



Hospital Evacuation: An eBook Learning Module for the Adult Learner

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Introduction: In the event of a disaster and a healthcare facility needs to be evacuated, would you know what to do? Download this eBook to take an interactive, immersive learning experience for a logistically difficult scenario to simulate.

Purposes & Objectives

The purpose of this project was to create a learning opportunity for the adult learner that would closely simulate a hospital evacuation and provide a more interactive experience than a “paper patient” or a table-top type of drill.

OBJECTIVES:

- The reader will be able to identify various mechanical devices for hospital/facility evacuation.
- The reader will learn how to perform the mattress-sheet slide method of evacuation.
- The reader will have a better understanding of personal and institutional emergency preparedness.
- Nursing staff will feel better prepared after completion of learning module and will therefore be more willing to respond to a disaster event.

Methods & Results

Method/Background

An interactive, intuitive, immersive eBook was developed using Ludwig Von Bertalanffy’s General Systems Theory. This method uses an open systems theory where there is a constant exchange of energy and information within environments (i.e. disasters), as the guiding framework.¹

- Literature review showed that nurses are the largest sector of the workforce in healthcare, yet they overwhelmingly do not feel prepared to handle a disaster event.^{2,3}
- Nurses are often the initial line of defense and are the ones usually first to recognize a disaster event.^{3, 4}
- There is a dichotomy between ones level or preparedness and ones willingness to respond.^{3, 4}
- Prior to 9/11, disaster education was not incorporated into nursing curriculum.^{3, 4}

Results

An eBook was written which defines for the reader:

- What constitutes a disaster.
- Who the team is comprised of.
- Understanding the Incident Command System.
- Shows the various commercial devices on the market.
- Discussion of how to perform Mattress-sheet Slide Method.⁵
- Concluding with a “how to” video demonstrating the Mattress-sheet Slide Method.
- Educational goals were measured using a pre-test/post test format with a Likert scale questionnaire.
- A convenience sample for this project was obtained

Conclusion & References

Conclusion

Although nurses feel that they are not prepared to handle a disaster, their basic core competencies of critical thinking, assessment, technical and communication skills are their foundations to be built upon.⁶ How the nurse seeks out these opportunities will vary from individual to individual.

As no two disaster scenarios will be the same, no two people will learn through the same methods. An electronic education manual that is self-guided and that can be performed when convenient to the reader, is just one avenue that may provide additional education for the self-motivated learner.

Increased education increases the likelihood of a safe and effective disaster response.

Hyperlink:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/hospital-evacuation-are-you-prepared/id1164097476?mt=13>

References

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