



Human impact of disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

Identifying the needs of medical first responders - analyzing human impact and training offer - means concentrating on the effort of determining the best practices to help

rescuers cope with problems and necessities they face

the organisations they work for



Human impact of
disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

First Responder Profile have a quite defined profile

They have a “Mission First” perspective, a “Band of Brothers mentality”, an “insider-outsider mentality”

Strong and weak points

- relation/trust with people outside the group
- stigma associated with mental health problems



Human impact of disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

Factors that affect MFR response to disasters

- Individual - i.e. high tolerance for stress
- Organisational - i.e. unclear job description
- External - i.e. natural or man-made



Human impact of disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

Level of resilience and reactions to cumulative or traumatic stress differ according to individual's past and present history, personality, flexibility of coping strategies, to prior training received, to the group's team spirit, to social support one receives, to expression of acknowledgments, to effectiveness of professional care or peer support or (psychological) debriefing offered, etc....



Human impact of disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

Role of the community, the family, the band of brothers,..

Working conditions and organisational arrangements frequently cause stress more than the extreme experience MFRs live.



Human impact of disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

Organizations and responsibilities

- Stress management is considered essential to emergency management. Stress evaluation and management techniques and coping strategies at different time (before, during and after)
- Match people's needs (e.g. take into account risks individual worker could face)
- Clear policy for selection of personnel and recruitment. Based on the results of careful screening/assessments, the agency has to suitably match workers to specific assignments



Human impact of disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

Professionals working with MFRs: profile, training, different models of intervention

Non professional resources to find out how others deal with difficult situations:

- social support
- peer support
- on-line network



Human impact of
disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

Conclusions & future researches



Human impact of disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

Multi-perspective research

Of all the currently available research systems, multiperspective--and therefore multidisciplinary research-- has been found to be the most appropriate system for investigating MFRs' needs and for identifying and proposing effective response strategies



Human impact of disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

Perspectives that should always be examined are: personal and professional profile; social, cultural, and family context; gender; and the traditions and values of the organisation to which an MFR belongs.



Human impact of disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

Psychosocial support services

A key research field for determining an organisations' social responsibility and response capacity to MFR needs is one examining MFR psychosocial support services-



Human impact of disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

Which services are available, how they are viewed, how workers who use them are viewed by their colleagues, the ways in which these services are organised, which best practices can be adopted as a model, etc....



Human impact of disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

Well-being research

There is also a dearth of reliable and comparative data on the long-term consequences of disasters on rescuers and on their organisations. In fact, several studies examining single disaster events in relation to rescuers' health consequences have been conducted, but general, category-aggregated reference data (which could more clearly illustrate the phenomenon and its dimensions) are virtually unavailable.



Human impact of disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

Assessment and recruitment systems.

A study of practices currently adopted, and their consequences within the various organisations, could provide helpful indications for giving due consideration to the, even temporary (e.g., recent bereavement, marital separation) personal aspects that can significantly influence a rescue worker's coping and resilience capacities.



Human impact of disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters

A study of this type could also provide useful information on ways to develop alternative strategies for dealing with situations in which a rescuer's inability for deployment is eventually determined—but indeed, only by avoiding the impression of being punitive or overly restrictive in his/her regard



Human impact of disasters



identifying the Needs of Medical First Responders in Disasters



Sinergie S.r.l.

Via Amendola, 6

10121 – Torino – (IT)

www.sinergie.net

sinergie@sinergie.net