


## STRENGTHENING RESPONSE CAPABILITIES FOR CBRN INCIDENTS: A CALL TO ACTION

 Serdar ÖZDEMİR<sup>1</sup>

### ABSTRACT

We read the article titled "Evaluation of Emergency Department Personnel's Preparedness for Chemical, Biological, Radiation, and Nuclear Emergencies" by Bıçakçı and Bıçakçı with great interest. It was published in the final issue of your journal for the year 2023. In their research, the authors examined the preparedness level of emergency department personnel for chemical, biological, radiation, and nuclear (CBRN) incidents and their ability to respond to such events. They highlighted the inadequacy of education, drills, and knowledge level regarding CBRN incidents, emphasizing the necessity for emergency department personnel to be prepared for such events. We thank the authors and editorial board for their insightful contribution and offer two additional suggestions to enhance the response to CBRN incidents.

**Keywords:** CBRN, Emergency Department, Preparedness

## KBRN OLAYLARINA MÜDAHALE YETENEĞİNİN GÜÇLENDİRİLMESİ: BİR HAREKETE GEÇME ÇAĞRISI

### ÖZ

Derginizin 2023 yılının son sayısında yayımlanan "Acil Servis Personelinin Kimyasal, Biyolojik, Radyasyon ve Nükleer Acil Durumlarına Hazırlıklarının Değerlendirilmesi" başlıklı Bıçakçı ve Bıçakçı tarafından hazırlanan makaleyi büyük bir ilgiyle okuduk. Araştırmalarında, yazarlar acil servis personelinin kimyasal, biyolojik, radyasyon ve nükleer (KBRN) olaylara karşı hazırlık düzeyini ve bu tür olaylara yanıt verme yeteneklerini incelemişlerdir. Yazarlar, KBRN olaylarına ilişkin eğitim, tatbikat ve bilgi düzeyindeki yetersizliği vurgulayarak, acil servis personelinin bu tür olaylara hazırlıklı olmasının önemini vurgulamışlardır. Bu değerli katkılarından dolayı yazarlara ve editöryal kurula teşekkür eder, kendilerini tebrik ederiz. Bununla birlikte, KBRN olaylarına yanıtı artırmak için iki ek öneri sunmak isteriz.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** KBRN, Hazırlık, Acil Servis

<sup>1</sup>Corresponding Author /Sorumlu Yazar, University of Health Sciences, Ümraniye Training and Research Hospital, Department of Emergency Medicine, Istanbul, Türkiye, dr.serdar55@hotmail.com

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Dear Editors,

We have read with great interest the article titled "Evaluation of Emergency Department Personnel's Preparedness for Chemical, Biological, Radiation, and Nuclear Emergencies" authored by Bıçakcı and Bıçakcı, published in the final issue of your journal for the year 2023 (Bıçakcı and Bıçakcı, 2023: 236-251). In their research, the authors examined the preparedness level of emergency department personnel for chemical, biological, radiation, and nuclear (CBRN) incidents and their ability to respond to such events. They highlighted the inadequacy of education, drills, and knowledge level regarding CBRN incidents, emphasizing the necessity for emergency department personnel to be prepared for such events. We extend our thanks to the authors and the editorial board for this insightful contribution and congratulate them. However, we would like to offer two additional suggestions to enhance the response to CBRN incidents.

## **Emergency Preparedness Planning and Protocols**

Emergency preparedness plans and protocols are critical in increasing emergency department personnel's preparedness level for CBRN incidents. These plans ensure that personnel know how to respond to potential CBRN incidents. Pre-established protocols provide clear guidance on how personnel should act, including:

- Identification of equipment to be used and its proper use.
- Ensuring personnel's safe intervention in CBRN incidents.
- Special procedures for triage and management of patients.
- Communication protocols and designated channels for emergency communication.
- Strategies for collaboration with other healthcare institutions or organizations.

Emergency department personnel can be better prepared and coordinated during CBRN incidents by following specific plans and protocols. These protocols can be effectively conveyed to personnel through short-term training programs. Additionally, brochures or posters can be created to provide clear guidance and facilitate personnel's management of critical incidents. (Olivieri et al., 2017: 366–370; Linney et al., 2011: 96–105).

## **Community Awareness and Education**

Raising awareness and conducting educational activities to increase the community's preparedness level for CBRN incidents is crucial. Community awareness ensures that individuals know how to respond and be prepared for such events. These educational activities may include:

- Providing information about what CBRN incidents are and their potential impacts.
- Teaching safe evacuation and sheltering methods during hazardous situations.

- Encouraging the preparation of emergency kits and home emergency plans.
- Informing people about how to contact authorities and where to seek shelter.
- Educating the community about preventive measures and how they can assist during CBRN incidents.

Such educational and awareness-raising efforts empower the community to better prepare for CBRN incidents and increase people's confidence in dealing with potential hazards (Carter et al., 2020:101796; Krieger et al., 2014; 66-74).

In conclusion, the study underscores the critical need for emergency department personnel to enhance their preparedness for CBRN incidents. The findings reveal significant deficiencies in education, training, and knowledge among emergency responders, highlighting the urgency for improvement. Implementing comprehensive emergency preparedness plans and protocols, along with community awareness and education initiatives, emerges as essential strategies to address these shortcomings effectively. Healthcare systems can better mitigate the impact of CBRN events by prioritizing training, refining protocols, and increasing public awareness to safeguard public health and safety. . This letter serves as a call to action for healthcare institutions and policymakers to invest in comprehensive preparedness measures and ensure the readiness of emergency responders to confront the challenges posed by CBRN incidents.

## REFERENCES

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