

## MEETING ABSTRACTS

### Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) Education and Training – Improving Disaster Preparedness with the Portuguese Emergency Medical Team (PT EMT) E-Learning Course

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**Background/Introduction:** EMT's training is considered of high importance for disaster preparedness and response. The PT EMT, joined the TEAMS 3.0 Consortium, seeking to develop a universal training program for EMTs.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the PT EMT E-learning Course in preparing trainees for disaster during their EMT initial training.

**Method/Description:** The analyzed data were collected through the application of a final questionnaire, which aimed to assess the effectiveness of the topics covered and the self-perception of disaster preparedness. A total of 31 trainees attended the E-learning Course, but only 25 answers were collected.

**Results/Outcomes:** The results showed that 92% of the trainees considered as the most important themes three areas: (1) Disaster and Humanitarian Principles; (2) Safety & Self-Protection; and (3) Disaster Logistics. The overall mean score was 4.52 points (SD = 0.770) out of five for the importance of this training for the performance of their mission roles and 4.48 points (SD = 0.770) in the contribution of these contents to their individual development. After completing this E-learning

module, 88% consider themselves better prepared to disaster response and to attend the practical module of the initial training program.

**Conclusion:** The PT EMT E-learning Course, preceding the practical TEAMS 3.0 course, proved to be effective in the preparation of trainees for the practical training, but especially, it adds a huge variety of important knowledge, solidifying their preparedness for disaster response.

The development of common training bases for EMTs, with both modules, will improve the disaster preparedness and response.

#### References (optional)

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