



Hospital Disaster Preparedness Awareness Training Part 1

Licensed & Non-Clinical Providers
2010

FBN Number: 50-12426

CE. Broker 20-284722

Clinical Solutions - CEU: 2.00

PART 1 is Intended for Awareness Level Personnel
- All hospital personnel, regardless of the type of
emergency / disaster encountered.

Developed by: the State Working Group for Hospital Preparedness Training,
Florida Department of Health and Florida Hospital Association.
Revised by: Kristopher Pidgeon, RN, NREMT-P, CEN and Lotta Siegel, RN, BSN

PART 1 IS INTENDED FOR AWARENESS LEVEL PERSONNEL 1

The Purpose 3
Objective 4
Post-Test and Evaluation 4
Preparing for Disaster 5
Potential Hazards and Risks..... 7
RAIN..... 8
Activation of the Disaster Plan 15
Personal Preparedness..... 19
References & Resources 21
ALL HAZARDS AWARENESS LEVEL KEY POINTS 22
ALL HAZARDS AWARENESS LEVEL – POST-TEST **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
SELF- STUDY EVALUATION FORM.....**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

WELCOME TO THE AWARENESS LEVEL – PART1 – OF THE FLORIDA RECOMMENDED HOSPITAL STAFF CORE COMPETENCIES FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

Disaster preparedness and management in healthcare has changed dramatically since September 11, 2001. Hospitals and clinics are "on the front lines" in incidents where nuclear, biological, explosive, or chemical agents are deliberately used as weapons in our communities. The severe hurricane season of 2004 also served to remind all Floridians that disaster preparedness is critical. Once again, hospitals and healthcare facilities were key components of our communities' disaster management response. Florida Statute and JCAHO standards require hospitals to have a comprehensive emergency management plan (CEMP). In the event of a natural or man-made disaster, it is important for us to be prepared to respond.

The Purpose

The purpose of this program is to assist hospitals in the development, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of disaster preparedness and response training programs. The updated 2006 Florida Recommended Hospital Staff Core Competencies for Disaster Preparedness are divided into three levels; awareness, mid, and advanced. This part, the awareness level-PART 1, is designed for all hospital personnel.

Objective

- At the end of the educational opportunity, the participant will demonstrate knowledge in the area of Hospital Disaster Preparedness.
- A post-test will be administered and the participants will need a score of at least 75% to complete the course demonstrating awareness of general hospital roles and responsibilities for emergencies / disasters.

Post-Test and Evaluation

At the end of this presentation you will find a Course Evaluation tool as well as the post-test. Please fill both out and return them to Clinical Solutions for a certificate of completion to be completed.

Preparing for Disaster

As mentioned earlier, disaster preparedness and management in healthcare has changed dramatically since September 11, 2001. Hospitals and clinics are "on the front lines" in incidents where nuclear, biological, explosive, or chemical agents are deliberately used as weapons in our communities. The severe hurricane season of 2004 also served to remind all Floridians that disaster preparedness is critical. Once again, hospitals and healthcare facilities were key components of our communities' disaster management response.

The purpose of a disaster plan is to prepare us to respond and recover from a natural or man-made disaster so that we may continue to provide treatment and patient care in extenuating circumstances. Natural disasters include hurricanes, tornadoes, and flooding. Examples of man-made disasters are explosions, chemical release, and a rare infectious disease outbreak.

Every employee has a role and responsibilities in emergency / disaster preparedness. It is also important to make sure your personal preparedness plans are up to date so that your family, including pets, is cared for during a disaster. The following educational opportunity will introduce you to the basics of hospital disaster plan and awareness.

What is a “Hospital Disaster”?

A "Disaster" can be defined as:

“Any natural or man-made event that significantly disrupts the normal mode of hospital operations or results in a sudden, significant change or increased demand for the organization's services.”

What are potential hazards and risks in your area?

