

exceed $\sim 1/e$ for both strategies of network protection and network consolidation.

Conclusion: The proposed model and its tools cover effectively, the topological problems of security economics within the modern disaster management systems in a more complex environment.

Prehosp Disaster Med 2017;32(Suppl. 1):s187–s188

doi:10.1017/S1049023X17004964

“It’s What Binds Us Together”: An Inside Perspective on the Benefits of Social Connection among Survivors, 5 Years after a Bus Crash, Sweden

Isabelle M.M. Doohan¹, Lina Gyllencreutz², Johanna Björnstig¹, Ulf Björnstig¹, Britt-Inger Saveman³

1. Department Of Surgical And Perioperative Sciences, Section Of Surgery, Umeå University, Umeå/Sweden
2. Department Of Nursing, Umeå University, Umeå/Sweden
3. Department Of Surgical And Perioperative Sciences, Section Of Surgery; Department Of Nursing, Umeå University, Umeå/Sweden

Study/Objective: To explore social connections among survivors, five years after a major bus crash.

Background: Consequences and recovery for survivors after transport disasters or mass-casualty incidents are being studied to a great extent. Receiving sufficient social and psychosocial support from family, friends, and others has been presented as a

factor that can mitigate negative consequences, and facilitate survivors’ recovery. However, it is rarely studied in a holistic and long-term perspective. There is a need to further explore the survivors’ perceptions on ways in which social connections can be beneficial for long-term recovery.

Methods: Fifty-four out of 56 surviving passengers were interviewed five years after a major bus crash in Sweden. Interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim. For this study, only text on social connections was extracted and analyzed with qualitative content analysis.

Results: The analysis resulted in the category Connectedness, and three subcategories: Safety, Kinship, and Friendship. When exploring social connections among survivors, connectedness seemed to be a beneficial and important aspect of their long-term recovery. The connectedness offered a feeling of safety when travelling together, a sense of kinship, and lasting friendships. When going by bus together after the crash, survivors felt safer knowing there was a mutual understanding among them if something went wrong during a bus ride. The sense of kinship was experienced as feeling comforted and connected when meeting fellow survivors. Friendships generated positivity and a long-lasting source of support.

Conclusion: Facilitating a sense of connectedness among survivors early on, and offering ways for them to maintain the connection throughout the years could strengthen and advance their long-term recovery.

Prehosp Disaster Med 2017;32(Suppl. 1):s188

doi:10.1017/S1049023X17004976