

Topic 1.7 «Medical and sanitary provision in the case of local armed conflict or terroristic act.»

Items:

- 1. Medical and sanitary provision in the case of local armed conflicts.**
- 2. Medical and sanitary provision in the case of terroristic act.**

1 «. Medical and sanitary provision in the case of local armed conflicts.»

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so.

Two-thirds of all refugees worldwide come from just five countries: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia.

An internally displaced person, or IDP, is someone who has been forced to flee their home but never cross an international border. These individuals seek safety anywhere they can find it—in nearby towns, schools, settlements, internal camps, even forests and fields. Unlike refugees, IDPs are not protected by international law or eligible to receive many types of aid because they are legally under the protection of their own government.

Countries with some the largest internally displaced populations are Colombia, Syria, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia.



Sharp decrease of medical maintenance at the scene of armed conflict caused by:

1. Destruction or damage of medical facilities;
2. Human migration and low staffing level of medical facilities as the result;
3. Low material rate in medical facilities, including pharmacy;
4. The absence of health service authorities or their weak activity
5. High rates of infectious diseases often in epidemic forms due to lack of clean water, shelter and sanitation.

Protection of medical personnel in armed conflicts

- **International humanitarian law** affords special protection to medical property and personnel whose mission is to save lives and provide health care for civilians
- **International humanitarian law** is a set of rules which seek, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict. It protects persons who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare. International humanitarian law is also known as the law of war or the law of armed conflict.



International humanitarian law

- International humanitarian law applies only to armed conflict; it does not cover internal tensions or disturbances such as isolated acts of violence.
- International humanitarian law distinguishes between international and non-international armed conflict.
- International armed conflicts are those in which at least two states are involved.
- Non-international armed conflicts are those restricted to the territory of a single state, involving either regular armed forces fighting groups of armed dissidents, or armed groups fighting each other.
- International humanitarian law protects those who do not take part in the fighting, such as civilians and medical personnel.
- The law sets out a number of clearly recognizable symbols which can be used to identify protected people, places and objects. The main emblems are the red cross, the red crescent and the symbols identifying cultural property and civil defense facilities.

Safety recommendations for health workers providing health care in armed conflicts

Medical neutrality refers to a globally accepted principle derived from IHL, International Human Rights Law and Medical Ethics. It is based on principles of non-interference with medical services in times of armed conflict.

- Use recognizable emblems, equipment and vehicles with special symbols;
- Do not take weapon;
- Observe neutrality;
- Choose safe way of transfer;
- Avoid senseless risk;
- Keep your documents with you all the time.



The main objectives of medical provision in the case of armed conflict:

1. Timely administering medical aid for civilian, evacuation of wounded and ill.
2. Epidemiological surveillance, prophylactic arrangements with the purpose to prevent infectious diseases in the crowded areas (camps of internally displaced people)
3. Population protection measures from harmful impact of warfare agents (in the case of destroying chemically hazardous objects)
4. Smooth medical support of medical facilities which provide post-disaster arrangements of armed conflict.
5. Recovery health care system at the territory with emergency situation.



Medical provision for internally displaced persons considers two important circumstances:

- 1. Contingent, age, quantity of internally displaced persons, the quantity of camping places;**
- 2. Medical support should be organized in places of temporary residence (special camps).**

It is necessary to organize special *medical stations* with drugs and equipment to provide medical aid for internally displaced people.

2. «Medical and sanitary provision in in the case of terroristic act»

- There is no universal agreement on the **definition of terrorism**
- The use of violence or of the threat of violence in the pursuit of political, religious, ideological or social objectives.
- In today's world the increased potential of terrorist attacks places unique burdens on health care workers. Hospitals and hospital personnel must now be prepared to react immediately to such events. They must also protect their own health care while providing care to victims.
- **It is important to** provide supportive medical care as soon as safely possible , therefore nearest emergency teams and health workers arrive to the scene of accident first.
- Depending upon the weapon used and the circumstances surrounding the event, decontamination may be required before emergency arrives.
- Transfer at the Hospital. Medical facilities themselves need to be prepared for such events. The EMS system must urge local medical facilities to prepare for contaminated patients regardless of terrorist attack or hazardous materials accidents. The EMS system also should be prepared to assist in that effort.



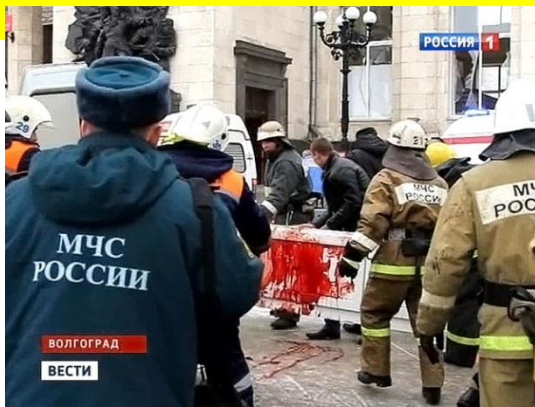
Essential safety strategies in the case of terrorist event:

- recognition of the terrorist event;
- isolation of the event;
- security measures;
- protection of responders and the public.

Only when these strategies have been ensured can we consider beginning the medical treatment to the casualties of the terrorist event.

Recommended rules of conduct for hostages:

- Only response is to be trained physically and mentally to confront the issue of survival;
- Do not display bravado—this may provoke cruelty from the hostage-taker;
- Do not become argumentative or give the hostage-taker any reason to grow angry;
- Do not act and move (stand up or sit down or visit a toilet) without asking a permission.



Recently medical facilities face the threat of emergency associated with the risk of explosion.

Every hospital has its own system of evacuation, but the scheme of evacuation arrangements is common for all medical facilities.

The order of actions in the threat of explosion:

- Inform administration of the hospital about suspicious item;
- Do not touch or move the finding;
- Fix the time of finding;
- Keep other people away from dangerous item;
- Wait until operational investigative group arrives;
- Remember that external form of the item usually conceals the content.



Thank you for your attention!