Risks

- Large crowds
- Schools, hospitals
- Government buildings

Hazards

- Hurricane
- Tornado
- Fire

Potential Hazards and Risks

Some specific examples of potential hazards in your area may include: football games, art festivals, theme parks, nuclear power plants, etc. Other examples may include: industrial facilities, major transportation systems such as railroads, mail processing facilities, etc. It is important for all of us to examine our area for potential hazards, in order for us to be prepared for them. Can you think of your geographical, demographical, or high risk areas of concern?

Hospital Standard Emergency Codes

These codes are our healthcare system's standardized emergency and disaster codes. This is not to be confused with the Department of Homeland Security color code system. Signs are posted throughout your facilities displaying these codes. Most common healthcare example would be a "Code Blue", which refers to a patient who is without consciousness, breathing, or a pulse.

What can I do?



RAIN

Disasters can happen to you at any time and it is important to be aware of your surroundings, know your role (what to do), and who to tell.

- R** Recognize the presence of a hazard
- A** Avoid Contamination through use of protection
- I** Isolate hazards by securing the area
- N** Notify appropriate higher level persons

Recognize: *Does it Belong ?*

- Unusual Activity / Behavior
- Hazardous weather conditions
- Things out of place
 - Unexplained liquids
 - Strange smells
 - Abnormal fogs or mists
 - Suspicious Packages

You need to be able to **Recognize** the hazard: What do I see, hear, or smell?

This may include the presence of unusual activities or behaviors.

Examples of unusual activities / behavior:

- Persons wearing inappropriate clothing for current weather conditions
- Hospital visitors exploring restricted areas
- Persons taking pictures of facilities
- Persons frequently visiting for inconsistent or unsubstantiated reasons
- Large vehicles parked in visitor areas (i.e. large trucks in non-loading dock areas)
- Unattended packages
- Hazardous weather conditions: Typically, we are warned in advance of an impending hurricane; however, tornados may happen with little or no warning.

Avoid: What do I Stay Away From?

You need to remember that your safety is your safety is paramount.

Think about the situation before acting to avoid becoming a victim. Take actions to avoid liquids, powders, clouds, or vapors and out of sight of any potential improvised explosive device. If you can see a bomb, then it can kill you is a good rule of thumb. Apply the concepts of time, distance, and shielding. Avoiding exposure time to the threat, put distance between oneself and the threat, and protective equipment or barriers between oneself and the threat.

Always use standard precautions: Proper hand washing is a great basic infection control method to protect yourself, staff, and patients. You should also consider alternative products to hand washing when necessary such as alcohol gels and foams. We should all routinely wipe down surfaces with surface wipes

Ask if you are unsure – it is better to be safe than sorry.

If you need to wear a face mask, FIT testing and / or proper training is required. Please consult your hospital provider for their policies and procedures.



ISOLATE: “Who Do I Keep Away”?

Fire doors may be used to help contain a fire as well as support containment of a security threat or infectious area. It is each department's responsibility to know how to control and / or contain their area. Access to critical areas must be controlled.

It is important to note security needs. It is everyone's responsibility to assist with preventing unauthorized access. Do not open locked doors to persons outside. Watch for and report persons entering an isolated area, and make sure the appropriate signs are posted.

Take action to isolate or reduce exposure to contamination or threats; attempt to remove oneself from the contaminated zone, remove other people who may be in the contaminated zone, and keep people from going into the contaminated zone. Evacuation may be necessary.



Notify: “What Number Do I Call & Who Do I Call”?

Any employee who encounters an emergency situation in which the health or safety of patients, staff, and/or visitors may be endangered will make notification of an internal emergency situation by advising Security and/or the Supervisor immediately of the type of event (This may be different in various facilities, so remember to follow the hospital’s policy).

It is important to know what belongs in your area and what doesn’t so that things like suspicious packages and chemical spills are **recognized** right away. **Avoid** touching or tasting unknown liquids, objects, packages, etc. **Isolate** and contain the area. Evacuation and / or decontamination may be necessary. Also remember to consider security concerns. Call for help and **notify** appropriate persons.



