

in that particular tower were evacuated within 10 minutes. Non-ambulatory patients were evacuated mainly horizontally to the unaffected tower connected through the hallways. Fire was contained by the fire department. No deaths or injuries were reported related to the incident. A total of 34 patients with potentially critical condition were transported to other hospitals in the area by the EMS.

Fires are one of the most common events encountered by hospitals worldwide. Emergency management planning, staff training, and regular drills are required for better responses to these events. Preplanned evacuation actions should be taught to the personnel. Horizontal evacuation of non-ambulatory patients can be an effective method during the initial response.

Keywords: evacuation; fire; hospital; training

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s158–s159

(259) Disaster Potentials and a New Classification

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As known, life has three dimensions—macro-, micro-, and normo-features. Energy released by events occurring within these dimensions has the power to terminate human life. All potentials, both known and unknown, contain the potential power of creating crises for human beings. Meteor rains, collisions of planets, satellite crashes, or satellite accidents that could occur during their landing are the disaster potentials of “Macro Life”. “Micro Life” is a dimension that cannot be seen through the eyes, but can be explained with the means of modern medicine. Throughout history, these potentials caused disasters which ended in multiple deaths. Plague, tularemia, AIDS, and SARS are among the most important micro-life potentials, and their agents are known. The third dimension is “Normo Life” in which our normal life is shaped. Potentials here should be classified as “Natural Disaster Potentials (NDP)” and “Man-Made Disaster Potentials (MMDP)”. Terrorism, NBC attacks and accidents, fires, transportation accidents, wars, environmental pollution, migration, and technological accidents can be listed among the most common man made DP. Another classification among natural DP which is “Lithosphere”, “Atmosphere” and “Hydrosphere” oriented potentials, can help us understand the overall potentials. Earthquakes, landslides, and volcanic eruptions are the potentials of lithosphere. Floods and inundation are the common examples for the disaster potentials of hydrosphere, and meteorological events such as cyclones, storm, hurricanes, and tornados are the disaster potentials of atmosphere. Droughts, poverty, and tsunamis, can be listed among “mixed” disaster potentials which cover all these spherical layers.

Keywords: classification; crises’ disaster potentials; dimensions; events

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s159

(260) Shipping Disasters in the Channel: A Need for International, Multidisciplinary Rescues

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On 06 March 1987 the ferry Herald of Free Enterprise (HOFE) capsized outside the harbour of Zeebrugge. A

large rescue operation was implemented. Boats were directed towards an empty pontoon. At the pontoon, emergency care was provided and further transport was organized to convey victims to surrounding hospitals. 21 medical teams received more than 250 victims within hours of the event. The majority of casualties were due to immersion. One-third of the victims died, one-third was hospitalized, and the remaining victims were transported to emergency shelters.

The Mont Louis, a French Roro Ship, collided with the car ferry, Olau Britannia, on 25 August 1984 off the Belgian coast. The Mont Louis carried 30 cylinders with 15 ton of UF6 low radioactivity.

On 14 December 2002, the Tricolor, a cargo transporting 3,000 cars, with “shoebox” construction similar to the ferry HOFE, sunk after a collision a few miles out of Zeebrugge. Despite all kinds of warning systems, 10 near collisions and two real collisions occurred within two weeks after this event

The high density of maritime traffic in the Channel (20% of the world maritime traffic) requires for disaster planning with cross-border responses. The IMO has begun efforts to improve the safety of traffic on the sea. Human failure still is possible.

Keywords: accidents; international; maritime; rescue; safety; traffic

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s159

(261) Mass Carbon Monoxide Intoxication at Two Ice Hockey Games: Initial Approach and Long-term Follow-Up

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Introduction: A group of people became ill during a Premier League ice hockey game due to a carbon monoxide intoxication caused by the exhaust of an ice maintenance machine. Due to this intoxication, a total of 235 patients were seen at area hospitals. Twenty months after this event, another mass intoxication occurred during an ice hockey game. Forty-three patients presented to the index hospital at that time. To the knowledge of the authors, these are the first reported ice hockey-related mass intoxications in Belgium.

Methods: Apart from the file data of the different emergency departments, a follow-up mailing was sent to all patients one year after the mass intoxication events to evaluate delayed complaints and clinical controls.

Results: There was a response rate of 67.7%. The mean value for the carboxyhemoglobin concentrations (COHb) was 10.2% (max = 30.2%). There was a significant relationship with the presence of headaches ($p = 0.006$), dizziness ($p = 0.000$), and fatigue ($p = 0.000$) and the COHb level. Abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting were not significantly related. Of the respondents, 6.3% had residual complaints (headaches) with a significantly higher incidence ($p = 0.000$) with high COHb levels. Only 1.3% had an abnormal neurological control. Work incapacity was not significantly related to the COHb levels.