

MAINTENANCE OF BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT AS MITIGATING FACTOR IN MAN-MADE DISASTERS IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN

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I. INTRODUCTION

A disaster can be defined as an incident or event, in most cases, of an unanticipated nature causing to the distressed habitat profound alterations, represented in the loss of health and life, the destruction or loss of the possessions of a community, and/or relentless damages to the environment.

Disasters can be originated by the manifestation of a natural phenomenon, induce by man or as a consequence of a technical deficiency in industrial or warfare systems.

In this work, we will address only man-made disasters including those that are the repercussion of technical malfunction, and to the possibility of extenuating its effect if we comply with and conform to an adequate program for the maintenance of biomedical equipment in our hospitals.

Man-made disasters can be conceived intentionally by men, or haphazardly by a technical break down, which could--at the same time--breed a series of errors that can precipitate a disaster of great magnitude.

Among the most common man-made disasters, the following warrant to be referred to:

EXPLOSIONS
FIRES
ACCIDENTS
POLLUTION

In a widespread manner, there is a variety of potential disasters of a technological character. Presently, seaports, airports, and urban centers bear high vulnerability to these type of phenomenon due to the high density of: industries, construction, and mass transportation for cargo and persons.