

KAMEDO - A Disaster Medicine Study Organization

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Abstract

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KAMEDO is a Swedish disaster medicine study organization and has existed since 1964. It started under the auspices of the Swedish Research Delegation for Defence Medicine, which, however, was reorganized in 1974 and KAMEDO was transferred to the Swedish Defense Research Establishment. In 1988, KAMEDO was integrated into the Department of Emergency and Disaster Planning at the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare.

KAMEDO's main task is to send observers to disaster areas all over the world to study recent disasters, collect useful information and to get familiarized with the problems of disaster medicine. The observers are sent to disaster areas with short notice, they collect relevant information on a collegial basis from doctors and others, thereby pointing out that all information received is strictly for scientific use. Four main groups of interest that have been studied are medical, psychological, organizational and social aspects of disasters.

The results of the studies are published in KAMEDO-reports. Up till May 1997 sixty-seven reports have been published. Since 1979 (report No. 34) they all include an English summary.

The last four reports that have been published are: "The jumbo jet crash in Amsterdam, 1992; The smoke grenade release in Uppsala and The chlorine release at the Vanadisbadet (Vanadis outdoor swimming pool) in Stockholm, both 1993; The great Hanshin-Awaji (Kobe) earthquake, 1995; The explosion at the World Trade Center in New York, 1993.

The next two reports to be published are: The Estonia ferry disaster in the Baltic Sea, 1995 (June 1997) and The Ebola virus epidemic in Zaire, 1996 (August 1997). Other reports under preparation are; The terrorist release of sarin in Tokyo, 1995; The terrorist bombing in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Ashkelon, 1996; Three German accidents - the fire at Düsseldorf International Airport, 1996, the bus accident on the autobahn in Rosenheim, 1996 and the fire in the chemical factory in Memmingen, 1997.

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The last four reports that have been published are: The jungle fire crisis in Azerbaijan, 1982; The acute gamma release in Lithuania and the chronic release in the Vanslovskas (Vandals) outdoor swimming pool in Stockholm, both 1983; The great Hiroshima-Away (Kobe) earthquake, 1995; The explosion at the World Trade Center in New York, 1993.

The next two reports to be published are: The Epstein berry disaster in the Baltic Sea, 1994 (June 1997) and The Ebola virus epidemic in Zaire, 1996 (August 1997). Other reports under preparation are: The coronal release of acids in Tokyo, 1992; The coronal outburst in Jonestown, The Azov and Ashland, 1996; Three German accidents - the fire at the school in Mannheim, August, 1980; the bus accident on the autobahn in Rosenheim, 1976 and the fire in the chemical factory in Mannheim, 1987.