

Educating Responders: Findings of Disaster Public Health Research

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During and following a natural disaster, human populations are thought to be at greater risk or differential risk of panic, economic loss, criminal victimization, psychological and physical morbidity, and mortality. Drawing both on the research of others and that conducted at UCLA's Center for Public Health and Disaster Relief following California earthquakes, this paper examines the extent to which research evidence supports these assumptions.

We examine: 1) the extent to which preparedness behaviors advocated by experts were followed before, during and after earthquakes; 2) how persons respond at the time of a disaster; 3) the amount and distribution of damage; 4) the extent to which they report use of agencies for assistance; 5) reported victimizations after earthquakes; 6) psychological and physical (including injury) morbidity after earthquakes; and 7) mortality rates. The implications of research findings for practitioners in the field are discussed.

Keywords: behavioral response; loss; preparedness; physical morbidity; psychological morbidity; service utilization; victimization

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Current Chemical and Biological Counter-Terrorism (CBCT) Research and Development in the Department of National Defence [Canada]

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Since 1941, the [Canada] Department of National Defence (DND) has undertaken research in chemical and biological (CB) defence at the Defence Research Establishment Suffield (DRES). The majority of chemical and biological defence equipment and procedures currently in use by the Canadian Forces (CF) are the result of this research and development. In recent years, DRES has expanded its mandate to include the scientific and technical aspects of CB counter-terrorism, and has focused on making the equipment originally developed for the CF available to the civilian CB counter-terrorism community.

This presentation will describe current research and development at DRES, next generation chemical and biological defence equipment, software and procedures for both the CF and the civilian CB counter-terrorism community.

Keywords: biologicals; Canada; chemicals; counter-terrorism; development; planning; research; terrorism

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