Physician’s Role in Disasters

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Overview

Background on Disaster Environments

Planning vs. Response

The Physician's Role in Emergency Management

Disaster Environments

Disasters are NOT "business as usual"

Medical care delivery and decisions are usually the same

The non-medical issues cause most of the problems
  ▪ Communications, Human Resources, Logistics, etc…
Disaster Environments

Physician effectiveness depends upon:
  - Awareness of non-medical issues
  - Participation in the planning and execution of various aspects of the EOP
    - Allocation of scarce resources
    - Altered clinical guidelines (crisis care)
    - Disaster drill participation

Planning and Response

Emergency Management Cycle

Planning Phase
  - Our chance to ‘get it right’
  - Having a plan is not enough
  - Testing execution of the EOP IS part of the planning process
  - Determines success of response phase
    - “We win games in practice”
Planning and Response

Response Phase
- Time to implement an EOP (developed during planning!)
- Expect the unexpected
  - Anticipate, adjust, be flexible

The Physician’s Role

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http://www1.va.gov/EMSHG/page.cfm?pg=122

- Health Care System Emergency Management Competency Framework
  - Describes expected skills, knowledge, and abilities for different roles in the health care system
The Physician’s Role

Health Care System Emergency Management Competency Framework
- All Personnel
- Patient Care Providers
  - Physicians
- Healthcare System Leaders
  - Dept heads, Chief of Staff, other MD leaders
- EM Program Managers
- Clinical Support Services
- Security
- Facilities/Engineering

The Physician’s Role

Two levels of physician roles
- Patient Care Providers
  - Physicians
- Healthcare System Leaders
  - Dept heads, Chief of Staff, other MD leaders

The Physician’s Role

Patient Care Providers
- Planning Phase
  - Familiarity with HICS, ICS-100, 200, 700
  - Familiarity with facility and departmental EOP
  - Familiarity with what your role will be in a disaster
  - Participate in disaster drills!
The Physician's Role

**Patient Care Providers**
- **Response Phase**
  - Review your role
  - Complete any just-in-time training
    - Clinical management guidelines
  - Be clear on who reports to you and who you report to
  - Remember your leadership role!

**The Physician's Role**

**Healthcare System Physician Leaders**
- **Planning Phase**
  - Expertise with HICS, ICS-100, 200, 700
  - Expertise with facility and departmental EOP
  - Clear understanding of what your role will be in a disaster
  - Train physicians in Emergency Preparedness
  - Participate in development of EOP!
    - Allocation of resources, crisis care clinical guidelines, etc.
    - Participate in disaster drills! Including the after action process!

**The Physician's Role**

**Healthcare System Physician Leaders**
- **Response Phase**
  - Review your role and EOP
    - Org chart, chain of command, etc...
  - Complete any just-in-time training
    - Clinical management guidelines
  - Be clear on who reports to you and who you report to
    - Be responsible for COMMUNICATION
  - Remember your leadership role!