

Doing the best for the  
masses?

What is the common  
good?

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# Objectives

- When done, you will be able to describe altered standards of care under extreme conditions
- When done, you will be able to identify when extreme conditions exist
- What the heck are special needs populations?
- When done, you will be able to identify the stages of a disaster

# Disaster Myths

- ✘ Preparedness and training will prevent chaos
- ✘ People will panic
- ✘ The public can not handle the truth
- ✘ The dead carry diseases and need to be buried quickly
- ✘ The U.S. Federal Government will take care of us

# Model State Emergency Health Powers Act

- An occurrence or imminent threat of an illness or health condition that is believed to be caused by any of the following
  - bioterrorism
  - appearance of a novel or previously controlled or eradicated infectious agents or bio toxin
  - natural disaster
  - chemical attack or accidental release
  - nuclear attack or accident

# Model State Emergency Health Powers Act

- Poses a high probability of any of the following harms
  - large number of deaths
  - large number of serious or long-term disabilities
  - widespread exposure to an infectious or toxic agent that poses a significant risk for substantial future harm

# Model State Emergency Health Powers Act

- Grants states and local public health agencies extraordinary rights
  - Ability to waive state professional licensing and certifications requirements for VOLUNTEERS
  - Control private properties

# Historic Michigan Disasters

- Bath School disaster 1927
  - Upset over taxes and farm foreclosure
  - Dynamite: 45 people killed and 58 injured
- Iron Mountain, Mine explosion 1901
  - *Fannema, Amone, Passtri, Milano, Tassi, Bertelli, Ausnino, and an unk named Pole*
- Earthquake, 1947
  - Past 6 months, there have been quakes in IN and OH

# Michigan Disasters

- 2007 ice storm
  - >200,000 without power. 4 MI deaths
- 2003 ice storm
  - Gusts 50-70 mph
  - Waves Lake Huron 25 feet
- 1976 “worst ice storm ever”
  - >5” of ice on wires
  - > 600,000 without power some for 10 days

# Michigan Disasters

- ✦ Blackout
- ✦ Ice Storm
- ✦ Earthquake
- ✦ Music festivals
- ✦ Floods
- ✦ Auto industry
- ✦ Football and Baseball teams

# Declared Michigan Disasters

- 2000: Severe Storms/flooding
- 2002: Flooding
- 2005: Storms/Tornadoes/Flooding - >\$5,000,000
- 2008: Storms/Tornadoes/Flooding - >\$19,000,000

# Expectations for Altered Standards

- Hospital
- Prehospital: EMS
- Disaster zone: EMS, police, fire, citizens

# Ethics

- Deontological- duty based
  - respect for individual autonomy requires that citizens subject to the power of government be able to influence how that power is used and be protected from its misuse

# Ethical Principles in Emergency Care

- Individual liberty
- Protection of the public
- Proportionality
- Privacy
- Duty to provide
- Solidarity
- Trust
- Stewardship
- Open and transparent
- Inclusive\*
- Accountable\*

# Altered Standards of Care Hospital

- Triage issues
- Ventilator
- Surge issues
- Palliative care
- Legal

# Altered Standards of Care Hospital

- Communication issues
- Unions
- Quarantine
- Isolation

# Challenges for the Healthcare Provider

- Loss of essential services
- Loss of infrastructure
- Shortage of staff
- Triage of a larger group
- Patient surge
- ACS not really well equipped

# EMS Thoughts

- EMS is different
- Often left out of plans or away from the table
- Expect EMS:
  - To be hurt or infected
  - Carry contaminants
  - Not be organized
  - Concerned about the bottom dollar

# EMS considerations

- Triage
  - most of the time: Bubba ambulances
  - most of the time: gestalt triage, MASS, Sacco, START
  - black tag
- Lack of coordination
  - training (radiation, chemical, biological)
  - communication
- Suspension of protocols
- Non traditional usage

# Special Needs Population

- Ventilator
- Nursing home
- Home bound
- Physically challenged
- Mentally challenged
- Extreme of ages
- VA patients
- Should consider pre registration in danger zones

# Who should perform triage

- An experienced practitioner
- Some one who is able to see the patients
- Some one is aware of the logistics, transportation, and medical condition of the population
- The other category for triage

# Palliative care

- What is is:
  - Evidence-based medical treatment
  - Care of patient's pain, symptoms and anxiety throughout their illness
  - Humanitarian care when there is nothing else to offer
  - Military-radiation

# Palliative care

- What it is not:
  - Abandonment
  - Euthanasia
  - Hastening death

# Palliative care Triage

- Who should perform
  - Some one is medically experienced
  - Some one who is aware of the overall situation
  - Not be done by a prehospital provider
  - It should not be done solo

# Triage in general

- Transparent
- Fair
- Consistent
- Dynamic
- Flexible

# Black Out Issues

- Ventilator patients
- Lack of communication between hospitals
- PCC utilized
- Water issues
- Ability to sterilize instruments
- Hospitals were a safe haven

# Protection for Volunteers

- Governmental sovereign immunity
- Federal and State volunteer protection acts
- Good Samaritan Act
- State emergency health powers statutes
- Mutual aid compacts: EMAC

# Protection for Volunteers

- Protected from civil liability as long as they act in good faith and without:
  - willful misconduct
  - gross negligence
  - recklessness

# What to expect in a terrorist disruption

- Explosion/bombing: 1:8 -10 casualties
- Biological: depends on infectiousness/virility
  - most are  $\leq 1$  in the CDC/WHO severity
- Radiation: worried well
- Chemical: depends what you have

# Planning for the big one!

- ✦ There are 2 types of Mass Disruption/Mass Casualty Event
  - ✦ Sudden
  - ✦ Developing or sustained input
    - ✦ war
    - ✦ economic
    - ✦ health care

# Planning MD/MCE

- Proactive
- Build and maintain relationships
- Regional and local coordination
- Exercise response plan
- Know your communication audience
- Legal and ethical issues
- Palliative care
- Vulnerable populations

# Resources

- ✦ [www.publichealthlaw.net/MSEHPA/MSEHPA2.pdf](http://www.publichealthlaw.net/MSEHPA/MSEHPA2.pdf)
- ✦ [www.publichealthlaw.net/resources/BTlaw.htm](http://www.publichealthlaw.net/resources/BTlaw.htm)
- ✦ [www.nyu.edu/ccpr/projects/laser.html](http://www.nyu.edu/ccpr/projects/laser.html)
- ✦ [www.llis.gov](http://www.llis.gov)