Tornado: Adapting and Transforming PACU During a Natural Disaster

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Natural disasters creating mass casualties can occur any time or place. The majority of health care providers has never experienced a mass casualty event and possesses various levels of preparedness. Planning and preparation are essential to maximizing response during a disaster. Understanding the components of an Emergency Operations Plan and the personal and professional demands in these situations contributes to the best possible response.

Outline

I. Emergency Operation Plan
   a. Definition
   b. Key Components
   c. Implementation

II. Mass Casualty Event
   a. Definition and description
   b. Role of the PACU Nurse
   c. Transformation of PACU

References


Liebergall, M. Role of Nurses in a University Hospital During Mass Casualty Events. American Journal of Critical Care, 2007; 16:480-484