



**The Role of the Family Medicine Physician in Disasters:
Bridging the Gap with GloCal Care**

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Disclosures

I have nothing to disclose

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Objectives

1. Discover the resources of the ICS (Incident Command System)
2. Recognize Clinical/Medical roles in ICS
3. Prepare a list of opportunities for leadership in different phases of disaster (Mitigation, Preparedness, Response/Recovery).

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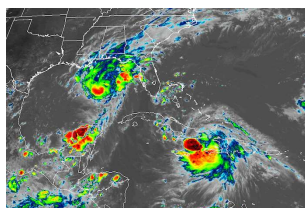
What is a Disaster?

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Natural Disasters^{1,2}



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Terrorist Attacks³



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Mass Gatherings^{4,5}

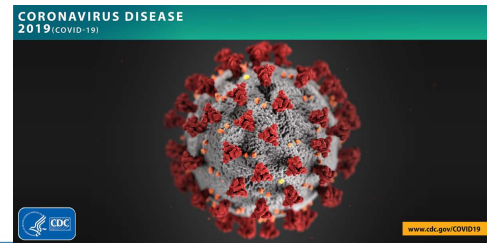


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Outbreak, Epidemic, Pandemic

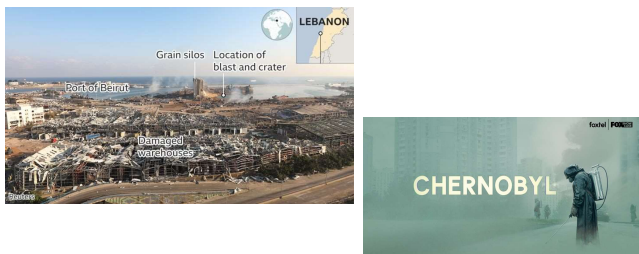


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Man-Made⁶



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Background

- **Many Disasters** occur without warning
- Preparedness is key to adequate and organized response
- Collaboration across disciplines and knowing the chain of command create cohesive and effective solutions



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Poll: Do you have experience in disasters prior to COVID?

Answer in the chat box

1 = Yes

2 = No

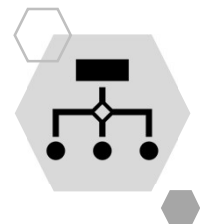
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Incident Command System – Background^{7,8}

- Designed originally in California in the 1970s
- Collaborate between local, state, and federal agencies during wildfires
- Then the system was generalized to cover all emergencies
- Same approach, same leadership configuration, same coordination structure for each emergency/incident



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Incident Command System – Background^{7,8,9}

- ICS is part of the broader National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) designed in the 1980's
- Both are used internationally, with some countries having their own variation



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Incident Command Structure (ICS)^{7,8}



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Incident Command Structure (ICS)^{7,8}

Role	Responsibility
Incident Commander	Responsible for the Incident and sets objectives
Public Information Officer	Communicates with the Press/Media
Safety Officer	Identifies and acts on unsafe conditions
Liaison	Coordinates with outside agencies
Operations	Implements the strategy/plan for all actions
Planning	Creates the strategy/plan, Data gathering and recording
Logistics	Obtains the resources for Operations and support the Incident
Finance	Documents, analyzes, and procures funding for the Incident

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QUIZ!

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1. Operations
2. Planning
3. Logistics
4. Finance

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Hospital Incident Command Structure (HICS)⁸



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Medical-Technical Specialists⁸

- Specialized in the area of the incident (i.e., infectious disease during a pandemic)
- Asked to offer advice to incident command and provide feedback on operations
- Often are clinical providers
- Can be team based ***

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What are the Phases of a Disaster?

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Phases of a Disaster^{10,11}

Mitigation

Preparedness

Response

Recovery

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Phases of a Disaster^{10,11}

Mitigation

- Pre-Disaster Efforts
- Reduction/elimination of risk

Preparedness

- Education, Outreach, Planning
- Practice, state of readiness

Response

- Immediate Response

Recovery

- Getting back to normal operations
- Repair/restoration

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Mitigation¹¹

- Elimination/reduction of risk
- Retrofitting is difficult, imperfect, and expensive!

