

# **Disaster Preparedness & Response in DC & the Dental Profession**



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# Sticker on Denver Trains

- Be Involved
- Be Informed
- Be Prepared
- Be Alert



# Wake Up Calls

- 9/11- Pentagon , WTC
- On the doorsteps of the Capital & DC
- There was no formal plan to involve oral healthcare professionals
- Hurricane Katrina
- 3/03 ADA conference in Washington

# ADA-ADEA Vision

- Education of the profession (in emergency preparedness & response) is a critical activity in the preparation of the members to serve in the event of a significant bioterrorism attack (disaster situation)
- Education should become an integral part of the dental school curriculum so that dentists will have the training necessary as soon as they enter the profession.
- Dentists will require training (amount and types) to prepare them to serve

# ADA Plan

*Organized around five themes:*

- Preparedness/detection
- Surveillance
- Diagnosis
- Response
- Communication

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# High Valued Targets



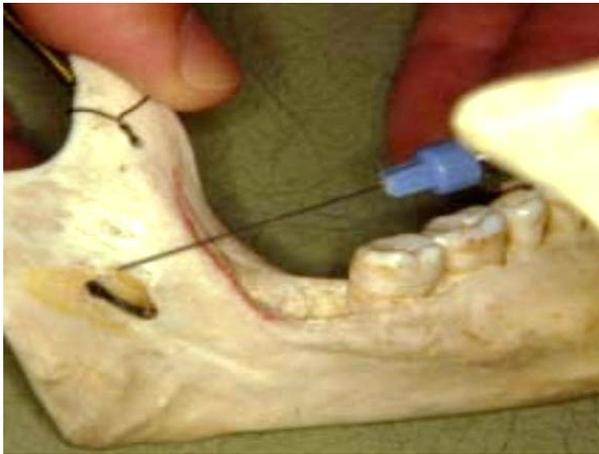
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# Dentistry's Role

- In disaster response role has yet to be defined & established
- Can fulfill several functions; education, risk communication, diagnosis, surveillance & notification, treatment, distribution of medication, decontamination, sample collection.
- Forensic dentistry's role in other disasters (plane crashes) has been developed & proven to be fully effective

**If you can hit this . . .**



**You can't miss this!**



Plus ...

- infection control
- medical history
- prescribing and dispensing drugs
- surgery
- calming upset patients
- and much more ....

# Collaboration & Partnership

- Dentists should report their suspicions to the health department--as well as to local and state dental societies
- Reports from groups of dentists in a community or larger area can be captured, maintained, and monitored in dental society databases.
- Dental societies should establish emergency response networks whose members would work in partnership with health departments

# That Image of Dentistry has Changed



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# Initial Meeting with DCDOH's Health Emergency Preparedness Administration (HEPRA) –8/04

- Discussed Density's & OHD's role in a cartographic event in Washington DC
- Proposed that OHD work with HUCD & DC Dental society's as part of a response team
- Perform outreach lectures at dental school
- Collaborate with HEPRA to prepare educational plan/curriculum for the dental school

# Tasks to Move Forward

- Oral Health Division will assist in arranging meeting with Howard University College of Dentistry & College of Medicine deans
- OHD will investigate lecture formats & curriculum that are already in place at other medical/dental schools in U.S and try to implement similar curriculum in DC

# Activities at the Dental School

- Lectures to Sr. & Jr. Dental students on emergency preparedness & the role of dentistry- experience with Katrina Evacuees
- Got 'buy in' from the Dean & Department of Community Dentistry
- Got ideas from the 'avant-garde' NYU College of Dentistry dental curriculum in Emergency Preparedness
- Dental students voluntarily enroll in the DCDOH/HEPRA on-line learning Management System

# Leadership Roles

- The Chief of Oral Health Division is a member of the Medical Reserve Corps
- Engage faculty, students and staff at HUUCD to be trained as first responders in the event of an emergency in the District.
- Attend trainings and planning meetings and always emphasize the role that dentistry can play in response to natural & unnatural disasters

# Some Initial Responses from Local Dental Associations

- Federal city with resources of the national government
- Washington DC is not a small 'anytown' USA
- My response: 'It is not only about the dental profession but also about limbs, lives, property, humanity & America'.

# Emergency Preparedness & Dentistry in D.C



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# Future Goals

- Work with ADA, ADEA, ASTDD, AAPHD, CDC, PHS, academia and others in arriving at a defined role in emergency preparedness & response for the dental profession
- Pursue grant funding opportunities to better introduce and build program at HUCD.
- Continue to strengthen relationship b/w Oral Health Division & HUCD regarding that new paradigm shift

# ASTDD Response

- Oral Health & Medical Response System (OHMS) subcommittee
- Workgroup will convene in early June
- Standard Operating Manual (SOP) for dental directors on emergency preparedness & response
- Provide a template on how state dental directors can interphase & engage with local & state jurisdictions & authorities