

Children in Complex Disaster Situations

Panel Discussion

Consideration of the Unique vulnerabilities of Children in a Hazardous Material Response

By Irma R. Makalinao MD

Children in Complex Disaster Situations: A First Responders Perspective

by Major Jose S. Embang, Jr

Lessons Learned From The Chemical Spill in San Isidro National High School: Taking Steps to Protect Children

By Councilor Jejomar Erwin S. Binay Jr.

What is a disaster?

- **“Disaster: A situation or event, which overwhelms local capacity, necessitating a request to national or international level for external assistance.”**
- *ICRC, World Disaster Report 2001*

According to the UN High Commission For Refugees Study in 2002

- Some 115,000 children on average were killed by armed conflict or natural disasters each year between 1991 and 2000
- 113,000, lived in developing countries
- Armed conflict was responsible for around 75% of the deaths, or around 85,000 children each year
- Natural and man-made technical disasters were responsible for the deaths of 30,000 children each year

Annie Cagis offers prayers a memorial for landslide victims

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she comes to this desolate landscape every day, to offer prayers and light candles for the children whose bodies were never recovered

200 pupils trapped inside the primary school, which was never found and believed lying under some 30 metres of debris.

Many of the children, were not as lucky, to be recovered from the mudslide in Guinsaigon

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The HAZMAT Problem

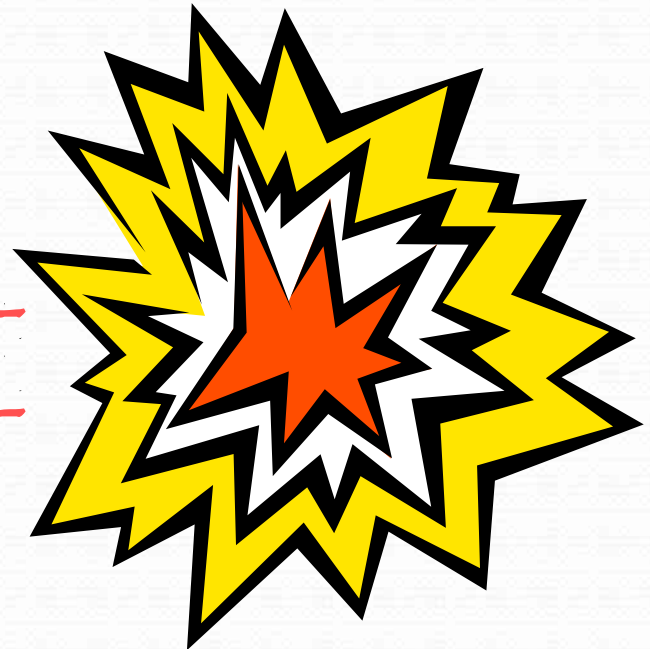
- **Use/misuse of hazardous materials create “Events”**
- **Modern standard of living requires HAZMAT use and transport**
- **“Events” will happen**



Elements of HAZMAT

Problem

- Volume of hazardous materials
- The human factor
- Events will happen!



Compressed Gas and Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosion (BLEVE)



- ◆ Occurs when a container of liquefied gas is exposed to a fire
 - ❖ Weakened container + increase in pressure → container breaks
 - ❖ Breakup can be very explosive



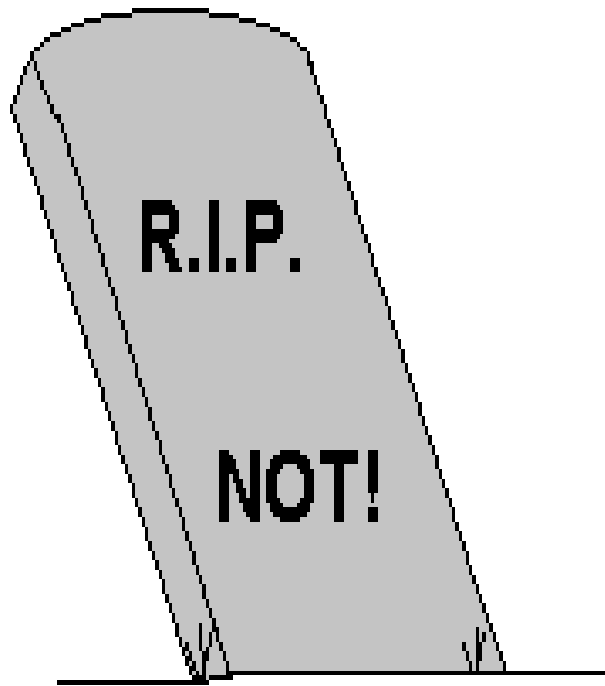
What are "HazMat Incidents"?

- "HazMat" incidents require specialized protective measures not normally available to first responders AND they demand a different operational approach!



Awareness Level | Response

Goals



Recognition

Isolation

Protection

Notification

What are the considerations in the response procedures for children?

In most cases , the first responder will treat the children like any other without consideration of the unique vulnerabilities of children

SINCE the first goal in response procedures is the safety of the responders and the saving as many lives as possible

Possible areas of training needed by the first responder

- Understanding the unique physiology and vulnerabilities of children so that the response procedures can now take into account child-specific factors
- No available PPE for children – how to decontaminate and protect children in cases of chemical incidents
- How to deal possible psychological trauma while removing them from the incident site
- And many others

Conclusion

It is an area needing
attention by concerned
sectors