

Training Simulation in Shizuoka Prefecture Based on the Civil Protection Law

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Abstract: The local government of Shizuoka decided to perform a training simulation based on the Civil Protection Law for a terrorism event. No medical report has described training simulations based on the Civil Protection Law, so we herein report the contents and outcomes of our training. We selected the narrative method for this training simulation based on the Civil Protection Law. Shizuoka Prefecture performed a huge simulation drill on February 8, 2018, at Ogasayama Nature and Sports Park ECOPA. This training involved aid from the cabinet, Japan Self Defense Force (JSDF; Japanese Military), fire department, police and Shizuoka Disaster Base Hospital, with the scenario depicting many wounded and poisoned patients involved in a sarin gas attack and explosion carried out by terrorists during an international sports event. Approximately 700 civilians, public servants and military personnel participated in this drill. Thorough preparations for terrorism events should be made during peacetime. The cabinet and local governments of Japan intend to fully prepare the nation for such a situation based on these training simulations.

Keywords: Shizuoka; chemical; simulation; terrorist.

INTRODUCTION

Regarding the security environment in Japan at present, although the danger of a full-scale invasion has decreased, as more than 25 years have lapsed since the end of the Cold War, Japan is facing urgent new threats to peace and security, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, as well as international terrorist activities (http://www.kokuminhogo.go.jp/en/pc-index_e.html).

Given the present situation, the “Basic Guidelines for Protecting the People”, which establishes basic policies for implementing civil protection measures, was adopted at a cabinet meeting in March 2005 in order to promote the appropriate and smooth implementation of the Civil Protection Law, which had been passed in 2004.

Given that Shizuoka Prefecture will host a global sports event in a few years’ time, the local government of Shizuoka decided to perform a training simulation based on the Civil Protection Law in case of a terrorism event. No medical report has described training simulations based on the Civil Protection Law, so we herein report the contents and outcomes of our training[1].

METHODS

This review was approved by the review board of Juntendo Shizuoka Hospital, and the examinations were conducted according to the standards of good clinical practice and the Declaration of Helsinki. We selected the narrative method for this training simulation based on the Civil Protection Law.

RESULTS

Shizuoka Prefecture performed a huge simulation drill on February 8, 2018, at Ogasayama Nature and Sports Park ECOPA (Figure 1), which can hold 50,000 people and is the largest such facility in Shizuoka Prefecture. This training involved aid from the cabinet, Japan Self Defense Force (JSDF; Japanese Military), fire department, police and Shizuoka Disaster Base Hospital, with the scenario depicting many wounded and poisoned patients involved in a sarin gas attack and explosion carried out by terrorists during an international sports event. To rescue victims, fire fighters outfitted with special protective equipment established zones, detected chemical agents, and then evacuated wounded and poisoned patients from the scene (Figure 2). The patients received pre-decontamination triage, decontamination and post-decontamination triage (Figure 3). The poisoned areas were decontaminated by JSDF (Figure 4). After an initial evaluation and first-aid treatments provided by members of the disaster medical assistance teams dispatched from the disaster base hospital located in a cold zone, severely ill patients were evacuated by

helicopters belonging to the JSDF and fire department, as it has been decided that physician-staffed helicopters should not carry patients poisoned in terrorist attacks

[2]. Approximately 700 civilians, public servants and military personnel participated in this drill.



Fig-1: Ogasayama Nature and Sports Park ECOPA. Shizuoka Prefecture performed a huge simulation drill on February 8, 2018, at Ogasayama Nature and Sports Park ECOPA



Fig-2: Image from the training drill. To rescue victims, fire fighters outfitted with special protective equipment established zones, detected chemical agents, and then evacuated wounded and poisoned patients from the scene



Fig-3: Image from the training drill. The patients received pre-decontamination triage, decontamination and post-decontamination triage



Fig-4: Image from the training drill. Poisoned areas were decontaminated by the Japan Self Defense Force

DISCUSSION

The management of mass casualties resulting from chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive incidents (CBRNEs) and terrorist events requires special preparation to ensure thorough safety and communication, in addition to the principle management measures implemented during general mass casualty events, such as a man-made disasters (e.g. traffic accidents, airplane crashes, high-rise building fires or plant explosion) and natural disasters (e.g. earthquakes, hurricanes or tornadoes). In Japan, CBRNE rapid response teams are deployed with fire departments, police or the military. However, the first responders to a disaster may be dispatched to a scene before it is identified as a CBRNE. For example, in the sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway, the first responders from the fire department were dispatched under orders to manage an explosive event, and some of the first responders came into contact with the sarin gas[3].

During mass casualty events induced by CBRNEs, substantial resources are required in order to obtain an early favorable outcome. The coordinated and combined use of military and civilian resources in response to mass casualties induced by CBRNEs is beneficial and can significantly reduce human suffering [4]. In the present training simulation, all of the participants in the drill, including civilians, public servants and military personnel, cooperated in preparation for a mass casualty event induced by a CBRNE that might occur in the future.

CONCLUSION

Thorough preparations for terrorism events should be made during peacetime. The cabinet and local governments of Japan intend to fully prepare the nation for such a situation based on these training simulations.

Statement of conflicts of interest

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