first aid required. It has been good to do a demonstration of a head-to-toe exam, so all people are aware of what to expect. Next, it worked well to split into two groups, judges and volunteers/casualties. Judges should be walked through a sample judging sheet and explained the expectations for their full and accurate completion. For the volunteer's group, knowing who would play the best role for the required injuries is helpful so in the morning they can be given the details of the injury, symptoms, etc. and sent to the moulage station.

Event Prep Morning of Competition - The hour of setup time goes quick. Pairing up the judge and casualty will help each other go through their roles prior to the first team start but remember the casualties will need to go to moulage and that takes up a large amount of that hour.