

Advanced Disaster Medical Response

Abstract, Objectives & Content



Available from the Rural Response Group www.RuralResponse.com

Disasters follow no rules. Traditionally, medical providers have held the erroneous belief that all disasters are different, especially those involving terrorism. In reality, all disasters, regardless of etiology, have similar medical and public health consequences.

A consistent medical approach to disasters, based on an understanding of their common features and the response they require, is becoming the accepted practice throughout the world. This strategy, called the Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) response, has the primary objective of reducing the mortality caused by the disaster.

The Advanced Disaster Medical Response, Provider Course is designed to train multidisciplinary medical response personnel in the ABC's of basic medical and public health disaster care, medical response to terrorism, and special considerations such as mental health and the care of the dead. Dr. Susan Briggs developed the course, along with the accompanying manual, in conjunction with the Harvard Medical International and the Massachusetts General Hospital International Trauma and Disaster Institute.

The student manual includes twenty-five chapters of detailed information to compliment the 8-hour course.

Mass Casualty Management

Objective

Identify various types of Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI)
Lessons learned from past MCI's

Content:

Definition of Mass Casualty Incidents
Definition of "austere environment"
Elements of MCI response

Incident Command System

Objective

Identify creation and importance of Incident Command System (ICS)

Content

Identify structure of ICS
Exploration of principles of ICS and importance for responders

ABC's of Disaster Response

Objective

Explore impact of disasters on medical and public health infrastructure to formulate an effective and efficient medical response.

Content

Discuss development of Search-and Rescue Teams.
Explore conventional civilian triage priorities vs. field medical triage priorities.
Identify requirements for definitive medical care.
Explore indications and modes of evacuation.
Discuss the development and necessity of Rapid Needs Assessment

Decontamination**Objective**

Discuss lessons learned from accidents involving hazardous materials and relation to terrorist events

Content

Explore two main goals in setting up decontamination at a medical facility
Discuss stages of decontamination
Understand decontamination techniques
Discuss nuclear, biologic and chemical special needs

Biological Agents**Objective**

Study the threat of biological agents and the vulnerability of civilian populations

Content

Recognize various disease agents believed to have greatest potential for bioterrorism
Identify routes of exposure
Exploration of response to various bacterial and viral agents by learning clinical effects, prophylaxis and treatment

Chemical Agents**Objective**

Study the threat of chemical agents and the vulnerability of civilian populations

Content

Recognize three ways chemical agents are dispersed
Identify five classes of chemical agents, their characteristics, clinical effects and treatments
Attention to setting up treatment areas and decontamination

Radioactive Agents**Objective**

Study the threat of nuclear agents and the vulnerability of civilian populations

Content

Identify principles and types of ionizing radiation
Explore medical and biological effects of ionizing radiation
Examples of various radiation treat scenarios and emergency management
Discussion of triage and decontamination of radiation casualties
Recognition of special issues, such as command structure and monitoring

Blast Injuries

Objective

Identify various types of explosives and detonators and injuries caused.

Content

Discuss lessons learned from explosions and bombings, especially those related to terrorism.

Crush Injuries

Objective

Identify lessons learned from disasters resulting in crush and extremity injuries

Content

Explore clinical manifestations and definitive management of crush syndrome.

Discussion of physical examination with regard to visual inspection, palpation, neurological examination, vascular assessment

Discussion of surgical and nonsurgical management

Discuss compartment syndrome

Psychological Response to Disasters

Objectives

Study importance of psychosocial issues in disasters

Content

Explore event characteristics of disasters that affect mental health

Individual and collective factors impacting psychological response

Epidemiologic research on psychological response and sequelae to disasters

Exploration of interventions

Discuss rolls for the mental health professional

Discuss signs, factors contributing to and management of worker stress