

Organising Ophthalmological Aid in Disasters and Emergencies

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- 1) Lost of vision in emergencies is a severe mental injury;
- 2) Provide first aid. Eye specialists should be included in the general medical team;
- 3) A special kit containing medicines, bandages and instruments has been developed to provide ophthalmological first aid;
- 4) A colour marker card system to identify eye injuries has been developed; and
- 5) A list of recommendations for first aid to patients with eye injuries, including disinfectant drop instillation, application of sterile bandages and hospitalisation in a specialised eye centre, is presented.

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Management of the Mass Casualties of Traffic Accidents in the City

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The number of Chinese drivers comprise 2.2% of the total in the world. But the automobile accidents in China comprise 9%. Currently, the number of people dying from traffic accidents is about 86,000/year. Shanghai is one of the biggest cities in the world. It contains a population of 13,000,000. The average density of population is >1,000 persons/km² and >10,000 persons/km² in the downtown. The daily commuting population in Shanghai is >2,000,000. Statistics of the past five years show that the traffic accidents exceed the past records by 60,000 cases with 2 persons killed every day (in China, one person is killed by accidents every 6 minutes).

Table 1—Numbers of traffic accidents, injured, and deaths in Shanghai 1987–1991

Year	Accidents	Wounded	Dead
1987	18,475	10,059	1,514
1988	20,074	9,500	1,164
1989	8,736	8,991	947
1990	7,621	4,699	607
1991	7,524	4,450	594
Total	62,430	37,699	4,826

Table 2—The number of traffic accidents, wounded, and dead in China 1987–1991

Year	Accidents	Wounded	Dead
1987	298,147	187,399	53,439
1988	276,071	170,598	54,814
1989	258,030	159,002	50,441
1990	250,297	155,072	49,271
1991	264,817	162,019	53,292
Total	1,347,362	834,090	261,257

The data indicate: 1) 85% of all the persons killed in traffic accidents are >40 years old; 2) Prehospital mortality is 66% of the total; 3) 60% of traffic accidents are related to bicycle riders; 4) Owing to the improvement of prehospital first-aid and emergency facilities, the mortality rate and the number of wounded has decreased in recent years.

The Shanghai First-Aid Central Station (SFACS) owns 173 ambulances and employs 517 specialists. The new resuscitation ambulance, called "Movable ICU", is equipped with a cardiopulmonary monitor, ventilator, emergency drugs, and other resuscitative equipment. The ambulance also is equipped with an excellent communication system that can connect with any part of the communication network in Shanghai. A total of 110,889 persons who needed first-aid were transported by SPACS in 1991. The number of people wounded by traffic accidents and other events (such as burns, intoxication, drowning, etc.) was 26,681 with 318 persons found dead before hospitalization.