

# Advanced Disaster Medical Response

## Abstract, Objectives & Content



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Available from the Rural Response Group [www.RuralResponse.com](http://www.RuralResponse.com)

Disasters follow no rules. Traditionally, medical providers have held the erroneous belief that all disasters are different, especially those involving terrorism. In reality, all disasters, regardless of etiology, have similar medical and public health consequences.

A consistent medical approach to disasters, based on an understanding of their common features and the response they require, is becoming the accepted practice throughout the world. This strategy, called the Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) response, has the primary objective of reducing the mortality caused by the disaster.

The Advanced Disaster Medical Response, Provider Course is designed to train multidisciplinary medical response personnel in the ABC's of basic medical and public health disaster care, medical response to terrorism, and special considerations such as mental health and the care of the dead. Dr. Susan Briggs developed the course, along with the accompanying manual, in conjunction with the Harvard Medical International and the Massachusetts General Hospital International Trauma and Disaster Institute.

The student manual includes twenty-five chapters of detailed information to compliment the 8-hour course.

### **Mass Casualty Management**

#### **Objective**

Identify various types of Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI)  
Lessons learned from past MCI's

#### **Content:**

Definition of Mass Casualty Incidents  
Definition of "austere environment"  
Elements of MCI response

### **Incident Command System**

#### **Objective**

Identify creation and importance of Incident Command System (ICS)

#### **Content**

Identify structure of ICS  
Exploration of principles of ICS and importance for responders

### **ABC's of Disaster Response**

#### **Objective**

Explore impact of disasters on medical and public health infrastructure to formulate an effective and efficient medical response.

**Content**

Discuss development of Search-and Rescue Teams.  
Explore conventional civilian triage priorities vs. field medical triage priorities.  
Identify requirements for definitive medical care.  
Explore indications and modes of evacuation.  
Discuss the development and necessity of Rapid Needs Assessment

**Decontamination****Objective**

Discuss lessons learned from accidents involving hazardous materials and relation to terrorist events

**Content**

Explore two main goals in setting up decontamination at a medical facility  
Discuss stages of decontamination  
Understand decontamination techniques  
Discuss nuclear, biologic and chemical special needs

**Biological Agents****Objective**

Study the threat of biological agents and the vulnerability of civilian populations

**Content**

Recognize various disease agents believed to have greatest potential for bioterrorism  
Identify routes of exposure  
Exploration of response to various bacterial and viral agents by learning clinical effects, prophylaxis and treatment

**Chemical Agents****Objective**

Study the threat of chemical agents and the vulnerability of civilian populations

**Content**

Recognize three ways chemical agents are dispersed  
Identify five classes of chemical agents, their characteristics, clinical effects and treatments  
Attention to setting up treatment areas and decontamination

**Radioactive Agents****Objective**

Study the threat of nuclear agents and the vulnerability of civilian populations

**Content**

Identify principles and types of ionizing radiation  
Explore medical and biological effects of ionizing radiation  
Examples of various radiation treat scenarios and emergency management  
Discussion of triage and decontamination of radiation casualties  
Recognition of special issues, such as command structure and monitoring

## **Blast Injuries**

### **Objective**

Identify various types of explosives and detonators and injuries caused.

### **Content**

Discuss lessons learned from explosions and bombings, especially those related to terrorism.

## **Crush Injuries**

### **Objective**

Identify lessons learned from disasters resulting in crush and extremity injuries

### **Content**

Explore clinical manifestations and definitive management of crush syndrome.

Discussion of physical examination with regard to visual inspection, palpation, neurological examination, vascular assessment

Discussion of surgical and nonsurgical management

Discuss compartment syndrome

## **Psychological Response to Disasters**

### **Objectives**

Study importance of psychosocial issues in disasters

### **Content**

Explore event characteristics of disasters that affect mental health

Individual and collective factors impacting psychological response

Epidemiologic research on psychological response and sequelae to disasters

Exploration of interventions

Discuss rolls for the mental health professional

Discuss signs, factors contributing to and management of worker stress