

The Current Mass Casualty Incident Management in Hong Kong

Chan J

New Territories East Cluster, Hospital Authority, Hong Kong

Conflict and Catastrophe Medicine (CCM) is something new in this world. Because of globalisation and growing complexities in the world, conflicts occur among human beings and their environment. In light of increasing population density, speed and capacity, the unresolved conflicts will result in catastrophe. Traditional disaster can be managed by ordinary risk management strategy, however, catastrophe is more complicated and can only be fixed by enhanced teamwork with integrated approach. Although Hong Kong is a relatively safe place, we do have typhoon and flooding attacks, and mass casualty incident (MCI) such as Garley Building fire, 6th Ministerial Conference of World Trade Organisation (WTOMC6) and Tuen Mun Highway traffic accident.

In case of large scale disaster, team approach is the best solution to fix the problem. Doctors, nurses, paramedics, disciplined forces, administrators and public safety agencies should work together. This approach is well demonstrated in recent ferry tragedy in Hong Kong, where the policemen, medical team, paramedics, fire fighters, and many organisations worked together to meet the challenge. Traditionally different stakeholders will have different operating systems for their own MCI management without communication with each other. It is well known that such system cannot manage the MCI efficiently and effectively. In recent years, there is an urge for using the Incident Command System (ICS) for MCI management. MCI can provide a common organisational structure and language to simplify communication among disaster response organisations. It also allows different kinds of agencies (fire, medical, police), and/or multiple jurisdictions of similar agencies to effectively work together in a disaster. The MCI cannot be managed well without a MCI plan. It is very important to ensure the MCI contingency plan can work through drills and exercises. In the presentation, the "Exercise Firesweeper III" will be used to demonstrate the current MCI management in Hong Kong.