

# **Developing a Mass Casualty Simulation with Limited Space, Resources, and Personnel**

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# Background

- Incidence of mass casualty events is on the rise.
- Nurses lack knowledge, skills and training in mass casualty preparedness and response.
- Nurses need to shift focus from individual care to population-focused care.
- Simulation allows students to gain knowledge and skills in a safe environment

# Goals of Simulation

The simulation was designed to increase students' ability to:

1. Identify the different roles utilized in disasters
2. Explain the criteria for each of the basic mass casualty triage levels
3. Discuss the possible long-term effects of a mass-casualty event
4. Identify the legal and ethical issues regarding the role of the nurse in mass casualty management
5. Identify nursing interventions in treating victims from mass casualty events using limited resources

# Location of the Program

- The University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing.
- The interior and exterior of the building was utilized.



# Participants

- Senior-level Nursing students (first responders)
- Second-semester Fundamentals students (victims)
- HOSA students (victims)
- Faculty and staff (bystanders, news reporters, police)

# Description of Simulation



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# Evaluation

- Online survey administered to measure effectiveness
  - 58% responded they agree or strongly agree the simulation increased confidence to provide competent care
  - 65% said it was challenging and stimulated their learning
  - 70% responded it helped them learn the didactic material
  - 79% responded the difficulty of the simulation was appropriate for the coursework



# Evaluation-Continued

- 64% agreed or strongly agreed the simulation helped them to meet clinical expectations when caring for real patients
- 72% responded their learning expectations were met in this simulation
- 67% responded the simulation allowed them to model a professional role in a realistic manner
- 80% responded the debriefing helped them to understand the clinical decision-making necessary for this experience

# Evaluation-Continued

- 86% responded it was effective in helping them identify the different roles utilized in mass casualty events
- 81% responded it was effective in helping them learn the criteria for reach of the basic disaster triage levels
- 56% responded the simulation was effective in helping them identify the legal and ethical issues regarding the role of the nurse during a mass casualty event
- 78% said it was effective in helping them identify nursing interventions in treating victims

# Questions????



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