Beaumont

E-M-E-R-G-E-N-C-Y
ALERT CODES

Standardized Emergency Codes
for Beaumont Health
Effective January 1, 2018

Purpose

New Beaumont Health Emergency Alert Codes
beginning January 1, 2018

All Beaumont Health entities will begin using new, standardized emergency alert code names effective January 1, 2018.

This module is designed to provide information regarding those new code names to all Beaumont staff, volunteers, and contracted service providers.

The overall goal of the new, unified coding system is to ensure optimum emergency response for the safety of our patients, visitors, staff, and non-employees.

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Why are the Codes Changing?
EXAMPLES OF CURRENT DIFFERENCES

Beaumont Health comprises three legacy healthcare systems—Beaumont, Botsford and Oakwood, each with their own respective emergency response codes.

As a result, some codes are uniquely different and non-transferable in all emergency situations across the entire BH system.

Example 1.

Example 1 illustrates how the three legacy hospital systems have **different overhead announcements for the same event.**

Event	LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
	Beaumont HS	Botsford	Oakwood
FIRE	*"Red Alert"*	*"Dr. Firestone"*	*"Code Red"*

Example 2.

Example 2 illustrates how the **same emergency event is not announced overhead at all sites.**

Event	LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
	Beaumont HS	Botsford	Oakwood
PATIENT ELOPEMENT	*None*	*None*	*"Code Green"*

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What is Changing?

WILL ALL CODES CHANGE?

As of January 1, 2018, only the **code names** and/or **overhead announcements** will change.

- Certain existing codes will be **shared** (added) **or discontinued**, depending on the legacy system affected.

- Some existing codes will be **converted or merged** into new sub-codes referred to as **"descriptors."**

- The new alerts will be announced via overhead announcement**, and **may include additional information referred to as "descriptors**,**"** such as a description of a missing patient or the location of the emergency.

- In other words, while **some codes will change, some will remain the same** depending on the legacy system affected.

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What is *not* Changing?
DOES ANYTHING REMAIN THE SAME?

Any existing procedures for responding to emergency events, either site-specific and/or system-wide, **in effect as of January 1, 2018, will remain in place**—only the code names will change.

While you will notice certain changes in how the emergency codes are announced in the overhead sound system, **how you respond to an emergency alert will remain the same.**

You are expected to be familiar with the new codes and their descriptors so that you can continue to respond to an emergency at the most effective level possible.

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Medical Alert

E v e n t	Overhead Announcement	R e s p o n s e
Medical situation requiring a response	**Medical Alert** **+ *\<response team\>* + *\<location\>***	Follow established site-specific procedures for requested response team.

- The **"Medical Alert"** **code** will be used for all types of emergency medical response requests.

- All current site–specific response team requests that are announced overhead will begin with the words ***"Medical Alert"*** followed by a ***\<descriptor\>*** of the **specific medical response team** requested and ***\<location\>***. This includes overhead announcements such as: *Rapid Response Team, Stroke Codes, Trauma, CPR Team, etc.*

- **All current site-specific response teams and procedures will remain the same.**

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT:
"Medical Alert, Rapid Response Team, 5 West"

LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
NEW Code added to all medical response team overhead announcements	**NEW Code added to all medical response team overhead announcements**	**NEW Code added to all medical response team overhead announcements**

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Amber Alert

E v e n t	Overhead Announcement	R e s p o n s e
Missing child or possible child abduction (patient or visitor)	**Amber Alert** **+ *<age>* + *<sex>***	Site-specific and/or legacy system response procedures will remain the same.

- The code alert for a missing child, whether that child is a patient or visitor, will be *"Amber Alert"* followed by additional information as available, such as *<age>* and *<sex>.*

- Your site-specific response will remain the same.

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT:
"Amber Alert, 2-year-old female"

LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
NO Change	**NO Change**	**REPLACES: Code Pink / Code Purple**

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Security Alert—Elopement

E v e n t	Overhead Announcement	R e s p o n s e
Missing patient under elopement precautions	**Security Alert + Elopement**	Site–specific and/or legacy system response procedures will remain the same. To be used for *patients only*.

