Special Session 8 From the chemical massive disaster to the prevention

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Feedback after a massive chemical disaster. What field practitioners should know

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Introduction: We aim to describe the consequences for field practitioners after a massive chemical disaster.
Materials and Methods: Using an example of a recent massive chemical disaster, we described the potential role of occupational field practitioners in critical phase, as well as the post-critical phase, as well as the anticipation phase.
Results: In the critical phase, the occupational practitioner cares was mostly involved of toxicologic support for the industry involved. The post-critical phase can be defined as the period starting when all victims have been identified, managed, and sent for appropriate care. This phase may last from hours to months. During this phase, the occupational practitioner would play a substantial role in monitoring people and symptoms that were directly concerned by the events as well as screening workers who were indirectly involved. They were particularly involved helping victims in the return-to-work process, and improving procedures and organizing drills. In addition to their usual work of primary prevention, occupational practitioners should endeavor to improve preparedness by taking part in contingency planning, and defining immediately applicable protocols that vary according to chemical hazard.
Conclusions: In conclusion, field practitioners are more and more involved, even after a massive chemical disaster.