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

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**Introduction:**

Flash floods in a hospital can cause serious repercussions in terms of risk to patients' safety and asset damage. We report such situation that occurred at our centre.

**Case Description:**

On 1st June 2024, our department was overcrowded with heavy and long rainfall. Water suddenly started to rise in front and the back of the emergency department, affecting yellow observation, a few cubicles in Isolation 1 Ward and the emergency main store unit. There were also major leaks from the ceiling. The situation was updated by the specialist on duty in the department's management texting group. The hospital's internal disaster plan was activated. Patients in affected zones were admitted to the wards. The middle-level management group was instructed to move equipment to the hospital's first floor. The matter was escalated to the hospital's director and head of departments group so that patients would be accepted into the wards. In a flooding situation, unlike fire, the evacuation is to the higher floor rather than assembly area. The engineering team was then summoned to assist in roof proofing. Utility staff were deployed to mop the floor and prevent water from coming into the department. The police helped divert vehicles. Ambulance diversion was initiated. No patients were injured nor affected. None of the department's assets 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 worsens, 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 trucks that could wade in water (those from the Fire and Rescue, etc.) had to be utilized.

**Conclusion:**

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

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