RAIN EXAMPLE #1

Ex: Suspicious Package

Recognize: Suspicious Package

Avoid: Do not touch object

Isolate: Contain the area & keep others away from hazard area

Notify: Call for help



If you should see a suspicious package it is imperative that you not touch it. Contact security right away. For bombs, cell phones may activate a bomb and need to be turned off. Notify Security and/or the Supervisor immediately of the type of event.

RAIN EXAMPLE #2

Ex: Chemical Spill

- Recognize: Chemical Spill
- Avoid: Do not touch, taste, or smell
- Isolate: Contain the scene & keep others away from hazard area
- Notify: Call for help



Observation of strange vapors and smells, or liquids of unusual color may identify chemical spills. Decontamination team personnel will perform decontamination procedures as necessary. High-level personal protective equipment should only be used by those individuals who have been properly trained. Remember for all hospital chemicals, there should be an MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) manual to assist you in procedure.

Activate the Disaster Plan:

- *“Who has the authority to call an emergency code and / or activate the disaster plan”?*
- *“How are employees notified the plan has been activated”?*
- “What changes can the employees expect while the plan is activated”

Activation of the Disaster Plan

Depending on the facility you are working, each hospital should have their own policy and procedure related to the above questions. You should be able to answer each of these questions!

Any employee who encounters an emergency situation in which the health or safety of patients, staff, and/or visitors may be endangered will make notification of an internal emergency situation by advising your emergency contact designated persons (ie...security, administrator, manager, supervisor etc.)

An emergency code such as a Code Blue can be initiated by any staff member. Each element of the Emergency Management includes a set of instructions for implementing the specific response. Workplace violence, fire, or infant abduction response can be initiated by any staff member. Others, such as the “Disaster” response are initiated by a specific set of individuals trained to assure rapid and effective mobilization of all resources required to manage the consequences of an emergent situation.

Staff members are notified when the incident command staff activates emergency management plans. Where it is necessary to recall staff or to obtain

additional staff to assist with an additional load, the staff members are recalled by use of a communication system. Each department maintains a current communication system process, and, as directed by their director or senior person present during an emergency (or by designated staff, if no one is available for that activity) the calling systems are activated to notify additional staff to return to the hospital. Such plans are activated on a periodic basis by the departments to ensure currency.

A change in work shifts, different place to park, may only enter the building at one location due to security / restricted access procedures that may be implemented, Hospital identification should and may be checked by Law Enforcement in some cases, employee hotline numbers, radio / TV announcements, and implementation of an incident command system.



Remember to update your contact information within your department.

What If These Fail?

- Power

- Water
- Phones
- Computers

In the case that the regular phone lines do not work. An emergency listing of numbers most centers can be found on the Intranet. Many hospitals have access to external two-way radios and walkie-talkies. Most emergency departments can communicate with fire rescue utilizing an EMS system.

If the computer system should 'go down' most facilities will go to "down-time" forms. Please make yourself aware of their location, so that they are available to you in the event of a situation. Each department should identify critical equipment and know where their generated emergency outlets are located. Most facilities will have means for bottled water or stored utilization of water.

What Do You Do?

- Every employee has a role in an emergency situation or disaster.
Remember, RAIN!
- Your disaster role will most likely be similar to what you do everyday. Be prepared to be flexible and adaptable so you can apply your skills in different situations and / or environment.
- If you would like to be more involved, consider taking additional training or by joining emergency response teams or hospital Decontamination teams.
- Your personal / family preparedness plan is just as important. You will be able to better do your job if you know your family is taken care of.

How will I know when to come to work?

- Television announcements
- Radio announcements
- Employee Hotline
- Community Information Line

If you are not sure what to do in the event of a disaster, contact your supervisor immediately.

Personal Preparedness

Family Preparedness

Talk with your family about disasters and what can happen. Be prepared to shelter-in-place or evacuate. Know how to turn off utilities at your home. Know how to use a fire extinguisher. Check batteries in smoke alarm annually. Put together a supply kit and check it annually. See below for suggested items. Establish an out-of-state contact. The “911 experience” taught us that it is sometimes easier to make a long distance call than a local call when the system is overloaded. Ensure insurance policies are up-to-date. Place copies of important papers such as recent bank statements, credit card statements, insurance policies including health, phone numbers, medical records, etc. in fire-proof and water-proof containers. Make similar preparations for your pets; protect vet records and contact information; and prepare a supply kit.

