

- b. Transportation of dangerous chemicals always crosses various provinces
  - c. The escorts and stevedores have insufficient responsibility
  - d. Traffic accidents happen easily on the dangerous roads.
3. Protection against disaster chemical accidents caused by traffic toxic source
- a. Education about chemical rescue and life saving should be more widely available
  - b. Laws against transporting dangerous chemicals must be strengthened, and enforcement must be strict
  - c. The media should expose those who break the laws
  - d. It is essential for professional departments to solve the technical problems in practice, and provide materials and tools against disasters

**Keywords:** chemicals; enforcement; laws; lessons; management; protection; roads; traffic; transportation

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### Hospital Preparedness for Terror Events

Hillel Yaffe Medical Center

Terror events have a major impact on the national level. Our experience at the Hillel Yaffe Medical Center consists of having treated almost 600 casualties in the last 24 months, who were injured in 36 mass casualty events.

In-advance, hospital preparedness, as part of a comprehensive contingency plan, is crucial in order to perform successfully in these events. This is especially true because they are managed in situations of extreme uncertainty. Horizontal and longitudinal coordination among all participants, civilian as well as military agencies, is very important. There is no doubt that only pre-event preparedness and coordination can assure and improve performance of any organization, and especially hospitals in cases of mass casualty events.

**Keywords:** contingencies; coordination; events; hospitals; mass casualty events; plan; preparedness; terrorism

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### Decontamination of Casualties at Hospital Emergency Department Door

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**Objectives:** (1) To address the planning required to ensure contaminated casualties presenting to a hospital for treatment are decontaminated prior to entry to the emergency departments; (2) To ensure all hospital and other responding staff are protected adequately by using personal protective equipment during decontamination; (3) To ensure that staff and patients in the hospital are kept safe from contamination; (4) To show that an all-agency approach is required to contain, rescue and treat affected persons who suffer minor and major trauma; and (5) To show that all agencies must have training programs to highlight the dangers of unprotected response.

**Methods:** To demonstrate that planning and training for a disaster such as a CBR (chemical, biological, or radiological) incident with an all-agencies approach, provides an effective integrated response for major and serious toxic re-

leases. Providing decontamination facilities outside emergency departments will assist in keeping staff, patients, and facilities free from contamination.

**Results:** When all agencies integrate and respond synchronously, they are more effective in combating hazardous materials incidents. This is especially true when agencies are used to working together on a daily basis.

**Conclusion:** "Those who work together on a daily basis, tend to work well together in disasters."

**Keywords:** agency training; all-agency; biological; CBR incidents; chemical; decontamination of casualties; emergency department decontamination facilities; hazardous material incidents; nuclear; releases

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### Taiwanese Nurses' Attitudes, Concerns, Gloving Practices, and Knowledge with Regard to HIV/AIDS

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**Introduction:** Many studies have documented nurses' attitudes and concerns regarding HIV/AIDS, but little is known from Taiwan. We studied Taiwanese nurses' attitudes, concerns, gloving practices, and practical knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS, and whether these factors were interrelated.

**Method:** A questionnaire queried the attitudes, concerns, gloving practices, and practical HIV/AIDS knowledge of 1,090 nurses from a large, metropolitan hospital in Changhua, Taiwan. Associations between attitudes, concerns, and gloving practices were analyzed statistically using Pearson's Chi-square or Fisher's exact tests; a *p*-value of <0.05 was deemed significant statistically.

**Results:** The response rate was 80.9%. Their main concern was both HIV and hepatitis contraction in the workplace. However, only 58% treated all biological samples as potentially infective. Between 76.3% to 89.4% of these nurses always wore gloves when handling a variety of biological specimens. Of the total sample, 210 (19.3%) were seriously considering leaving nursing because of fear of contracting HIV/AIDS. Virtually all of the nurses (95.6%) considered it their right to be informed of the presence of HIV-positive patients in their direct work area; 76.4% believed that HIV testing should be mandatory for all patients. Knowledge of which biological specimens can harbor HIV was deficient: the mean correct score was 71.6% (95% CI: 70.6-72.6), and 48.8% (95% CI: 47.5-50.1) for HIV destruction methods.

**Conclusion:** Taiwanese nurses have concerns and fears of HIV/AIDS, which may be why almost one-fifth are seriously considering leaving the profession. These fears and concerns could be related to deficiencies in practical HIV/AIDS knowledge. Continuing educational programs are recommended to alleviate nurses' concerns.

**Keywords:** AIDS; attitudes; concerns; education; HIV; knowledge; nurses; right-to-know; specimens; testing

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