Innovation Success

PA Trak

Department of Health
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Completed: April 2012

This innovative effort is a software application developed in-house by the department and used by hospitals, department staff, ambulance services, and local emergency management agencies, among others to track patients throughout a mass casualty event or assist in the evacuation of hospitals, nursing homes, etc.

The system provides the means for effectively managing the transportation of patients and/or evacuees from an incident scene to appropriate facilities, improves the department's ability to coordinate medical response efforts, and helps reduce confusion during an emergency. PA Trak also provides a method to reunite families.

When looking at the existing process, the department determined that something had to be done to take the place of the current paper process. The old method was nothing more than a system that would track patients by pen and paper and the only persons able to monitor the activities at the incident would be the personnel on the scene. After the events of Hurricane Katrina, it was realized there was a need to have a system in place that would allow personnel and organizations across all levels of emergency management to monitor and efficiently coordinate the transportation of sick, injured or displaced persons.

After examining various software products, it was determined that the best solution would be to develop and maintain an in-house software system for the use of tracking patients in a mass casualty event.

Learn more about other innovations that are improving state government at www.innovation.pa.gov.

pennsylvania