



Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Florida Conference Brigade, Medical Cadet Corps
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Disaster First Aid Part 1: Introduction

The first aid techniques and knowledge used during a disaster event are the same rudimentary skills acquired in any **first aid course**. There are any numbers of available courses to take on line or at facilities. For example, the American Red Cross has several classes on first aid. There are also classes for BTLS (Basic Trauma Life Support) and Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS). Also, ecprcertification.com (free), the American Heart Association (AHA), and OSHA offer online programs that only take an hour to complete and give good basic response training. Any of these will be acceptable foundations for adapting skills to the unique environments and stresses of disasters.

An important assumption about disasters is that the **survivors outnumber the rescuers**. Also, the local capacity for treatment is usually exceeded. This explains why disaster medical operations are conducted as they are. Triage becomes an important first task as the situation is assessed. Those nearest to someone with life-threatening injuries are best available to provide the first care, which should focus on moving someone away from danger, stopping severe bleeding, positioning the injured so they can breathe, keeping them warm, and providing comfort. CPR is not necessarily a first line response when met with a multitude of victims that need immediate help to enable their survival. CPR is labor intensive and needs professional aid and equipment that may not be available or timely.

Another important point here is that the rescuer needs to know post-disaster survival skills and techniques. Knowing how to protect yourself is an important part of delivering care to others.

Goal

The goal of disaster medical operations is to do the greatest good for the greatest number. History has shown that about 40% of disaster survivors can be saved with simple and rapid medical care (CERT Manual, ed. 2019 Aug). Death can occur within *minutes* of a disaster from overwhelming damage to vital organs. Death can occur over several *hours* due to ongoing bleeding. Or, death can occur *days* later as a result of infection or multiple-organ failure. So, an important part of rescuing is to **pray for and with your victims**. This cannot be emphasized too much. Jesus is coming soon, and this is our goal in helping people, to help save body and soul.

It is important to be able to recognize severe bleeding, airway obstruction, and shock in the injured. But prior to any intervention, it is necessary to **consider if it is a safe spot to render care or if is moving a better option**. Should help be summoned before starting to care for survivors? Each situation has its own answer.

Above all, remember that the disaster changes the rules of care dramatically and rapidly. The way to proceed in one disaster may not be effective in another. There is a difference between a bicycle accident

and an airplane crash and not just in the volume of victims, but also in the danger to the rescuers and the community.

Knowledge Assessment

1. What is the goal of Disaster medical operations?

2. Check the two life threatening conditions that can benefit from rapid intervention.

_____ Cardiac arrest

_____ Limp amputation with bleeding

_____ Dislocated shoulder

_____ Airway obstruction from forward bent head and neck

3. Write if the following statement is true or false:

The rescuer knowing how to be safe in a disaster is important to the victims.

4. Write if the following statement is true or false:

CPR is an important part of disaster medical response.

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For course certification, the form must be filled out.

Member Name (Print) _____ Instructor Name (Print) _____

Member Position Number _____ Instructor Position Number _____

Member FEMA SID _____ Instructor FEMA SID _____

Date of Instruction _____



Understand the importance of first aid courses in Disaster Medicine.



Define what distinguishes Disaster Medicine from most situations.



Define the goal of Disaster Medicine.



Understand the importance of situational circumstances for Disaster Medicine.

_____ Pass the knowledge assessment.

With a complete sheet of initials, the instructor's signature signifies certification of completion for the Disaster First Aid Part 1: Introduction course.

Instructor Signature _____