Texas Emergency Medical Task Force
Multipatient Vehicle Evacuation Plan

**General:** The Multipatient vehicle is designed to transport up to twenty (20) stretcher patients and a crew of six (6). The vehicle can be reconfigured to transport a combination of wheel chair patients and patients seated in flip down seats.

Crew members should understand egress limitations of the vehicle and practice moving patients quickly should evacuation be required.

**Background:** In 2004, during the evacuation of the U.S. Gulf Coast, a chartered bus was used to carry residents of a Bellaire Texas nursing home inland to avoid Hurricane Rita. When the bus stopped near Wilmer Texas, dry bearing assemblies ignited the tire and eleven oxygen cylinders. Twenty-three passengers perished in the fire.

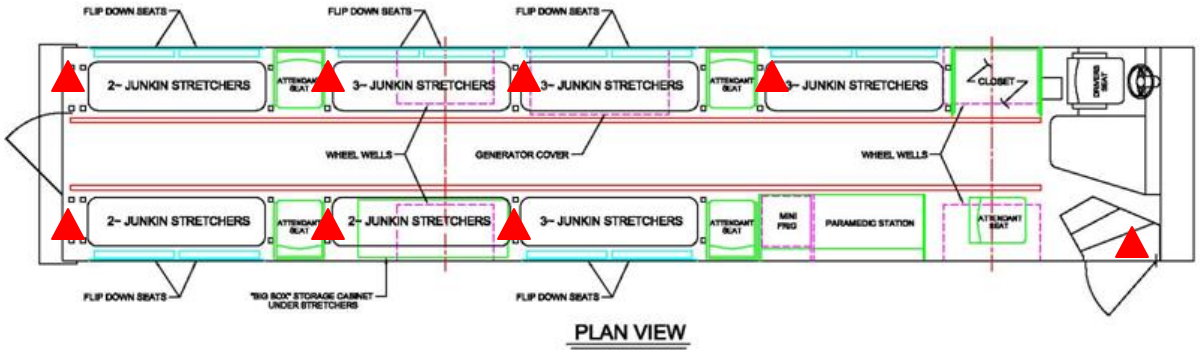
In the 2004 fire, most of the patients were ambulatory and the oxygen cylinders were small "personal cylinders". Texas EMTF "Ambuses" carry non-ambulatory patients and are equipped with six (6) larger "M" sized cylinders and .

The Texas Ambus is equipped with a walk-through door on the rear of the bus. During patient loading, a ramp is added to allow stretchers and wheel chairs to be rolled or winched into the patient compartment. A second entrance is provided on the curb side adjacent to the driver seat. The side door requires four steps up to enter the patient compartment and is not sufficient width to evacuate wheel chairs or stretcher patients. One roof access door is provided midway down the center isle of the bus.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors should be installed in the patient compartment to alert crew members of an emergency.

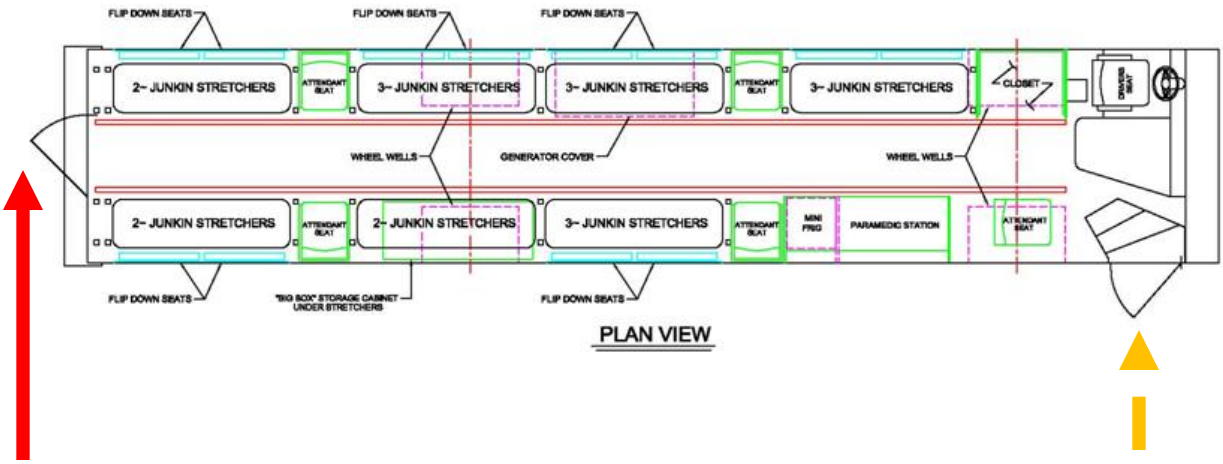
Crew members should be familiar with and practice the use of portable fire extinguishers. The bus is equipped with eight (8) fire extinguishers of at least 5:BC should be provided within the patient compartment. ▲ Indicates Fire Extinguisher locations.

