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Dentistry has valuable assets, both in personnel and facilities, to bring to the initial response to a mass casualty event when the local traditional medical system is overwhelmed. This article describes the services dentists can provide to allow physicians to provide the services only they can provide. The education and training of dentists that is required for preparation and the need to develop an integrated emergency response plan are discussed.

Disaster Response in Illinois: The Role for Dentists and Dental Hygienists	779
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Taking a leadership role, the Illinois Department of Public Health's Division of Oral Health has helped to successfully integrate oral health professionals into the emergency medical response system in Illinois by raising awareness, building needed partnerships, identifying and garnering resources, and facilitating training, policy development, surveillance, and evaluation. Applying the same principals and standards to the integration of oral health and disaster preparedness and response as it does to all facets of dental public health, the division has partnered with the Disaster Emergency Medicine Readiness Training Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago and many other key stakeholders to cement oral health as an integral component to the public health response system in Illinois.

The Importance of a Shared Vision in Emergency Preparedness: Engaging Partners in a Home-Rule State
Samuel Watson-Alván and Joseli Alves-Dunkerson

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This article discusses the importance of having a strong vision and culture within the context of emergency preparedness in a home-base state. It proposes a broader vision of public health, one that places public health emergency preparedness and response squarely at the center of the public health mission as a core function. It also lays out work currently underway and the future direction for maximizing the value of response-oriented partnerships at the state and local levels in the Evergreen State. The role of health care professionals and dental providers is specified in more detail. Broadening the public health vision requires recognition of the importance of multisectorial partnerships and their response potential, including the potential roles of all health-related professions and the development of systems to use that potential effectively.

All Hazards Training: Incorporating a Catastrophe Preparedness Mindset into the Dental School Curriculum and Professional Practice

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David L. Glotzer, E. Dianne Rekow, Frederick G. More, Benjamin Godder, and Walter Psoter

Catastrophic preparedness should be incorporated into the dental school curriculum. The experience at New York University College of Dentistry is that a combination of catastrophic preparedness elements integrated within existing courses with a short, meaningful capstone course dedicated to all hazards preparedness can be accomplished successfully and meet proposed competencies for training in the dental curriculum. The roles and responsibilities in catastrophic response preparedness and response of dentists are actively being discussed by the dental profession. An element of that discussion has to include the "what" and "how" of education and training for dentists at the predoctoral level and after dental school graduation. The concepts presented in this article should be debated at all levels of the profession.

National Disaster Life Support Programs: A Platform for Multi-Disciplinary Disaster Response

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Phillip L. Coule and Jack A. Horner

Proper training must prepare responders to consider various hazards and means by which to mitigate their effects. This article describes one such training program (the National Disaster Life Support program) as a possible means to prepare dental providers to better respond to disasters and describes a simple triage technique that can be used by dental professionals to triage patients.

TOPOFF 2 and the Inclusion of Dental Professionals into Federal Exercise Design and Execution

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James C. Hagen, Beverly Parota, and Mila Tsagalis

This article examines the dental professional's role in emergency management activities, specifically related to design and execution of such federal exercises as the Top Officials (TOPOFF) series. Experiences from the Chicago TOPOFF 2 exercise are used as an example.

The Role of the Dentist at Crime Scenes

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Melissa Naiman, A. Karl Larsen, Jr, and Peter R. Valentin

The medical response to a mass casualty further complicates the hectic environment that follows a terrorist event. In addition to providing treatment, medical professionals may discover items or persons of interest to the pending investigation and should be aware of how to handle these situations appropriately. Examples of case law are provided to illustrate how practitioners' actions could help or hinder prosecution. The traditional forensic role of dental professionals is identifying victims through dental records. In this article, the dental professional is considered a member of a disaster response team, and the differences in responsibilities are highlighted.

Pharmaceuticals and the Strategic National Stockpile Program

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Amy Stewart and Geoffrey A. Cordell

This article discusses current stockpile practices after exploring a history of the use of biologic agents as weapons, the preventive measures that the federal government has used in the past, and the establishment of a Strategic National Stockpile Program in 2003. The article also describes the additional medical supplies from the managed inventory and the federal medical stations. The issues (financial burden, personnel, and materiel selection) for local asset development are also discussed. Critical is the cost to local communities of the development and maintenance of a therapeutic agent stockpile and the need for personnel to staff clinics and medical stations. Finally, the important role of the dental profession for dispensing medication and providing mass immunization in the event of a disaster is described.

Engaging the Dental Workforce in Disaster Mitigation to Improve Recovery and Response

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Nicholas G. Mosca

Natural disasters may strike quickly and without warning and cause long-term health consequences beyond the immediate loss of lives and property. Dental professionals have a social responsibility to participate in community emergency preparedness planning and

response to mitigate prolonged recovery of the dental care infrastructure in the affected areas. Public health and emergency management agencies should plan for access to emergent dental care as part of a multidisciplinary local emergency response to mitigate the impact of devastation on the primary oral health needs of persons in the affected geographic areas. State dental associations should work with government agencies and emergency management groups to increase awareness of the importance for collaborative emergency response health services in the aftermath of natural disasters.

Oral Health Professionals Within State-Sponsored Medical Response Teams: The IMERT Perspective

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Moses S. Lee and Bernard Heilicser

In 1999, the State of Illinois recognized the need for a trained and credentialed medical response that can respond to any disaster within the state and will bring health professionals, logistical support, supplies, and equipment to assist local providers when their resources are overwhelmed. The following article reflects on the historical background of the Illinois medical emergency response team, its team development, partnerships, activations, and future directions with the integration of oral health care professionals as a vital resource for emergency response.

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