

Q-16

Disaster Question

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Disaster question

It is **Friday 1600 hrs** and you are the consultant in charge of the emergency department in a tertiary hospital. You have been notified that a truck carrying **chlorine gas** has rolled over on one a busy **motorway** close to your hospital. Initial ambulance communication suggests that at **least thirty (30)** bystanders, including **4 children** may be affected

A- state (2) specific preparation that you would make for this particular exposure (2 marks)

- 1- set the decontamination area
- 2- set triage zone outside ED
- 3- call code brown
- 4- prepare PPE and brief staff
- 5- Liaise with Poisons Information Centre; Fire brigade/
HAZMAT; Health Department

B- list seven(7) steps in preparing your department (7 marks)

- **Call code brown (disaster code)**
- **Review the current situation of the department**
- **Prepare triage zone with decontamination facility**
- **Staff briefing and PPE**
- **Involve paediatric team early**
- **Consider secondary treatment area eg Outpatients**
- **Plan staffing (ie end of the shift may stay or call extra staff ..etc)**
- **Seek information on symptoms and treatment**
- **Liaise with ambulance, Hazmat re numbers and timing**
- **Anticipate self-presenting patients**
- **Ask for extra resources in ED eg ward HMO, reg etc**
- **Facilitate disposition plan for the current ED patients ie admission, discharge etc.**
- **liaise with ambulance for diverting ambulances**
- **prepare to deal with media (ie media liaison officer from the hospital)**
- **dealing with family & relatives**

C- list four (4) signs or symptoms of chlorine exposure that you would look for

- Respiratory may cause nasal irritation, cough in mild dose**
- In higher dose may cause pul odema. And reactive airway dysfunction syndrome (symptom like asthma)**
- Ocular burning discomfort ,spasmodic blinking**
- CVS hypertension Or hypotension, collapse due to hypoxia**
- Dermal if direct contact with liquid (frostbite like injury)**

D- you have been asked to review the current guidelines for disaster management in your department State three (3) important steps for this review process (3 marks)

- **Read the current guidelines in conjunction with Hospital Code Brown guideline**
- **Audit any activation since last review**
- **Benchmark with other similar EDs**
- meet with senior ED RN representative- identify areas to change
- Arrange meeting with other stakeholder eg OHS, hospital management
- Prepare the resources for this update eg state guidelines
- **Write the initial draft and discuss it with stakeholders**

Fellowship curriculum

ACEM website

- **14. DISASTER MEDICINE**
- **14.1 Disasters**
 - a) Definitions of a disaster and the importance of the relativity of an incident to available resources
S H
 - b) Classification of disasters S G
 - c) Epidemiology of disasters T G
 - d) National & regional responsibilities S G
- **14.2 Disaster planning**
 - a) General principles
 - i) Disaster management & mitigation
 - i. Principles of prevention and risk reduction S G
 - ii. Principles of preparedness relative to risk of occurrence and impact S H
 - b) Hospitals as responders to an emergency
 - Demonstrate knowledge of the standard emergency threat/incident procedures in the following situations
 - i) External emergency (Code Brown) S H
 - ii) Hospitals as “victims” in an emergency
 - i. Fire (Code Red) procedures and considerations
S H
 - ii. Bomb threat (Code Purple) procedures S H
 - iii. Evacuation (Code Orange) S H
 - iv. Internal emergency (Code Yellow) S G
- c) Response
 - Demonstrate the principles and procedures that are required for preparing the ED for a large influx of casualties
S Ex
- d) Recovery
 - Demonstrate knowledge of the principles and procedures that are required in the aftermath of an incident
S H
- e) Incident command structure
 - Demonstrate knowledge of the five different management activities which need to be addressed in the effective management of any incident

- Pass marks is 10/16 (allowing for well structured answer
- To pass a section the bolted answer should be included
- Candidate should not repeat same answer in different part, won't score marks on repeating

Good Luck