**Small Group session - Disasters**

A **disaster** is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.

In Emergency terms, a Disaster is any event that will potentially overwhelm that department’s ability to manage it, and may be as small as a single high acuity or resource intensive patient presenting to a small hospital.

Try these scenarios…..

1. The 7.20 express from Pakenham to Dandenong collides with a school bus at the level crossing in Clyde Rd, Berwick. How do you prepare the Casey Hospital ED for such a disaster?

2. The local Mosque has 700 people to a function today. The rice was cooked two days ago and re-heated today. People start presenting to your ED with diarrhoea and vomiting the day after the celebration. Discuss the management plan for this number of people.

3. A new hotel is being built down the road from your ED. The scaffolding collapses, killing many workmen and trapping countless others. How do you manage this situation?

4. A large number of patients (Chinese) start presenting to your ED with diarrhoea and vomiting. It seems they have purchased their pork buns from the same local Vietnamese bakery. They are very tasty buns and are distributed all over Melbourne. Discuss.

5. Lightening strikes a metal barbeque shelter at the local park near your ED; a country town teaching hospital. 4 men are pulseless and unresponsive at the scene. The local ambulance service calls for help. Discuss.