

Today, after I have had time to reflect on yesterday's incident at Brockton Hospital/Signature Healthcare, I want to recognize the level of excellence with which the situation was handled. Under the leadership of Brockton Fire Chief Brian Nardelli, who was able to manage numerous agencies from various Cities and Towns throughout the process, over 160 patients were successfully evacuated from the building and re-situated in area hospitals with no injuries whatsoever. This endeavor involved the Brockton Fire Department, Brockton Hospital staff and administration, first responders from the surrounding Cities and Towns, area hospitals, the Salvation Army Massachusetts, BEMA, MEMA, Brockton and State Police, EMS, and Brewster Ambulance all working together to keep this catastrophic event from causing loss of life and damage to the surrounding properties. The true measure of a champion is how he or she responds to a crisis. This response is one that will go down in the history books as an example of extraordinary leadership, planning, and teamwork.

The City of Brockton has never had a 10-alarm fire in its history. As causation and damage is still being assessed, we need no assessment on

the success of the operation. The City is committed to keeping our citizens and visitors safe. This requires each agency to plan for any contingency and for each individual to know his or her part in the plan. As we saw yesterday, every person at that site was aware of their duty and each person's contribution was paramount to the success of the operation.

Witnessing an operation that involved hundreds of people, over eighty ambulances, over thirty fire engines, seven fire ladders, six wheelchair vans, and eleven Fire Chiefs from around our Commonwealth, all working together to assist the City of Brockton was something I will never forget. It will forever be one of my proudest moments as Mayor of the City of Champions.