

# The Munich Oktoberfest – a mass casualty event on a daily basis

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## Setting:

The Munich Oktoberfest is the biggest folk's festival in the world with over 6 million visitors within the two weeks of its duration from the end of September till first week of October.

In this time the guests consume about 6,5 Million liters of beer, 459 thousand roast chicken and 104 grown up Oxes.

On a weekend day up to 450 thousand visitors come on the 3,1 square kilometer big area in the center of Munich. The biggest of the 14 beer tents of the breweries have a capacity of up to 10 thousand guests.

Fig.1



Fig.2-5<sup>1</sup>



Fig.6<sup>1</sup>

Treated patients	Overall 2009	Daily (Sunday 4.10.2009)
<b>All Patients</b>	<b>8809</b>	<b>597</b>
Help offers and minor treatment	5005	318
Medical treatment	3804	217
Surgical treatment on site	864	46
Emergencies on festival area	2190	126
Transfer to hospital	827	41

## Patients and logistical aspects:

These settings present a special problem to the Munich EMS services. On a typical day about 400 to 800 patients have to be managed by the EMS and the local services.

About 50% of these patients are trauma patients with different degrees of injury, reaching from the simple wound to higher degree head injuries, often caused by the "Masskrug".

Furthermore about 15% are due to acute internal and cardiac problems. About 25% of the patients have to be treated due to alcohol intoxication, though nearly everyone else has consumed considerable amounts of beer. All in all about 9000 patients have to be taken care of during the two weeks of the event.

To treat these patients an EMS emergency center runs on site. It is situated on the west side of the Oktoberfest together with the headquarters of the police, fire brigade and the local authorities.

It is staffed by the Bavarian Red Cross with 80 to 100 EMS personal a day, reaching from basic medic to paramedics. Also up to twelve emergency physicians are on duty each day.

The emergency center consists of an emergency room for primary treatment of patients arriving there, an ICU unit for instable patients and resuscitation, as well as observation beds and a normal station ward. Small wound treatment can be carried out by two surgeons.

All patients are primarily surveyed and triaged by one of the doctors.

Fig.7<sup>1</sup>



## Rescue on the festival site:

One of the main problems of the EMS is to reach the patients on the area of the Oktoberfest. Most streets as well outside and also in the tents are vastly crowded with people. Due to this normal ambulances cannot make their way to the patients. Therefore emergency foot teams are sent to the scenes to reach the patient more quickly, especially in the vast tents. In addition to this a transport is only possible with the special mobile stretcher of these teams. These are equipped with BLS emergency bags, AEDs, Oxygen and are connected with the dispatch centre by terrestrial trunked radio (TETRA). The teams are coordinated by a special operations dispatch centre within the complex at the festival site. They cooperate with the Munich ILS (Integrated operations centre for fire and rescue services, Fire Department City of Munich).

Literature/picture sources:

1) Bavarian Red Cross Munich (<http://oktoberfest.bereitschaften.brk-muenchen.de>)

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