- In the case of a **missing *patient*** that is **under elopement precaution**s, such as a behavioral health patient, the announcement will be **"Security Alert, Elopement."** *(This code does not apply to visitors or non-patients.)*

- Your site-specific response will remain the same.

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT: *"Security Alert, Elopement"*		
LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
NEW Overhead Code	**NEW Overhead Code**	**REPLACES: Code Green**

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Security Alert—Missing Vulnerable Adult

| E v e n t	Overhead Announcement	R e s p o n s e
Missing cognitively impaired adult (visitor only)	**Security Alert** **+ Missing Vulnerable Adult** **+ *<description>***	Staff should follow the same site-specific and/or legacy response procedures as for a missing child.

- This is a **new code** for all of Beaumont Health. This code will be used in the event a cognitively impaired adult **visitor** is missing. *(This code does not apply to a patient.)*

- The announcement will be **"Security Alert-Missing Vulnerable Adult,"** followed by a *<description>* of that individual.

- Staff should follow **same** site-specific procedures as for **a missing child**.

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT:

"Security Alert, Missing Vulnerable Adult,
88-year-old female, light blue top, black pants"

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Security Alert—Active Violence

Event	Overhead Announcement	Response
Active violence	**Security Alert + Active Violence/Shooter** *+ <location>*	Site-specific response procedures remain the same
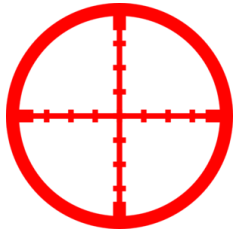
- Acts of violence can include many types of situations and/or weapons.

- The announcement for a violent situation will be **"Security Alert"** followed by **"Active Violence"** or **"Active Shooter"** and *<location>*.

- Your site-specific response will remain the same

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT:
"Security Alert, Active Violence, Human Resources"

LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
REPLACES: Lethal Weapon Alert	**MODIFIES: Active Shooter** **REPLACES: Police Situation**	**REPLACES: Code Silver**

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Security Alert—Lockdown

E v e n t	Overhead Announcement	R e s p o n s e
Lockdown	**Security Alert** **+ Lockdown** *+ <location>*	Site-specific lock-down procedures will remain the same.

- Situations can occur, both internal and external at our facilities, that may require Security staff to temporarily limit the movement of staff, patients, and visitors within the facility in order to ensure their safety.

- If Security determines such a situation exists, a lockdown procedure will be enacted in this format: **"Security Alert + Lockdown + *<location>."***

- Site-specific responses will remain the same.

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT:
"Security Alert—Lockdown, 3 West"

LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
NEW Overhead Code	**EXPANDS: Lockdown**	**NEW Overhead Code**

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Security STAT (Physical Management)

Event	Overhead Announcement	Response
Physical Management	**Security + STAT** **+ *<location>***	Site-specific and/or legacy system response procedures will remain the same.

- The **"Security–STAT"** code will be announced when a request **has been made** for **immediate** assistance from Security (or other specially-trained staff) with a physical management situation involving a patient.

- **Your site specific procedure / method for requesting Security assistance for a physical management situation will remain the same.**

- The overhead announcement will be **"Security, STAT"** followed by the ***<location>.***

- Only Security personnel or other specifically-trained staff should respond.

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT:
"Security, STAT, Emergency Department"

LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
NEW Overhead Code	NEW Overhead Code	REPLACES: Code Gray

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Code Black (Bomb Threat)

E v e n t	Overhead Announcement	R e s p o n s e
Bomb Threat	**Code Black** + *<location>*	Site-specific response procedures will remain the same.

- The overhead announcement for a bomb threat will be **"Code Black"** followed by *<location>*.

- Your site specific response procedures will remain the same.

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT:
"Code Black, Administration"

LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
REPLACES: Bomb Threat	**REPLACES: Bomb Threat**	**REPLACES: Code Yellow**

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Code Red (Fire)

E v e n t	Overhead Announcement	R e s p o n s e
Fire	**Code Red** + *<location>*	Site-specific and/or legacy response procedures will remain the same.

- In the event of a **fire**, the announcement will be **"Code Red"** followed by a description of *<location>*.

- Site-specific responses remain the same.

