Coalition of Nurses for Communities in Disaster

CONCID Newsletter

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Message from the Director of CONCID

As nurses, we posses an immeasurable degree of skills and knowledge that makes us uniquely qualified to provide necessary secure services during a disaster. Nurses are trained to work under stress and to respond fast to changing situations and environments in a coordinated way. The leadership provided by nurses during past disaster experiences are testimony to the accuracy of this statement.

Our Mission and intent is to provide assistance to governmental and private, regional or national disaster organizations in the identification, recruitment and training of nurses to place emphasis on activities of prevention, preparedness and identification of health priorities during the response and recovery phases of a disaster as well as to minimize health morbidity and mortality in vulnerable and at risk communities.

What we do;

Compile and provide a database of volunteer nurses interested in serving as leaders and collaborators in health disaster management strategic planning in their community of residence.

Coordinate and promote unity of effort with partners with recognized agencies dedicated to intervene in all phases of disaster.

Provide continuing education, training and skills update in disaster related topics and tasks.

Incident Command Staff, from left to right: Elba Vargas, Lourdes Ramirez, Abigail Matos (Director), Gloribell Ortiz and Zaida L. Torres.

Special points of interest:

- Second Congress on review (AAR)
- ICS—NIMS 100 training
- SORT Collaboration with emergency responders
- A thank you note
- 2007—3rd Congress on April

Second Congress on review

On the weekend of November 3rd, 2006, Dr. Abigail Matos—Director of the CONCID—summoned consultants, Cadre Team and representatives from different government agencies for the purpose of conducting a two day event that consisted of an After Action Review (AAR) of the, 2nd CONCID Congress that took place on the 28-29 of April, 2006, and presented the concept for the next event 2007 3rd Congress "At the Field of Disaster, Network of Responders".

AAR: This event focused on the objectives of the congress; Self-defense training for the

AAR: CONCID 2nd Congress 2006

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responder, the phenomena of International Terrorism, role of the health professional when confronted with a terrorist act, and intervention of health teams in response to terrorists incidents. It also integrated a simulated terrorist chemical attack in coordination with Hospital Perea, a local hospital.

The congress was graced with the presence of 64 participants, and a plethora of agencies and intitutions, among them; The Regional Departament of Health, Biosecurity Area; Mr. Luis Sáez, AEMEAD; Mr. Wisbell Ayala, PR Police–Explosives Division; Agent Luis Padilla, The Municipal Region of Aguadilla Fire Department, Medical Emergency Division of Mayaguez, Perea Hospital, Campus Security personnel and the local press.

The question in everyone's mind was, how do one measures success in an event of this magnitude? Well, through the evaluations of participants and collaborating agencies. Results evidenced a complete success. The reason; the positive attitude, the competitive spirit and leadership of all the participants.

Other activities of the weekend included;

A multi-task, Inter-Agency training event on November 4 th followed. It included selected staff members and Directors of the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez academic and administrative departments, the Special Operations Response Team of the PR Police and members of other local and state agencies.

Participants practicing self-defense exercises in the 2006 Congress

AAR

The Chancellor of the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez took time out of his schedule to welcome all participants and provide the opening remarks.

The fist task covered was the FEMA NIMS 100 course—Incident Command System. This training was presented by Dr. A Matos, Director of CONCID.

The course offered a lecture, practical situational exercises and a written examination for which they were issued a certificated of completion by FEMA.

Terrorist Attack Simulation Drill: Incident Commander (at right) directing the effort, CONCID Command Staff and Fire Department representative. Below is our logistic team

2007 CONCID CONGRESS

Don't miss the 3 rd Congress for Disaster Nursing. It promises to be an exiting and different event.

Plan to stay for two days– at the site of the disaster. A multi– disciplinary team approach that promises exhausting , integrative and educational workshops, drills and lectures. Keep in touch and stay tuned to our website:

http://www.endesastres.org

E– mail :

concid@endesastres.org

Nurses Lead the Way!!

Looking forward to see you all at the 3rd Congress

gives us a call to 787-832-4040 ext. 2224 and ask for CONCID Congress

Law enforcement professionals in support of emergency responders

Special Operations Response Team (SORT) and CONCID:

Concurrently with the weekends activities of CONCID, elite law-enforcement professionals honed their skills in the application of less than lethal force in support of emergency responders. The bottom line is; in stressful situations such as disasters, human behavior can be very unpredictable. These skills enable the law officers to control personnel that display aggressive and or unruly behavior without the use of weapons. This will not only protect the responders but also protect the aggressors from becoming a victim of their own irrational behavior.

Police, SORT receiving training on the use of less than lethal force to control aggressors. Training was provided by a Ret. Veteran, expert in Martial Arts, Terrorism and Security.

In stressful situations such as disasters, human behavior can be very unpredictable.

Thanks to our members and collaborators

We would like to say thank you to all the personnel that either by their attendance, presentations and participation in general, contributed to the success of this and past events. It takes a special kind of person to volunteer their free time to prepare to help their fellow citizens in time of need. This type of dedication to our fellow men and women is a tribute to the untiring and untamable spirit of the nurses that subscribe to this organization.

Special thanks to a valued member who always runs an extra mile but prefers to stay in anonymity—

One of our most valuable collaborator, consultant and member of CONCID since its foundation is Wisbell Ayala , from State Emergency and Disaster Administration Agency– Mayaguez Region.

Attendees receiving training on the ICS-NIMS 100.

A word from Florence...

It requires an exclusive devotion as hard a preparation, as any painter's or sculptor's work; for what is the having to do with dead canvas or dead marble, compared with having to do with the living body, the temple of God's spirit? It is one of the Fine Arts: I had almost said, the finest of Fine Arts.— Florence Nightingale.