

planning; plans; responses; testing
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High School Students Assist a Hospital in Mass Casualty Events

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Objective: The Israeli Medical System is committed to administering optimal medical services to casualties during conventional and nonconventional mass casualty events (MCE). The operation of the hospital in such events requires the expansion of facilities, predesignation of admitting sites, and operation of special roles.

Methods: Ancillary and voluntary teams are needed. This hospital initiated a model cooperation program with a neighboring high school. Approximately 300 students from the 10th to 12th grades are integrated into the hospital personnel during a MCE. The students serve as stretch-bearers and carry out other necessary tasks. Once a year, the students participate in a training program and drills.

Results: As a result of the ongoing relationship over the last 10 years between the hospital management and the director of the school, the students are available to help every moment, throughout the whole year. This project has been supported by the Municipality Emergency law and recognized by the army and the Ministry of Health.

Conclusion: This unique model has many benefits to the community and to the hospital, but mainly for the students themselves. The most important education a student can receive is the ability to contribute to others.

Keywords: auxiliary personnel; drills; high schools; hospital; management; mass casualty events; students; training

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The British Red Cross Society

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The British Red Cross Society (BRCS) is a nationwide organization of volunteers who provide aid and assistance in a wide range of spheres. Although recognized for first-aid skills, the association provides many other caring services such as escorting patients, welfare services, counseling, and a unique camouflage service, provided by 225 practitioners. Started as an aid to scarred military casualties in the Second World War, it now sees more than 6,000 patients each year.

The BRCS has an active International Division, which is part of the largest humanitarian organization in the world. As part of the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (175 national societies) and as a partner of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), it is a key partner in the Strategy 2010 — "To Improve the Lives of Vulnerable People by Mobilizing the Power of Humanity." The BRCS has teams working in many countries throughout the world.

This paper examines the diverse work of the organization, and how it can work together with the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine to work toward the goals of Strategy 2010.

Keywords: assistance; British Red Cross Society (BRCS); first aid skills;

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Strategy 2010; World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM)
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Requirements Generation for Individual Protective Equipment

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Historically, the development of equipment that protects individuals from nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) threats has been a military endeavor. Although civilian versions of similar equipment have long been available, the technology has been driven by military requirements. However, NBC and industrial hazards are a growing public health concern, and the civilian need for individual protective equipment (IPE) soon will outstrip military demands.

Although development efforts rarely have worked in tandem, civilian and military IPE needs have a great deal in common. We have identified key requirements that apply to the development of both civilian and military IPE, emphasizing low-cost, low-maintenance, easy-to-use, reliable solutions with the capability for performance upgrades. This emphasis enables civilian use, including use in less industrialized areas, where training and material support may be nonexistent. The capability for performance upgrades allows enhancements for rigorous military use. For instance, the current United States military project to develop a disposable NBC hood will result in two versions, a civilian-style hood for escape and an upgraded model that will allow users to conduct military missions. Overarching requirements will conserve resources during design and manufacture, and will aid in the effort to create industry standards.

Increasing accessibility to quality, low-cost IPE will help prevent mass casualties during terrorist or industrial disasters, whether they occur in New York City or Bhopal. By combining common goals and rethinking approaches to equipment design, we will better serve both civilian and military populations.

Keywords: accessibility; biological; chemical; design; hazards; individual protective equipment; military; nuclear; requirements; standards

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Respiratory Sinus Arrhythmia Feedback for Enhanced Parasympathetic Responses in Clients Diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Anxiety: A Case Study

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We live in a world of hazards, with increasing terrorism activities, natural disasters, and personal trauma. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and anxiety-related disorders are part of modern society. The anxiety response is one of the mechanisms the body uses to help the mind recognize danger and minimize it. As with most psychological disorders, it is not the presence of anxiety that creates problems, it is more about how severe it is, how the individual copes with it, and how much it disrupts the individual's ability to