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT:
"Code Red, lower level cafeteria"

LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
REPLACES: Red Alert	**REPLACES:** *Dr. Firestone*	**NO Change**

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Severe Weather Alert

E v e n t	Overhead Announcement	R e s p o n s e
Severe Weather	**Severe Weather Alert** **+ *<descriptor>***	Site-specific and/or legacy system response procedures will remain the same.

- A **Severe Weather Alert** may be announced for any type of inclement weather that may pose a risk.

- The announcement will be **"Severe Weather Alert"** followed by a ***<descriptor>*** of the weather event.

- Site-specific response procedures will remain the same.

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT:
"Severe Weather Alert, Tornado Watch"

LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
MODIFIES: Severe Weather	**MODIFIES: Severe Weather**	**REPLACES: Code Black**

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Facility Alert—Code Orange (Internal *HAZMAT*)

E v e n t	Overhead Announcement	R e s p o n s e
HAZMAT (internal)	**Facility Alert + Code Orange** *+ <location>*	Site-specific response procedures will remain the same.

- In the event of an ***internal* hazardous material spill/exposure**, the overhead announcement will be **"Facility Alert, Code Orange,"** followed by the *<location>* of the incident.

- This code will **only** be used if the spill circumstances require **alerting staff outside the location of the spill** to avoid the area.

- Your site-specific response procedures will remain the same.

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT:
"Facility Alert, Code Orange, Second Floor Lab"

LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
REPLACES: **Internal Incident—Hazardous Materials**	**REPLACES: Hazardous materials**	**MODIFIES: Code Orange**

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Facility Alert (System Failure)

E v e n t	Overhead Announcement	R e s p o n s e
System or utility failure	**Facility Alert** **+ *<descriptor>*** **+ *<location>***	Descriptors could include any utility or system failure. Site-specific response procedures will remain the same.
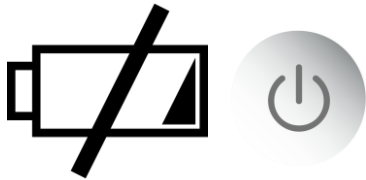
- In the event of a utility or other system failure, the overhead announcement will be **"Facility Alert"** followed by *<descriptor>* and *<location>*.

- Your site-specific responses will remain the same.

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT:
"Facility Alert, Power Failure, North Tower"

LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
REPLACES: **Utility or System Disruption**	**REPLACES:** **Utility or System Disruption**	**NEW Overhead Code**

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Facility Alert—Evacuation

E v e n t	Overhead Announcement	R e s p o n s e
Evacuation necessary	**Facility Alert** **+ Evacuation** **+ *<location>***	Site-specific response procedures will remain the same. Can be used for specific location or entire facility.

- In the event of an evacuation, the overhead announcement will be **"Facility Alert, Evacuation"** followed by *<location>*, which can be a specific area or the entire facility.

- Your site-specific evacuation procedures will remain the same.

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT:
"Facility Alert, Evacuation, 2 West"

LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
MODIFIES: Evacuation	**NEW Overhead Code**	**NEW Overhead Code**

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External Incident

E v e n t	Overhead Announcement	R e s p o n s e
External mass casualty event	**External Incident**	Follow established department or site-specific procedures for a mass casualty event.

In the event a hospital receives notification to prepare for an **influx of victims from an external mass-casualty incident**, the overhead code will be *"External Incident."*

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT: *"External Incident"*		
LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
REPLACES: External Incident (warning) MODIFIES: External Incident— Incoming patients (arrival)	**NO Change**	**REPLACES: Code Triage— Emergency Alert (warning); Code Triage—External (arrival)**

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External Incident—HAZMAT

E v e n t	Overhead Announcement	R e s p o n s e
External HAZMAT mass casualty event	**External Incident –HAZMAT**	Follow established department or site-specific procedures for a mass casualty event with victims requiring decontamination.

If the incoming victims will **require decontamination prior** to entering the hospital, the overhead announcement will be *"External Incident – HAZMAT."*

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENT:
"External Incident—HAZMAT"

LEGACY SYSTEM CODES		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
REPLACES: External Incident - Hazardous Materials	**NEW Overhead Code**	**New Overhead Code**

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External Incident Codes
IMPORTANT CHANGES TO NOTE

The new code system will **no longer have separate codes** for **event notification** *AND* **patient arrival**.

