

Introduction to Disaster Management for the Family Physician

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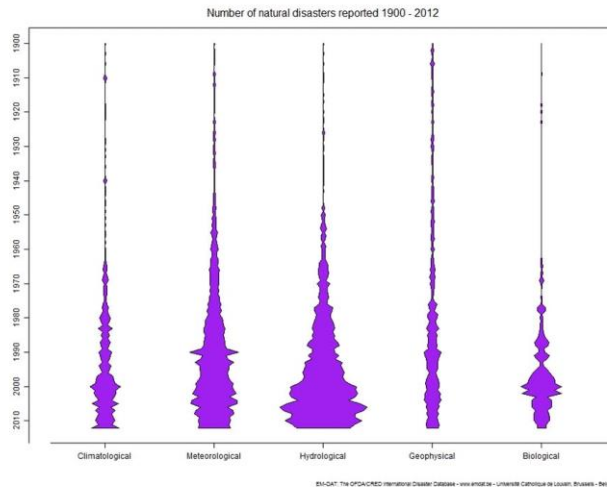
PGY3 – Emergency Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Family Medicine Forum 2017

Objectives

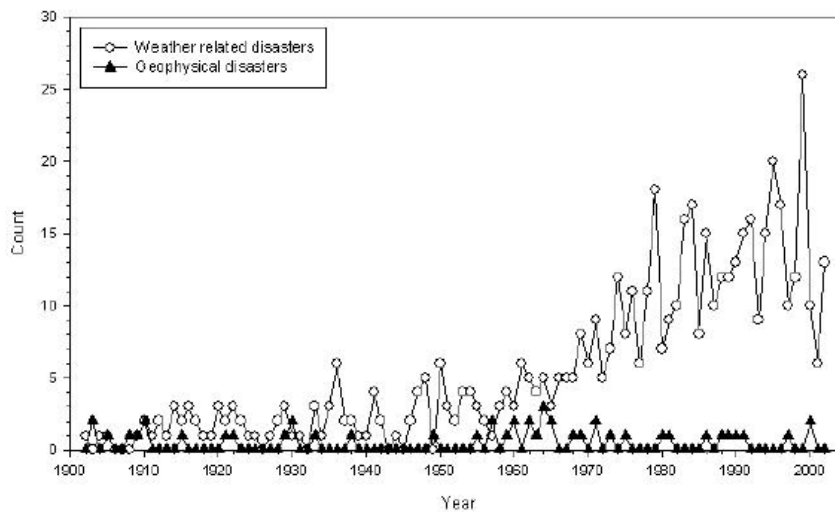
1. Review the basic elements of disaster management in Canada
2. Discuss patient and college expectations of family physicians during disasters
3. Discuss elements of:
 1. Personal Preparedness
 2. Practice Preparedness
4. Explore next steps to developing a disaster response plan for your practice

Increased Frequency of Natural Disasters



EM-DAT: International Disaster Database

Increasing Frequency of Disasters in Canada



The Public Health Agency of Canada



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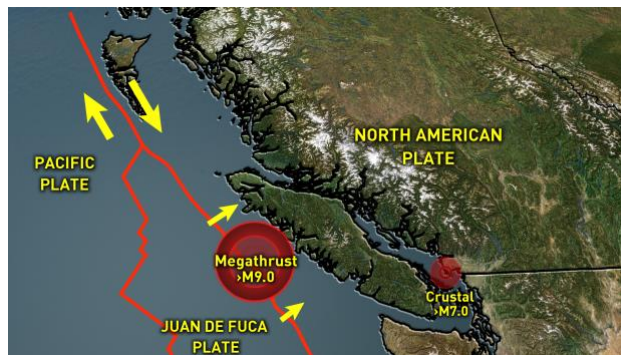
The Globe and Mail



Canadian Broadcasting Corporation



Transportation Safety Board of Canada



Canadian Broadcasting Corporation



The Toronto Sun

Pathogenesis of a Disaster

- Hazard: source of potential threat to public health/safety
 - Natural: hurricane, avalanche, earthquake...
 - Human: terrorism, fires, war...
- Vulnerability: conditions which increase the susceptibility to hazards
- Risk: likelihood of the consequence of a hazard being realized
 - Vulnerability + proximity/exposure to hazards

Emergency vs. Disaster



ClimateDailyBroadcasting Corporation

The Disaster Management Cycle



Mitigation

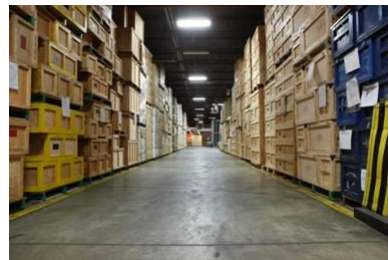
- Measures to eliminate or reduce the impact of hazards
- Building codes, floodways, ...



Manitoba Historical Society

Preparedness

- Measures taken prior to an event to increase the ability to respond to a disaster
- Emergency response plans, supply depots, training



Public Health Agency of Canada

Response

- Actions during or immediately before a disaster to manage its consequences
- Emergency medical assistance, search and rescue...



Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Recovery

- To repair or restore conditions to an acceptable level following a disaster
- Return of evacuees, rebuilding infrastructure...



Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Framework of Disaster Management in Canada

- Initial response managed by local officials – public health, EMS, police, fire
- If necessary escalated to provincial Emergency Management Organization
- Major disasters may require involvement of Public Safety Canada, Department of National Defence



What is the obligation of a physician in a disaster?



College Policies

Providing Care

The College expects physicians to provide medical care during a health emergency. Medical care should be provided in accordance with any federal, provincial and local emergency plans.

In doing so, physicians fulfill their individual commitment to patients, professional commitment to colleagues and collective commitment to the public.

CPSO, 2009

Public Expectations of Family Physicians

- 2005 Decima Research poll commissioned by the CFPC:
 - 96% state it is important for family doctors to have access to information, equipment, supplies, and other supports needed in the event of a public health emergency
 - 93% agree that primary care professionals must be involved in the development of emergency plans for Canada

CFPC, 2005

Family Physician Confidence

- October 2005 poll of Family Physicians:
 - **71% of family doctors do not feel sufficiently ready** in their practice to handle a public health emergency/disaster
 - **65% are not confident** that they will be able to get information, equipment, supplies, and personnel needed in regional emergency

CFPC, 2005

Disaster Preparedness for the Family Physician

- Personal preparedness: Am I prepared to survive a disaster?
- Practice preparedness: Is my practice prepared to function following a disaster?

Personal Emergency Preparedness



Personal Disaster Preparedness – Where to start?

- GetPrepared.gc.ca
- RedCross.ca/prepare



Practice Disaster Preparedness

1. What disasters are we likely to face?
2. What services will my patients need?
3. How do we fit into the community's response?
4. How do we develop capacity to continue functioning during disasters?

Practice Preparedness: What disasters are likely?

- Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment (HIRA)
 - Local hospital
 - Local Public Health
 - Provincial Emergency Management

Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment for the Province of Ontario



Emergency Management Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services 2012

Practice Preparedness: What services will my patients need?

- High-risk patients: frail elderly, mobility-restricted, poorly managed chronic conditions, near-term pregnancy...
 - Wellness checks... By phone? In person?
- Disaster-related medical complications: wildfire → smoke → asthma exacerbation?
- Cancellation of non-urgent appointments? Temporary change to walk-in model for registered patients?



TIME Magazine

Practice Preparedness: How does my practice fit into the community response?

- Large urban centre vs. small rural community?
- Hospital-affiliated vs. independent practice?
- Individual practice vs. group practice?
- Coordinate with nearby clinics?
- Who is coordinating the overall response?

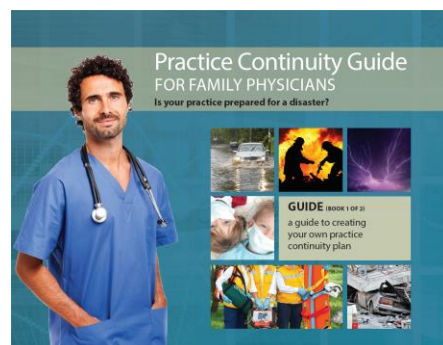
Practice Preparedness: How do we go about developing our capability?

- Disaster response plan
 - Prepare your office
 - Prepare your staff
 - Prepare your equipment
 - Prepare your patients

Disaster Response Plan

- Basics:
 - Designated incident leader
 - Primary hazards foreseen
 - Staff contact information/fan out list (texting!)
 - Staff responsibilities in disaster
 - External suppliers contact info – power, internet, phone...
 - Insurance information

- Keep a hard copy in a safe, accessible location



Victoria Division of Family Practice

Preparing Your Office Space

- Fire management system
- Critical records inventory
 - Which documents are critical?
 - Can I access them without electricity or Internet?
- Emergency power generators - local funding?
- Communications – VOIP? Landline?



Preparing Emergency Equipment

- Wound care & first aid supplies
- Emergency medications – inhalers, crash cart...
- Backup paper charting template, written Rx pad, lab reqs



Preparing Your Staff

- Discuss disaster preparedness at staff meeting
- Inform staff of responsibilities, expectations in a disaster
- Regularly review the response plan as a team

Preparing Your Patients

- Have a method to communicate the status of your practice widely
 - Twitter? Website?
- Inform patients of what to expect from your practice in a disaster
- Consider having reading material regarding personal preparedness in your waiting room



Next Steps

1. Identify a disaster preparedness lead for your practice
2. Communicate with local experts – public health, hospital emergency preparedness officer
3. Begin developing a plan on how your practice would respond to a disaster
 1. Victoria Division of Family Practice: Practice Continuity Guide

Tips for Tomorrow

- Make or purchase a 72hr personal preparedness kit
- Maintain a hard copy of patients & staff with their contact information
- Create a Twitter account for your practice to inform patients of closure/services

Questions?



CBS This Morning