• Examples:

- Negative Pressure Rooms
- More than one entrance
- Ways to block off areas of the building



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Phases of a Disaster^{10,11}

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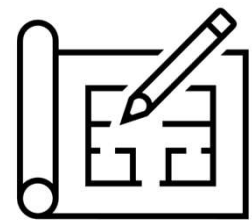
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Preparedness: It's All About Having A Plan!¹¹

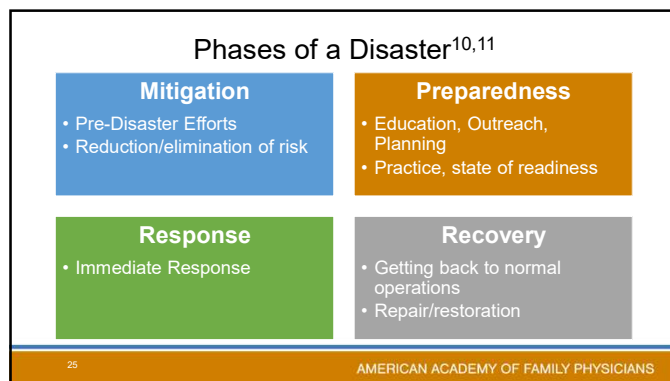
- FM providers often have roles in multiple departments in multiple settings/hospitals/clinics
 - Understanding the preparedness plan in each setting and your role
- Future Preparedness Plans
 - Flu vaccinations for Children/adults exposed to COVID



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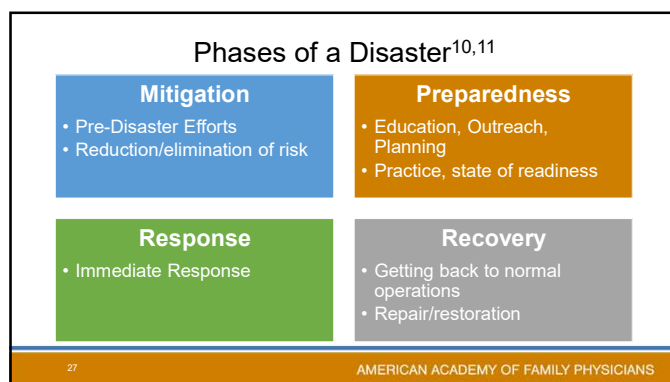
Response¹¹

- As global health trained family medicine physicians, we are used to working in **limited resource settings** and this may be more comfortable to us than to our colleagues
- Disasters that occur over the course of hours to days may require medical professionals to work extended hours
 - Remember, if all providers show up in the first 12 hours, everyone is tired and there is **no relief shift** – you can plan to relieve providers after the first few hours



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Recovery¹¹

- This is where we as **family medicine physicians shine**
 - We blend our expertise for taking care of **every-day medical problems** as well as **acute issues** and take on patients who can be discharged from the hospital with **close follow-up and coordination of care**
- Plan for **Post-COVID clinics**
 - Some are already popping up in various places of the country



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AAFP Statement Regarding Family Medicine Physicians in Disaster Planning

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AAFP Committee Letter to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee¹²

- Letter Written July 8, 2020 in response to a white paper titled **“Preparing for the Next Pandemic”**
- Recommends that Preparedness efforts include a **Primary Care Strategy**
- Coordination of Governmental Organizations with Primary Care Organizations
 - And “the creation of a **primary care liaison** within CDC, ASPR and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to **engage physicians who work in primary care outpatient settings**”
- Priority of Immunization and Supplies (PPE) to Primary Care

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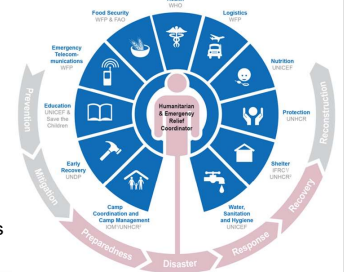
International Response

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International Response^{13,14}

- The United Nations has a formal organizational plan to address a **sudden onset emergency**
- Designed to support the country affected and **organize the international response**
- Country led response teams have a **decade of disaster experience**
- Cluster Response to organize NGOs with **one Lead NGO** in each cluster



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Thank You!

Questions?

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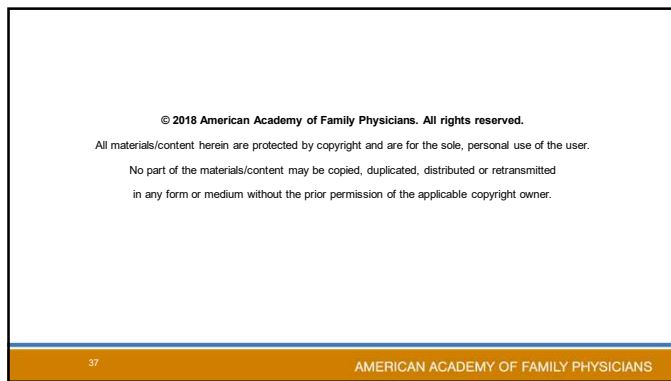
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