

Course Description: Basic Disaster Life Support ENRH-153

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Department: Emergency Medicine

Student Liaisons: Andrew Tran, Cherisse Onuigbo

Requirements:

- Minimum participants for course to be conducted: 10-15
- Maximum number of students per course (if applicable): none

Rationale (taken and adapted from pre-existing BDLS course):

The unfortunate reality is that mass casualty events are becoming more common, whether it be from natural disaster, man-made, or man-induced. Physicians are often expected to perform proficiently as medical leaders during such public health emergencies, but experience in events on such a scale are often limited.

The Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) course is an awareness-level course designed to introduce the basic principles in managing such crises. This course will equip students with a foundation for emergency management, with the primary focus being the incorporation of an "all-hazards" approach to mass casualty management and population-based care across a broad range of disasters. Measures to ensure and enhance health workforce readiness are emphasized throughout the course. This includes a consistent and scalable approach to workforce protection and casualty management, as well as mass casualty triage and fatality management.

The BDLS course is designed to engage participants through interactive scenarios and group discussion. The overarching aim of the BDLS course is to teach a common lexicon, vocabulary, and knowledge base for the clinical and public health management of all ages and populations affected by disasters and public health emergencies, through a standardized curriculum that is practical and relevant for all health professionals.

Students successfully completing this course will have earned a professional certification in BDLS. This course will also meet the pre-requisites for the Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS) course, offered during 4th year rotations, and is highly recommended for students interested in emergency medicine, disaster medicine, and acute care, as well as the fields of public and global health.

Objectives (taken from the pre-existing BDLS course):

- Describe an all-hazard, standardized, scalable casualty management approach for use in disasters and public health emergencies, including life-saving interventions and medical decision making in an altered care environment.
- Describe information sharing, resource access, communication, and reporting methods useful for health professionals during disasters and public health emergencies.
- Describe the purpose and importance of the incident management system for providing health and medical support services in a disaster or public health emergency.
- Describe field, facility, community, and regional surge capacity assets for the management and support of mass casualties in a disaster or public health emergency.
- Describe considerations and solutions to ensure continuity of and access to health-related information and services to meet the medical and mental health needs of all ages, populations, and communities affected by a disaster or public health emergency.
- Describe public health interventions appropriate for all ages, populations, and communities affected by a disaster or public health emergency.
- Identify the potential casualty population in a disaster or public health emergency, including persons with acute injuries or illnesses; those with pre-existing disease, injuries, or disabilities; those with age-related vulnerabilities and other functional and access needs; and their family/caregiver support network.

- Describe the deployment readiness components for health professionals in a disaster or public health emergency.
- Describe an all-hazards standardized, scalable workforce protection approach for use in disasters and public health emergencies, including detection, safety, security, hazard assessment, support, and evacuation or sheltering in place.
- Describe actions that facilitate mass casualty field triage utilizing a standardized step-wise approach and uniform triage categories.
- Describe the concepts and principles of mass fatality management for health professionals in a disaster or public health emergency.
- Describe the clinical assessment and management of injuries, illnesses, and mental health conditions manifested by all ages and populations in a disaster or public health emergency.
- Describe moral, ethical, legal, and regulatory issues relevant to the health-related management of individuals of all ages, populations, and communities affected by a disaster or public health emergency.

Format: 9x 1 hr sessions, 2x 1.5 hr workshops

Core required curriculum for BDLS certification is 8 hours total. However, the minimum required curriculum for transcript acknowledgement will be 10 hours, with required attendance in at least 1 workshop. We will supplement the core BDLS course with topics such as Fire/EMS/PD capabilities during a mass casualty incident, Stop the Bleed instructor training and other activities.

This will be a “rolling” elective with offerings in each semester, meaning if students miss a session in one semester, they will be allowed to make up for it in the next semester. However, they will only be eligible for certification if they complete the entirety of the BDLS curriculum. The end result is that students will have ample opportunity to earn their BDLS certification within the 18 month pre-clinical curriculum.

Student Evaluation:

Grades will be pass/fail. Attendance is required to receive credit for the course. A post-course assessment will be given.

Course Evaluation:

Grading will be pass/fail. To receive transcript acknowledgment, students must:

- Attend all core modules of the class
- Attend a minimum of 10 credit hours, which includes at least 1 workshop
- Complete the post-course assessment
- Complete the online REDCap course evaluation form

Schedule:

1. Course introduction & Disaster Basics – 60 mins total
 - a. Registration and course overview – 15 min
 - b. Pre-assessment – 15 mins
 - c. Disaster Basics (Ch1) – 25 mins
 - d. Q&A – 5 mins
2. Natural Disasters – 50 mins total
 - a. Ch 10 - 30 mins
 - b. Applied Learning Case Study – 15 mins
 - c. Q&A – 5 mins
3. Supplemental #1 (eg TeamSTEPS, Fire/EMS capabilities, etc) – 60 mins
4. Workforce Readiness & Deployment, Chemical Disasters – 60 mins total
 - a. Workforce Readiness Ch 4 – 25 mins
 - b. Chem Disasters Ch 8 – 30 mins
 - c. Q&A – 5 mins
5. Supplemental # 2 (eg. PPE basics, how to don/doff PPE) – 60 mins
 - a. Possibly include case study for Chem Disasters – 10 - 15 mins

6. Massive Casualty & Fatality Management – 60 mins total
 - a. MCI Ch 5 – 30 mins
 - b. Primary survey basics, assessing and tagging / Applied Learning Exercise – 30 mins
7. Supplemental Workshop # 1 - STB Training Workshop (1.5 hours)
 - a. Assessment at the end
8. Explosive & Radiologic Disasters – 60 mins total
 - a. Ch 6 and 7 – 45 mins
 - b. Applied Learning Case Study – 15 mins
9. Supplemental # 3 (eg. Fire Marshall's Office giving a talk about considerations for special events) – 60 mins
10. Public Health & Population Health and Biologic Disasters – 60 mins total
 - a. Ch 2 and 3 – 25 mins
 - b. Q&A – 5 mins
 - c. Ch 9 – 30 mins
11. Workshop #2 (1.5 hours) – Disaster drill simulation