Disaster Response Capabilities

The *Johns Hopkins Go Team*, our deployable medical asset, was created in 2009 to provide medical support to regions in crisis due to natural or manmade disasters. The Go Team is comprised of nearly 200 members from a variety of medical disciplines and non-medical departments to include physicians, physician extenders, nurses, pharmacists, mental health providers, support technicians, respiratory therapists, EMT’s, dieticians, logistics specialists (facility and supply managers), administration/financial officers, medical clerks, safety and security officers, epidemiologists, public affairs, IT specialists, and researchers.

Go Team members undergo a specialized training program on topics such as basic and advanced disaster life support, natural disasters, terrorist events, incident command, leadership skills, and communication. Depending on the complexity of the event and regional needs, the team composition may be scaled up or scaled down.

The tactical capabilities of the team include mass casualty triage, establishing and/or staffing of field clinics for victims, medical support to land- and air-based evacuations, medical support to shelters, backfill in hospitals, and/or public health services such as surveying and vaccinations.

Since its creation in 2009, members of the Johns Hopkins Go Team have responded to the both the Haiti and Chile earthquakes. Team members have also provided humanitarian assistance in Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana and Suriname in support of the US Navy’s “Continuing Promise” mission in Central and South America. In 2010, the Johns Hopkins Go Team became an official Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) team.

Disaster Education

**Certification Courses**

- ISC-100, Introduction to the Incident Command System (2 hrs)
- IS-700, Introduction to the National Incident Management System (2 hrs)
- Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS; 8 hrs)

**Sample Lecture Topics**

- Systematic approach to building a hospital emergency management program
- Mass casualty triage
- Pre-hospital disaster response: the role of emergency medical systems
- Emergency department operations
- Natural and manmade disasters
- Biological/chemical/radiation terrorism
- Decontamination and PPE
- Crush injuries
- Burn management
- Personal preparedness planning
- Pandemic influenza response
- Disaster mental health
- Public health surveillance and monitoring

**Workshops and Tabletop Exercises**

CEPAR’s disaster experts can work with hospitals, first responders, civil defense agencies, local and regional governments, and disaster response agencies in either a workshop or tabletop format to address critical disaster planning, preparedness and response topics, such as:

- Performing a hazard vulnerability analysis and building a resource database
- Designing a comprehensive hospital emergency management program
- Planning, implementing and evaluating a disaster drill
- Use of the incident command system (ICS)
- Regional response to a mass casualty event
- Hospital or regional response to pandemic influenza
- Implementation of a hospital evacuation
Subject Matter Expertise

Johns Hopkins CEPAR draws its faculty and associates from the School of Medicine, the Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the University. We have a broad range of subject matter expertise, including but not limited to:

- Disaster and humanitarian response
- Hospital disaster planning
- Disaster mental health
- Surge capacity planning
- Healthcare system/public health interface
- Physical infrastructure/engineering
- Environmental safety (water and air)
- Surveillance and monitoring
- CBRNE terrorism (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives)
- Legal/ethical issues in disasters