

If We Open the Door—An Analysis of Prehospital Emergency Cases with the Need to Force the Door Open from Dresden, Germany

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Introduction: Germany is a highly developed country. Nevertheless, there are reports that people have supply problems or die lonely and alone in their homes. Despite a differentiated social system, there seem to be significant gaps for individuals or old people. The rescue service is often involved in situations with unclear emergency calls or calls from third parties regarding social and supply problems. In some emergency cases the rescue service is alerted to someone's home but there is no response. Depending on the available information, a timely decision must be made to have the opportunity for life-saving. The door opening procedure is executed by the fire department. Afterward, the medical emergency teams take over. The goal of the study is to analyze findings discovered after opening the door.

Method: Data of all emergencies from the dispatch center of Dresden operated by the fire and rescue department between January 2021 and December 2021 were recorded and transferred to a central database. All cases with the need to force the door open were extracted and analyzed.

Results: There was a total number of 157.522 cases of emergency. In 847 cases the door was opened by the fire department. After door opening there was no emergency reported in 265 cases. 100 patients were found dead, six patients had cardiac arrest and received cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and 310 patients were transported to a hospital. The causes for emergencies were social problems, downfall and injuries, hypoglycemia, convulsion, stroke, psychiatric emergencies, dementia and suicide attempt. The mean age was 71 [18-103], 54,15% of patients were female.

Conclusion: There is a high number of emergencies with the need to open the door. The number of patients transported to a hospital is also high and justified the procedure. Since numerous patients were found dead, this underlines a gap in the German social system.

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Disaster Knowledge, Skills, and Preparedness among Emergency Medical Services in Saudi Arabia.

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Introduction: Emergency Medical Service (EMS) workers are critical to effective disaster response in Saudi Arabia. The World Health Organization requires countries and governments to have prepared emergency health workers and disaster action plans. Therefore, it is important to understand the disaster knowledge, skills, and preparedness of Saudi Arabian EMS workers. This study investigated factors influencing EMS workers' disaster knowledge, skills, and preparedness in the Saudi Arabian context.

Method: A descriptive cross-sectional survey using The Disaster Preparedness Evaluation Tool was distributed to EMS workers in military and government hospitals across three Saudi Arabian cities. Responses were recorded on a 6-point Likert scale where higher scores indicated higher knowledge, skills, or preparedness. The results were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical analysis.

Results: 272 EMS workers participated in this study. EMS workers reported a moderate level of knowledge (3.56), skills (3.44), and preparedness (3.73) for disasters. Despite the moderate level, EMS workers reported a high level of involvement in regular disaster drills (M=4.24, SD=1.274) and a strong interest in further disaster education opportunities (M=5.43, SD=1.121). Participants also reported a high skill level with the triage principles used in their workplace during a disaster (M=4.06, SD=1.218). The study findings revealed a significant positive correlation between disaster preparedness levels and age, years of experience, education level, and the facility worked in.

Conclusion: EMS workers have moderate disaster knowledge, skills, and preparedness levels. Knowledge, skill, and preparedness have a significant relationship with the EMS workers' demographics. These findings demonstrate the need to invest in preparing Saudi Arabian EMS workers to effectively respond to bioterrorism disasters.

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From Two hours to Two Seconds: Using the Red Cross Red Crescent Health Information System (RCHIS) to Complete the WHO Emergency Medical Teams - Minimum Data Set Reporting

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