Discussion Board 5

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Author Note

The Role and Responsibilities of Nurses in Relation to Disasters

A nurse has a crucial role to play in the event of a natural disaster. They should be equipped with the necessary knowledge and be able to meet the needs of a respective serving community. According to a recommendation made by the WHO, all nations should have teams of professionals and healthcare workers already in place to ensure efficient and quick response in case of a disaster (Weiner, Irwin, Trangenstein, & Gordon, 2005). In disaster management, a nurse’s role isn’t limited to rescuing and save those affected by the disaster, but they also need to be prepared to help such individuals through complete recovery. They also need to provide guidance as well as show leadership in all the different phases of disaster in an effort to reduce death tolls (Loke & Fung, 2014).

One of the most common questions asked following a disaster, whether manmade or natural, is whether this disaster is managed in an optimal manner. It includes the measures that can be taken to mitigate the effects of the disaster, respond to and eventually recover from the after effects of the disaster. Thus, in response to a disaster, a community needs to come together and work in a collaborative manner to develop an effective plan for disaster management. This way, communities can respond to any disasters in a quick and effective with areas that need attention already being identified. This, ultimately, results in more lives being saved and less property being damaged. It also ensures that all the necessary sources are present at hand to perform their designated role (Nies & McEwen, 2014).

In conclusion, nurses should be well aware of their responsibilities in a community, both professionally and personally. They should teach those around them about how to stay safe and respond in case of a disaster event. They should be well versed in mitigating any conflict that may arise at the time of a disaster and should ensure that preventive measures are in place well in advance (Nies & McEwen, 2014).

**References**

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