

Discussion: Medical schools without trained DM staff now have access to expert online material developed by educationalists with a focus on skills and knowledge retention.

References:

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Developing Collaboration Quality Indicators for Major Incidents in an Underground Mine

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Introduction: The underground mining industry has one of the most hazardous industrial occupations, and requires an increased level of preparedness for injury incidents. The most important outcome for seriously injured victims is the reduction in morbidity and mortality. Receiving effective and timely care may mean the difference between life and death. However, mines are usually located in a rural area and the incident site may be deep underground which makes it an extraordinary challenge for the rescue services. A successful rescue response in an extraordinary milieu demands a high level of inter-organizational cooperation skills at the incident site.

Aim: To analyze statements of collaborate activities during a major incident exercise in the underground mine industry, essentially for patient outcome.

Methods: A Delphi technique was performed, asking opinions from experts in iterative rounds to generate, understand, and form consensus on group opinion around this complex issue. The experts were personnel from disaster medicine (n=3), emergency and prehospital medicine (n=10), rescue service (n=16), and mine industry (n=9), all with operative command positions.

Results: Three iterative rounds were performed. The first round was conducted as a workshop to collect opinions about the most important inter-organization cooperation activities to optimize patient outcome from an injury incident in an underground mine. This resulted in 63 statements. The statements included information about: early alarm routines, collaborative support and efforts of early life-saving interventions, relevant resources and equipment, command and control room, and functions. In round two participants shared and communicated decisions about safety, situation awareness, and guidelines for response. All statements reached consensus among the experts in round three.

Discussion: These inter-organizational statements are considered important by experts, and could be used to evaluate collaboration in major incident exercises. Hence, the statements

can also be quality indicators for reporting results from major incident management.

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Development and Challenges of Japan DMORT (Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team) Association

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Introduction: In 2006, Japan DMORT was established by physicians, nurses, forensic pathologists, social workers, and a journalist (inspired by a major train crash in the previous year) to provide mental support to disaster victims' families who had not received care. However, disaster victims' identification and care of the families were monopolized by police in Japan. Also, our 'study group' status confused people who were affected by disasters.

Aim: To describe the development and future challenges of our association.

Methods: We developed our policy to focus on mental support through various activities such as the 11 closed seminars with disaster victims' families, 21 training courses for disaster responders, and several workshops in medical or nursing conferences. In the Christchurch Earthquake, NZ (2011), with young Japanese casualties in a collapsed building, our core member reported the needs of families' mental support, which showed the validity of our policy.

Results: In the Great East Japan Earthquake (2011), we distributed mental health care manuals for disaster responders. In the landslides in Izu Oshima Island (2013), 3 members supported victims' families through the town office. In the Kumamoto Earthquake (2016), two members made grief work on families of 17 victims at the prefectural police academy. These activities convinced the police of the need for medical/mental support and ourselves of the necessity for legal status. In 2017, we reorganized our association into an incorporated society. We also became official members of crime/disaster victims support liaison councils of two prefectures among 47 in Japan. In 2018, official agreements were made with the Hyogo prefectural police. But in the Heavy Rains and Flooding of July and in the Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake of September, the local police did not agree to accept us.

Discussion: Official collaboration with police is essential nationwide in Japan. Further relief activities are expected.

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