- **All response activities / preparations** for an external mass casualty should **begin immediately** upon announcement of the *"External Incident" or "External Incident— HAZMAT"* overhead codes.

- In the majority of mass-casualty situations, there is a very **short timeframe between notification to the hospital and patient arrival,** making two separate codes unnecessary.

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Internal Mass Casualty Codes—DISCONTINUED
IMPORTANT CHANGES TO NOTE

Effective **January 1, 2018**, there will **no longer be a separate disaster code** for *internal mass casualty .*

- Any internal disaster that resulted in mass injuries would be addressed by another code **based on the cause**—fire, active violence, hazmat situation, etc.

- If there are a **small number of injured victims**, an appropriate response team can be dispatched under the *"Medical Alert"* code.

- If the event has caused a large number of casualties, potential infrastructure and/or safety issues would prohibit providing definitive care on-site. Any victims would likely be transported to other facilities to receive care.

PLEASE NOTE: *Any current site-specific announcements for patient surge situations based on Emergency Center holds/increased volume will continue to be used.*

LEGACY SYSTEM CODES - DISCONTINUED		
Beaumont HS	**Botsford**	**Oakwood Healthcare**
Internal Incident—Incoming Patients	**Internal Incident**	**Code Triage—Internal**

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All Clear

Once the incident is resolved, the **original code** will be announced in the overhead **followed by** *"All Clear."*

EXAMPLE OVERHEAD ANNOUNCEMENTS:

"Facility Alert, All Clear" • *"Code Red, All Clear"* • *"Amber Alert, All Clear"*

<original code> **+ All Clear**

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New Beaumont Health Codes (effective Jan. 1, 2018)

	Event	Announcement	Response
	Medical situation requiring a response	**Medical Alert** + *\<response team\>* + *\<location\>*	Follow established site-specific procedures for requested response team.
	Missing child or possible child abduction *(patient or visitor)*	**Amber Alert** + *\<age\>* + *\<sex\>*	Site-specific and/or legacy system response procedures will remain the same.
	Missing patient under elopement precautions	**Security Alert** + **Elopement**	Site–specific and/or legacy system response procedures will remain the same. To be used for *patients only*.
	Missing cognitively impaired adult *(visitor only)*	**Security Alert** + **Missing Vulnerable Adult** + *\<description\>*	Staff should follow the same site-specific and/or legacy response procedures as for a missing child.
	Active violence	**Security Alert** + **Active Violence/Shooter** + *\<location\>*	Site-specific response procedures will remain the same.
	Lockdown	**Security Alert + Lockdown** + *\<location\>*	Site-specific lock-down procedures will remain the same.
	Physical Management	**Security + STAT** + *\<location\>*	Site-specific and/or legacy system response procedures will remain the same.
	Bomb Threat	**Code Black** + *\<location\>*	Site-specific response procedures will remain the same.

(continued)

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New Beaumont Health Codes (continued) (effective Jan. 1, 2018)

	Event	Announcement	Response
	Fire	**Code Red + *<location>***	Site-specific and/or legacy response procedures will remain the same.
	Severe Weather	**Severe Weather Alert + *<descriptor>***	Site-specific and/or legacy system response procedures will remain the same.
	HAZMAT (internal)	**Facility Alert + Code Orange + *<location>***	Site-specific response procedures will remain the same.
	System or utility failure	**Facility Alert + *<descriptor>* + *<location>***	Descriptors could include any utility or system failure. Site-specific response procedures will remain the same.
	Evacuation necessary	**Facility Alert + Evacuation + *<location>***	Site-specific response procedures will remain the same. Can be used for specific location or entire facility.
	External mass casualty event	**External Incident**	Follow established department or site-specific procedures for a mass casualty event.
	External HAZMAT mass casualty event	**External Incident—HAZMAT**	Follow established department or site-specific procedures for a mass casualty event with victims requiring decontamination.
	All Clear	***<original code>* + All Clear**	Once the incident is resolved, the original code will be announced in the overhead system followed by *"All Clear."*

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