



Trauma Team Activation Plan during Disaster

KEYWORDS

Trauma Centre, Disaster Plan, Schema

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ABSTRACT

Disasters are situation which come un-alarmed and they clearly strain the hospital's infrastructure and resources to function in full capacity. The hospital itself lands up in a crisis situation while managing disaster victims. In order to combat such a situation each hospital particularly those designated or functioning as trauma care hospital should have a written and widely distributed disaster management programme in order to activate the trauma team and save life of trauma victims coming in large numbers in such a situation.

Introduction

Disasters both natural and man-made have the potential to kill thousands of people in minutes. Moreover, many more people are killed during the following weeks and years due to the consequences of disasters [1]. In the recent past India like other parts of the world has witnessed many such disasters notably the Gujrat Earthquake in 2001, Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004, Mumbai catastrophic rains in 2005, Bihar Flood in 2007, Mumbai terrorist attack 2008, Uttarakhand Flash Floods in 2013 and recently in 2015 the Nepal earthquake. During the Nepal earthquake, there were more than 8,000 deaths and more than 14,000 people who were injured in Nepal and Sub Himalayan areas of India as well. Thousands of people were made homeless across many districts of the country [2]. During the past twenty years, natural disasters have affected more than three million families (i.e. at least 800 million people) worldwide and have cost more than \$500 billion [3]. Disasters affect all economic, political, and cultural infrastructures of afflicted communities and inundate healthcare systems with huge numbers of victims for prolonged periods of time [4].

Hospitals are among the healthcare centres whose prompt and efficient services can play a significant role in decreasing disaster mortality rate [5]. Accordingly, hospitals should be designed and built in such a way that they can effectively manage all kinds of high-pressure crisis situations [6]. Effective disaster management necessitates having adequate hospital disaster preparedness hospital disaster preparedness (HDP) [7] which is one of the major concerns of the World Health Organization [8].

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is an agency of the Ministry of Home Affairs in India, whose primary purpose is to coordinate response to natural or man-made disasters and for capacity-building in disaster resiliency and crisis response. NDMA was established through the Disaster Management Act enacted by the Government of India in December 2005. NDMA collaborates with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in developing emergency health and ambulance services. Specifically, it focuses on capacity building in dealing with mass casualty at local hospitals. Hence it is mandatory that a plan of action for disaster management should be prepared in major govern-

ment hospitals so that whenever disaster occurs all personals involved in the disaster management should know what they have to do and how they have to work to save the life of the victims. There should also be equal emphasis on regular updates and mock drills to re-enforce upon the status of preparedness to disaster situation.

In the city of Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh, India, a tertiary level University teaching hospital and a well equipped state of art Level one Trauma Centre has been established in order to provide a continuous trauma care to people of a wide area of eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Nepal. The Trauma Centre also shoulders the responsibility of providing a competent and effective health care service provider at any event of disaster. To successfully meet the requirement of the high pressure crisis situation arising out of any disaster, the Trauma Centre, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi has developed a trauma team activation plan for disaster management which has been briefly described in this article.

Need for the layout plan on Disaster Management

The foremost need of the layout plan for disaster management in a hospital is to have a preparedness to handle a disaster situation. This defines the essential items that need to be stored and kept ready to be used as and when situation demands. The lay out plan can define on an individual basis the role of all health care personals and the exact schema of plan of action when the victims of disaster start pouring in a number which could strain the capacity of providing health care service by the hospital. The lay out plan can precisely define how to have a quick, effective and precise communication among the health care providers and also with the government and non-government organizations in order to facilitate the health services. This will prevent any chaos during the time of managing disaster. With repeated imitation practices / mock drills as per the guidelines set by the lay out plan the hospital can work in an efficient way to maximise the number of lives saved in a situation of disaster.

Disaster activation plan

Disaster activation plan has to be made on the goal to have some contingency plans in the event of a problem. A disaster management plan exists to effectively cope up with the stress

