**Flooded Emergency Department ! : navigating internal hospital disaster response plan**

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**Introduction:**

Flash flood in a hospital can be cause serious repercussions in terms of risk on patients safety as well as asset damages. We report a situation of such event that occurred at our centre.

**Case Description:**

On 1st June 2024, our department was overcrowded and there was heavy and long rain fall. Water suddenly started to rise in front and the back of the emergency department, yellow observation, few cubicles in Isolation 1 Ward and emergency main store unit. There were also major leakings from the roof in affected wards. There were imminent danger for patients and assets. The situation was updated by the specialist on duty in department’s management texting group. The acting head of the department activated hospital’s internal disaster plan immediately gave instruction for patients affected in the zone to be admitted to the wards. The middle-level management group were instructed to move equipment to hospital’s first floor. The matter was escalated to hospital’s director and head of departments group so patients would be accepted into the wards. In flooding situation, unlike fire, the evacuation is to the non-affected area ie a floor up . The engineering team was then summoned to assist in roof proofing. Utilities staff were deployed to mop the floor and prevent water from coming into the department. The police were instructed to divert vehicles from the department. Ambulance diversion was instructed. All these resulted in no patients injured or affected. None of department’s asset was damaged. With water receding, stand down was announced after 3 hours.

**Discussion:**

This is an internal disaster that was temporary and self-limiting. If the situation worsened, all patients need to be moved a floor up as the temporary assembly area. Subsequently, if the flooding does not recede, transportation to alternative areas using boats or truck that could wade in water (those from the Fire and Rescue etc) had to be utilized.

**Conclusion:**

Hospitals need to have internal disaster plan and such plan would enable patients and assets be salvaged. There is a need to have drills or tabletop exercises to handle such situation smoothly. A strategic partnering with multiple agencies that could assist with boats and truck to transport patients through flood water should be established in situations that may require their assistance.

**Keywords: Emergency department, flash flood, emergency evacuation**