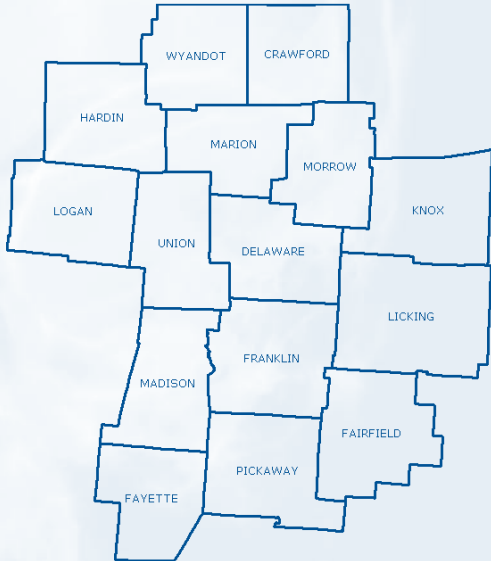


# What is COTS?

The Central Ohio Trauma System (COTS) is the regional trauma system in central Ohio.

COTS' Mission is to save and improve lives through the coordination of trauma and emergency healthcare resources. COTS serves as the forum for addressing issues affecting the delivery of trauma/emergency healthcare services and injury prevention in the central Ohio community. COTS also serves as the healthcare preparedness coordination agency for the Central Ohio Homeland Security Region. COTS coordinates the regional planning and response efforts of 27 hospitals across 15 central Ohio counties. COTS maintains an Internal Revenue status of 501(c)(3) and operates with charitable, educational and scientific intent.



COTS is an affiliate of the Columbus Medical Association

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# COTS

The Central Ohio Trauma System

Hospital  
Incident Liaison



## What is the Hospital Incident Liaison?

The COTS Hospital Incident Liaison (HIL) was initiated after September 11, 2001.

The COTS Hospital Incident Liaison (HIL) was initiated after September 11, 2001. The HIL role is to serve as a clearinghouse for information and assist with resource allocation for central Ohio hospitals during a disaster.

The HIL carries a pager and is on-call 24/7. The COTS HIL is routinely activated for internal hospital emergencies such as utility interruptions, and for critical community situations such as mass casualty incidents and hazardous materials exposures.

COTS utilizes several systems to communicate with central Ohio healthcare resources during a disaster. These systems include web-based collaboration and conferencing systems; the telephone emergency notification system (TENS); HAM; and the Multi Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS). In addition, COTS coordinates the Central Ohio Regional Hospital Emergency Operations Plan.

[www.goodhealthcolumbus.org/cots](http://www.goodhealthcolumbus.org/cots)

## When Should the Hospital Incident Liaison be Called?

The HIL should be notified as soon as possible during any event in which:

- A hospital may require disaster-related information or mutual aid resources from other hospitals
- Large numbers of ill and/or injured patients may overwhelm local healthcare resources
- A hospital goes on lockdown
- Large numbers of contaminated victims require care
- The event affects more than one central Ohio hospital
- Public health or public safety information needs to be quickly disseminated to central Ohio hospitals

Examples of events in which the HIL should be activated include but are not limited to:

- Mass casualty incidents
- Hazardous materials exposures
- Internal hospital emergencies that require absolute diversion of EMS patients, reallocation of patients and/or additional resources
- An injured suspect fleeing from law enforcement who may present at a central Ohio emergency department

## Who Calls the Hospital Incident Liaison?

Any community agency that responds to disaster events may activate the HIL to assist when there are large numbers of actual or potential victims in a disaster. Such agencies include:

- Hospitals
- Public Health Departments/Districts
- Emergency Management Agencies
- Communications Centers
- 911, Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS
- Poison Control Centers
- American Red Cross Chapters

## Contacting the Hospital Incident Liaison

The best way to contact the HIL is via pager at (614) 637-4939. Several local first responder agencies have the HIL pager programmed into automatic alerting systems to expedite the call.

## What will the Hospital Incident Liaison NOT do?

The HIL role is intended to promote patient care during disasters. The HIL should not be utilized during routine emergency medical calls or for emergency events in which the healthcare system responds effectively (for example, multiple victims from a motor vehicle crash who receive rapid treatment via established EMS and hospital systems).

Once notified of an incident, the HIL's primary communication is with the responding hospital(s). The HIL will NOT interrupt or intercede in normal communication protocols that exist among local first responders and hospitals. In certain circumstances, the HIL may be asked by a hospital to contact an emergency communications center to gather scene information if possible. The HIL does not dictate individual hospital response actions during a disaster.

For more information about the COTS HIL, please contact the Central Ohio Trauma System at (614)240-7419.