

John L. Hick, MD is a Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Minnesota and a faculty emergency physician at Hennepin Healthcare. Hennepin Healthcare is a Level 1 trauma center in Minneapolis, MN that sees over 110,000 emergency visits per year. Dr. Hick also serves as Deputy Medical Director of Emergency Medical Services for Hennepin EMS, which responds to over 60,000 emergency ambulance requests each year in the Minneapolis area.

Beginning in 1998, Dr. Hick served as Medical Advisor for the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Medical Response System – a program designed to improve local response to terrorist incidents. As an outgrowth of these efforts he worked with military, law enforcement, and EMS partners to create one of the first published response paradigms to mass shootings (3ECHO – enter, evaluate, evacuate). These principles were successfully applied to the Accent Signage mass shooting in Minneapolis as described in the published article on 3ECHO (and to which Dr. Hick responded).

In 2002, Dr. Hick initiated the Metro Hospital Compact, a cooperative agreement among the hospitals in the Minneapolis/St. Paul region to coordinate disaster response. Also in 2002 he accepted a position with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) as Medical Director for the Office of Emergency Preparedness and spearheaded the structure of the regional healthcare response system that is currently used. He left that position after becoming a Special Advisor to the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (HHS/ASPR) Office of Emergency Management in 2013. He returned to State service for the COVID-19 pandemic as the incident manager for the Statewide Healthcare Coordination Center at the request of MDH in 2020.

At HHS/ASPR he developed and has served as lead editor for ASPR TRACIE (Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange) which provides best-practice information to hospital and EMS disaster planners. As part of these responsibilities he conducted interviews, webinars, and helped develop resources on mass shooting response best practices from knowledge learned from such incidents as Pulse Nightclub, Century 16 Theatre (Aurora, CO), and Route 91 / Harvest (Las Vegas). He was also a member of an HHS/ASPR team that spent three days in Las Vegas learning directly from EMS and hospital providers about the details of that incident and the lessons learned in December, 2017.

The combined lessons learned from these incidents pointed to the need for a revised approach to triage during mass violence events that would complement recommendations for rapid access and evacuation. ASPR TRACIE identified experts and convened a national roundtable, publishing a summary of the proceedings and recommendations in 'Mass Casualty Trauma Triage: Paradigms and Pitfalls' in July, 2019.

Internationally, Dr. Hick is an expert on crisis standards of care (how we should adjust care practices in disaster situations) and also serves as an HHS representative to the National Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as a Civil Expert on the Joint Health Group.