**Floor Plan**



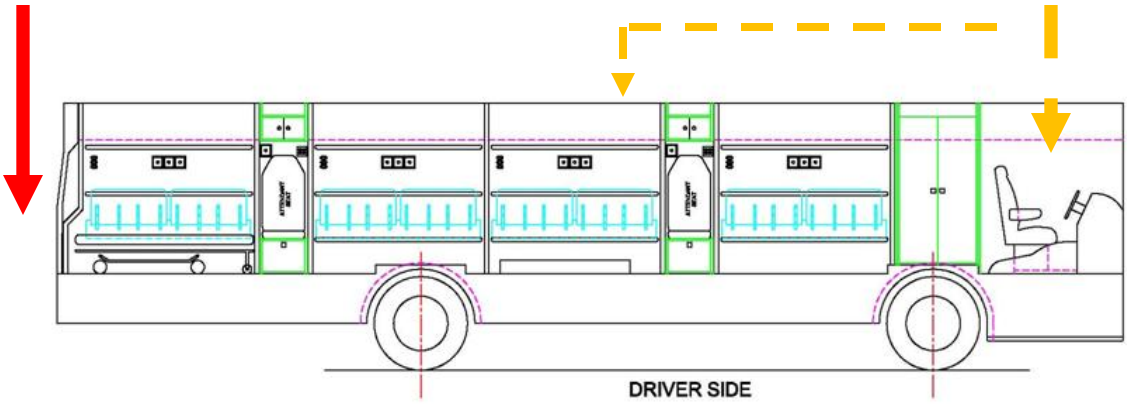
PLAN VIEW

Primary Evacuation should be done through the rear patient door. If time permits, the ramp should be installed to provide safe egress to level ground.




Primary Evacuation

Alternate Evacuation




**Rapid Evacuation may be required in the event of fire. Patients on backboards or soft stretchers may be slid to the rear door and removed horizontally. Remove patients from the rear first. Use two crew members inside and two members outside to receive and move patients to a safe area.**

**Evacuation from a vehicle on it's side may require removal of the front glass. The rear door may not open if the vehicle is on it's left side.**


Rear Exit Door. Primary Evacuation Point.

Rear Exit Door with Patient Ramp Installed (preferred if time permits)

## Roof Access


Roof Access.

## Front Glass

**Evacuation considerations:**

- **If time permits, move the vehicle completely off of the roadway. Use the right shoulder if possible to avoid crossing traffic.**
- **Make evacuation decision early. Moving patients will require time and manpower.**
- **Call for assistance.**
- **Patients should be moved to a safe area. Avoid placing patients in front or behind the bus. Use a safe shoulder area at least 100' from the bus.**
- **Leave at least one crew member with the evacuated patients. Accurate accountability for patients is critical.**
- **If time permits, turn off oxygen bottles.**
- **Make evacuation plans part of pre-deployment briefing.**

PASS

Pull – pull the safety pin

Aim – aim the nozzle at the base of the fire

Squeeze - squeeze the handles together

Sweep – the entire area with the extinguishing agent.