Insuring the Welfare of Elderly in Pandemics, Disasters, and Conflict

By:
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Roles in His Service:

- Dr. Marian Nowak- NACN-USA Member
- Red Cross Disaster Response Nurse
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Introduction
Focus...Unique vulnerabilities of older adults

Objectives:

- Review public health emergencies
- Discuss roles of medical professions, care givers and individuals (Skills/Planning/Competencies)
- Provide international resources available for assistance
Public Health Emergencies
Global Issue: 90% of urban centers
What is a PH Emergency?
....Natural & Man Made

**Natural** Hurricane, Flooding, Fire, Snow Storms, etc.
Japan
March 11, 2011
Philippines
Man Made Terrorist, Toxic Spills, Explosions, etc.
Evidence Based Strategies For Care Givers and Providers?
Disaster Management Critical Nursing Roles

Event

“Sort”
START or Self

Hospital Care

Community Care
(Shelter, POD or Home)
Global Trends - Aged

- Global aged population is raising.

- Aged shelter risks related to: anxiety, mobility, hearing, and unfamiliarity.
Old-age dependency ratios
Number of people aged 65 and over
As % of labour force (aged 15-64), forecasts

Source: European Commission
Evacuation and sheltering issues:

- Separations
- Disrupt treatment
- Disorient older adults
- Exacerbate chronic conditions
3 Steps to Preparedness

- Get a Kit
- Make a Plan
- Be Informed
Professionals

Consider:

• High prevalence of chronic conditions
• Sensory and physiological in aged
• Cognitive impairment
• Mobility impairment
• Risk of trauma
• Nutritional needs
Resistance to seek Care
Reluctance to leave Pets

![Image of an elderly person hugging a dog]
Pandemics... shelter-in-place
Support Systems: Elderly Clients

CONTACT THE ELDERLY
The American Red Cross recommends:
1) create a personal support network made up of several individuals
2) check in on aged in an emergency.
3) Ministers are deployed.
Planning: What can we do?

Start a planning coalition:
- Public health
- Aging services
- Emergency management: Fire/EMS/Police
- Volunteer, faith-based, & community-based organizations
- Home health care & social service agencies
- Private businesses
- Medical facilities
- Transportation agencies
- Registries
Family and Friends?

- For more information: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and [http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/seniors](http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/seniors)
Includes Spiritual Care

- Free Manual for Spiritual Care:
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Questions?