

of the most essential elements of intervention of each of the stages. The aim of this study was to examine the preparation and intervention stages of health administration at institutional and unit levels concerning major radiation incidents.

Planning, training, drills, and evaluation constitute the basic elements of the preparation stage. Institutions should be well prepared beforehand concerning radiation emergencies and have an action plan together with the required equipment and trained staff. Moreover, preparation measures should be practiced using drills and the action plan should be followed.

Keywords: fear; health administration; major incidents; radiation incidents; preparedness

Prehosp Disaster Med

Readiness for Emergency as a Routine in the Public Health Laboratory

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The mission of the Public Health Laboratory of the Ministry of Health is to serve as a leading force for analytical laboratories in Israel. This includes routine monitoring and response to emergency situations. The laboratory's expertise includes microbiology and chemistry of food and water. Routine monitoring according to Israeli and international standards is performed in compliance with international quality assurance standard, ISO/IEC 17025. The laboratory is prepared for emergency response when water or food safety is suspected.

Laboratory Analysis during emergencies differs from routine monitoring in two major aspects: it aims to acute toxicity, meaning high concentration of chemicals or pathogens, and the results are required within a few hours. In both situations, reliable results are essential.

Readiness of the laboratory to unexpected situations can be achieved by harmonization of three tiers: (1) staff; (2) equipment; and (3) quality management. The laboratory staff must be professional with an appropriate academic and experimental background, should perform routine analysis, develop new methods, and follow scientific work. Appropriate equipment must be available and well maintained. The use of modern and diverse equipment is important especially when an analysis of an "unknown" chemical or organism is performed. It can save precious time and man-power. Quality management includes clear standard operating procedures, training programs and participation in international proficiency testing schemes.

The laboratory seeks to combine all of the above-mentioned elements. Highly professional staff performs routine monitoring of water and food quality and is involved in the development of new methods and research, including the development of rapid tests to identify pathogens in water and rapid screening methods for "unknown" chemicals in water. The laboratory has participated successfully in a national training program for rapid testing of unknown chemicals. Participation in proficiency testing has shown stable results with z -factor within ± 2 .

Keywords: emergency; laboratory; preparedness; public health

Prehosp Disaster Med

Analysis of the Medical Consequences of the Bus Bombing Attack, 2008

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On 03 January 2008 at 17:05 in the city of Diyarbakir, a vehicle carrying soldiers was passing a parked private car. The private car was blown up by remote control. It was later discovered that the car was loaded with 40 kg of A4 type plastic explosive. Ninety-one people were injured. Six people were killed; four died at the scene, two died at the hospital. There were three hospitals nearby: (1) Diyarbakir Military Hospital was five minutes away; (2) Diyarbakir State Hospital was 10 minutes away; and (3) Dicle University Hospital was 30 minutes away from the scene by ground transport and 10 minutes away by air transport. This study reviews the response capabilities on scene, triage realities among health workers and civilians, transport problems, and hospital disorganizations.

Keywords: bus bombing; explosion; hospitals; transport; Turkey

Prehosp Disaster Med

Emergency and Disaster Mental Health Intervention Training: Stress and Trauma Studies Program

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Introduction: Correct mental health intervention during the first minutes, hours, and days of a disaster is crucial in terms of reducing the initial trauma symptoms and risk for future post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Yet, the majority of trauma training programs mostly emphasize PTSD treatment methods, while interventions during the initial stages of trauma (Acute Stress Reaction (ASR) and Acute Stress Disorder (ASD)) rarely are mentioned or practiced.

Moreover, there is no civilian authority in Israel that regularly trains its workers to be mental health responders in case of a disaster or other crisis.

The Stress and Trauma Studies program was established in order to fill this knowledge and practice gap and to train social work students from the beginning of their studies in ASR-ASD interventions—starting with one person and ending with a disaster intervention.

Program Structure: The program is a three-year program and is studied parallel to the regular social work courses. Each year, the students acquire theoretical and practical knowledge. Practical training includes drills collaborated with other first responders such as: police, fire department, Magen David Adom, Home Front Command, and army medics.

Results: Currently, no research has been performed to examine the effectiveness of the program. Yet, two major findings were emphasized through qualitative research: (1) casualties reported a high standard of student interventions; and