



ADAPTATION OF A PRE-HOSPITAL EMERGENCY SERVICE FOR INTERVENTION BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL, NUCLEAR OR RADIOLOGICAL INCIDENTS (BCNRI)

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Introduction

Pre-hospital emergency services have among their objectives the attendance at the scene and patients' stabilization before transportation to hospital. The emergencies related to BCNRI should be no different. To deal with patients at the scene, appropriate safety equipment is essential, as is training, knowledge and coordination with other emergency services



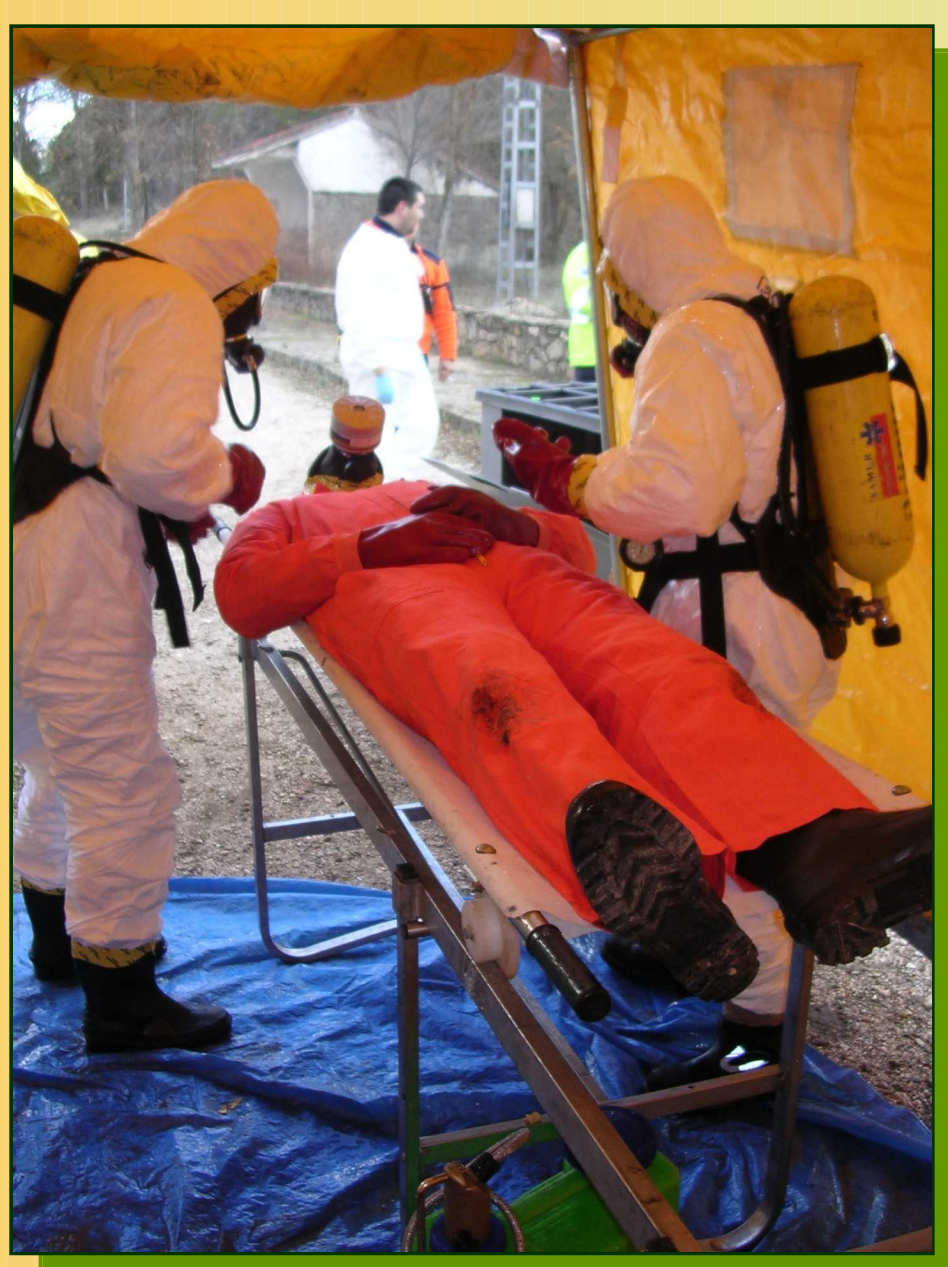
Aims

To collaborate with other emergency services in order to give an integrated response. To provide appropriate training and to involve our staff in the BCNRI intervention.



Methods

In October 2004 we contacted the emergency services involved in BCNRI (police, fire service) and defined what our respective functions should be. We then drew up an intervention procedure and decided what equipment we should use, devising theoretical and practical training programs and assigning protective equipment for our units on duty. With the data obtained from this actions, we modified the equipment and new training courses were programmed.



Results

Meetings to delimit the functions of the different emergency services involved. Combined performance protocols with the fire service were signed in 2004 and the police (not yet ratified). 20 training courses with 250 participants took place. Identification of intervention equipment (personal protection gear, filter mask and backpack) was made.



Conclusions

Pre-hospital Emergency Services have a relevant role to perform in case of BCNRI. The effectiveness of the response should be based on the establishment of a procedure with other emergency services and the acquisition of the appropriate equipment and training. After using the protective equipment on training courses, our staff views the idea of the BCNRI intervention as routine.

