EMTs, and the operational aspects and support behind the scenes to deploy a team.

Methods: Analysis of operational activities and support for pre-deployment, deployment, and post-deployment phases including preparedness through innovation, collaboration, development, and maintenance of a high-performance team and cache.

Results: The analysis of operational activities behind the scenes of deploying EMT maps the unique complexities of maintaining and deploying a high-performance team at all stages of deployment, demonstrating the success of a team in the field is attributed to the support and activities of the team back home to deploy them.

Discussion: There is substantial preparation and behind the scenes operational activities that are undertaken to deploy and support a deployed EMT. Lessons learned from each deployment build on the operational capacity of staff deploying a team and on the future directions, innovations, and practices of a deployed team in the field.

Preparing Health Care Professionals for Public Health Disaster Management

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Introduction: Disasters are a major challenge for public health because of damage caused by death, injury, or illness that exceeds health services' ability to respond. Health professionals and students require awareness and understanding of particular aspects of disaster planning, mitigation, response, or recovery. In Brazil, despite the increase in the number and intensity of disasters, there is no formal acceptance regarding the need to integrate disaster content into curriculum guidelines (1)

Aim: To develop and test referential and models for disaster management health professional education.

Methods: Competence-based education has been proposed. The methodology adopted was developed by the Association (2) and adapted to be used in the Brazilian context. An initial literature search was performed in MEDLINE via PubMed, Google Scholar, Lilacs, and Scielo databases using disaster and competencies as descriptors.

Results: Articles and documents in Portuguese, Spanish, and English were identified for: public health (21), nursing (20), multi-professional (16), psychology (4), pharmacy (4), dentistry (2), medicine (1), veterinary (2), and nutrition (1). Data were organized according to a proposal from the literature (3) Selection of benchmarks for the preparation of education models identified 27 referential, three of them developed in Brazil.

Discussion: Application and evaluation of the methodology developed with undergraduate students of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul consisted of an initiative to prepare health care professionals for disaster management.

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The Problems on Your Desk: A Research Study to Define and Describe Paramedic Practice in Canada

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Introduction: Paramedicine is a rapidly evolving profession, growing from its initial role of providing emergency care and transportation of the sick and injured into a broad discipline providing a wide range of care in multiple practice settings, yet the field is relatively unexplored. Much of the research in the field centers on patient care, often from the perspective of emergency medicine. A growing body of literature describing the discipline itself is largely descriptive.

Aim: This interactive presentation describes and contributes to an applied research project that will define and describe Canadian paramedic practice. The research will develop frameworks, common taxonomy and designs, and evidence to support development of a national Canadian Paramedic Information System.

Methods: This two-year mixed methods study is gathering data from a literature review, stakeholder workshops, and key informant interviews. The project will develop "user cases" that explore the issues and challenges facing Canadian paramedic stakeholders and identify the information and data required to address those issues.

Results: The presentation will present initial findings that describe core concepts, data/knowledge structures, and models that are foundational to understanding and informing current and emerging paramedic practice. It will explore this data in relation to operational needs of practitioners, operations, communities, and stakeholders to inform decision-making, guiding policy and direction, and advancing the profession. Lastly, it will develop explanatory principles, models, and relationships in a conceptual framework that describes paramedic practice.

Discussion: The study will develop models and core data sets that guide research and support policy development at local and national levels, and inform operational and strategic decision-making. The presentation will provide an overview of the research and findings to date. Participants will engage in activities that explore the user-cases and selected findings, applying