

## Fundamentals of Disaster Management courses in Hong Kong

### 香港引入基本災難處理課程

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Developed by the Society of Critical Care Medicine, USA and first taught in 2004, this one-day course was introduced into Hong Kong in January 2008 by the Society for Prehospital Advanced Resuscitation and Kiss of Life (Spark of Life) and North District Hospital to equip professionals with the expertise in managing large-scale disasters. Using the 156-page course handbook as a pre-reading guide, attendees worked through an interactive, instructor-led educational program. The invited overseas faculty included Dr Lewis Rubinson, Senior Medical Consultant, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Dr James Geiling, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Military and Emergency Medicine, Uniformed Services University.

The Lectures included: -

- Fundamentals of disaster management
- Intensive care unit microcosm with disaster medical response
- Critical care catastrophic surge capability
- Mass casualty critical care triage and resource management
- The intensivist and disasters produced by natural phenomena
- Blast injuries
- Critical care during epidemics
- Chemical mass casualty events
- Radiation injuries
- Special populations

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- Sustained positive pressure ventilation outside traditional intensive care units

There were three skill stations, as follows: -

- Decontamination and personal protective equipment (Figures 1 & 2)
- Triage of mass casualty victims and incident command (Figure 3)
- Recognition of presenting symptoms



Figure 1. Participants in personal protective equipment performing radiation scanning.



Figure 2. Participants in personal protective equipment performing endotracheal intubation.



**Figure 3.** Participants performing the roles of medical emergency team and victims.

Successful completion of the course required attendance through the course, satisfactory performance at the skill stations, a grade of 70% on the written test, and submission of the course evaluation document. The participants ranged from consultants in intensive care or emergency medicine to first responders. Totally, there were 134 attendees, 13 required a retest and only 1 was not yet passed – a passing rate of more than 99%!

With the 2008 Olympic & Paralympic Equestrian Events approaching, Hong Kong should get disaster-prepared.