



AAST Acute Care Surgery Didactic Curriculum

Disaster Preparation and Triage

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Highlights:

- Healthcare systems must be ready to handle the unexpected, but effective disaster response can be achieved only through coordinated preparation
 - Incident command is a system that establishes clear lines of authority, communication, and responsibility.
- Disasters follow a cyclical pattern termed a “life cycle” that has 5 stages: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
 - The most important phase for hospitals is the preparedness phase, which requires disaster drills
- Providing care during a disaster requires a mentality in which the goal is to provide the “greatest good for the greatest number of people.”
 - Effective triage requires practice as this is a difficult task and often counter to the normal care approach
 - Triage tools exist to assist those performing triage but their accuracy varies