Supply Kits

Water – One gallon per person per day for at least 5 days; Food – Non-perishable foods for 5 days and ensure accommodations for special diets; manual can opener; First Aid supplies – adhesive bandages, antibiotic ointment, gauze, sterile gloves, etc.; 5 day supply of medications and non-prescription drugs; Hygiene products such as toothpaste, toothbrush, glasses, contact lens case and solution, soap, change of clothes, toilet paper, etc.; Important documents, Identification, Passport; Insect repellent and sunscreen; Batteries; Entertainment items (books, cards); Flashlights, candles, matches, lantern; Cash; Keys.

Pet Supply Kits

Food, water, and medications; Important Papers – vet records, verification of vaccinations; Current photograph; Ensure vaccinations are up to date; Ensure pet wears ID tags; Properly sized pet carrier; Muzzle, collar, or leash.

Shelter In Place

Go inside. Turn off heaters and air conditioners and close fireplace dampers.

Close and seal all doors and windows, using plastic, heavy-duty tape, and moist towels as needed.

Listen to your TV or radio for instruction. Stay inside until authorities issue an “All Clear.”

For more information about personal preparedness you can go to the following websites:

- <http://www.myflorida.com>
- <http://www.ready.gov>
- <http://www.redcross.org>
- <http://www.fema.gov>
- <http://www.floridadisaster.org>

You have now completed the course. Please complete the Quiz and complete the Course Evaluation tool. If you are not taking this course on-line, please send the evaluation tool, and answer sheet to Clinical Solutions.

Thank you!

References & Resources

- Centers for Disease Control
www.bt.cdc.gov
- Office of Domestic Preparedness
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/training.htm
- National Institute for Occupational Safety
www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html
- Occupational Safety & Health Administration
www.osha.gov
- HEICS / HICS
www.emsa.cahwnet.gov/dms2/heics_main.asp
- NIMS
www.fema.gov/nims
- START & JUMP START Triage
www.citmt.org/start/background.htm

ALL HAZARDS AWARENESS LEVEL KEY POINTS

- “**All hazards preparedness**” refers to preparedness for domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. All staff should be trained to respond to “all hazards”.
- The acronym ‘**RAIN**’ refers to the four steps necessary to assist individuals in the completion of a timely and immediate response to a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) or hazardous material incident. ‘**RAIN**’ stands for **R**ecognize, **A**void, **I**solate, and **N**otify.
- To meet the challenges for identifying **potential terrorist activities** it is critical to recognize when something appears out of place.
- Every family should have a **disaster plan**. Preparedness starts with the individual and extends outward. The best plan consists of:
 - Staying Informed
 - Having extra cash on hand
 - Keeping an emergency supply kit
 - Having a 30 day supply of an prescription medication you or your family members take
- Personal Protective Equipment (**PPE**) consists of
 - Protective boots or coverings
 - Respiratory Protection (N95 masks or positive air purified respirators)
 - Gloves and gowns or suits
- Minimizing exposure to a chemical, biological, or radiological agent can be done by utilizing **time, distance, and shielding**.
- The **Incident Command System (ICS)** provides structure to response efforts in a disaster or critical incident
- **Hand washing** is the most effective way of preventing any type of infection including the avian influenza (bird flu), seasonal flu, or the common cold and other illnesses.
- Seeing a doctor when you are sick, avoiding close contact with people who are sick, covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, and avoiding touching your face will also help to **prevent illness**.
- During an incident involving suspicious chemicals or a criminal investigation, a nurse or other clinician may be asked to collect patient belongings and preserve them as **forensic evidence** to be provided to law enforcement.

You have now completed the course. Please Register to take the Quiz and complete the Course Evaluation tool. Send completed CE Broker Form to Clinical Solutions Medical Education for creation of your certificate of completion.

Thank you !

Click on the link below to get started

Take Exam