

Rambam developed a program to overcome these obstacles. Regular hospital services were suspended and a high level of readiness mandated by the program was maintained for the duration of the war (two months). The intensity and length of the program produced various unanticipated problems such as:

- 1) maintaining the necessary level of alert;
- 2) staff fatigue from 12-hour shifts;
- 3) idle hours that reduced enthusiasm for continuation of the program; and
- 4) anxiety of staff with family members at home during SCUD missile attacks.

This presentation will discuss these problems, along with solutions, so that they may be dealt with better or be avoided in similar future situations.

92 Hospital Training Exercise for Mass Chemical Warfare Casualties

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Introduction: The preparation of hospitals for absorption of chemical warfare casualties demands planning an exercise and training program for hospital personnel and auxiliary services.

Methods: A unique scheme was devised for triage, decontamination, therapeutic treatment, and life-saving procedures to prepare the hospital for such an event. The exercise is preceded with introductory lectures for the hospital staff on the clinical aspects and the therapeutic treatment of chemical warfare injuries.

Results: During the exercise, the hospital receives a multitude of simulated chemical warfare casualties of varying age and injury severity. These "casualties" pass through triage, decontamination, and appropriate therapeutic treatment. The medical and auxiliary staff who treat casualties before and during decontamination wear full protective gear. A specific kit consisting of equipment and antidotal drugs necessary for treatment of chemical warfare casualties is used. Medical and logistic controllers check the hospital management at various stages of the program.

Conclusions: It is believed that this scheme, repeated on a regular basis, can preserve optimal management of the hospital in the event of a chemical warfare attack.

93 Joint Activity on Health Aspects of Chemical Accidents

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Four international organizations: 1) International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) (ILO/UNEP/ILO); 2) World Health Organization-European Centre for Environmental Health (WHO-ECEH); 3) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); and 4) United Nations Environment Programme-Industry and Environment Programme Advisory Committee (UNEP-IE/PAC) have undertaken a joint project to prepare guidance on health aspects of chemical accidents. A general guidance document for policy-makers and a technical document for various professionals involved in planning and response to chemical accidents is being drafted.

The documents to be published and distributed worldwide are the result of drafting work by a group of experts in the field from all over the world, and the examination at an international workshop of some 70 experts, held in April 1993. These documents are concerned with various aspects of the health sector's responsibilities in preparedness for an response to chemical accidents, including provision of information, organization and planning, patient management, and education and training.

The guidance material on health aspects of chemical accidents will be used by the four organizations in their various programs dealing with chemical accidents. The technical document is intended to be used by health care professionals, and also addresses those at the operational level who are responsible for preparing and implementing chemical accident contingency plans. This document will be a valuable training tool for these various professionals.

94 The International Chemical Environment (ICE) Project

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Although the chemical industry has a fine record in transport safety, it is committed to continuous improvement. Under its Responsible Care Initiative, the statement is: "one incident is one too many." The International Chemical Environment (ICE) is a cooperative program between chemical companies to prevent chemical transport incidents and to respond effectively if and when they do occur.

The ICE was started in May 1990 by a small group of chemical companies which recognized the need for such coopera-