**Care of the critically ill and injured during pandemics and disasters**

***Fast facts***

* More than 350 mass shootings [occurred](http:///h) in the United States in 2015. [[1]](#footnote-1) Since these incidents, more thought is being given to how emergency services and hospitals would manage a mass shooting or bombing event.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* On November 13, 2015, 180 people were killed in Paris in a series of coordinated terrorist attacks, including 89 in a single location.[[3]](#footnote-3)
* On November 15, a pair of suicide bombings struck southern Beirut, killing 43 people and wounded at least 239.[[4]](#footnote-4)
* On November 20, armed gunmen entered a hotel in Mali hosting diplomats and others, killing 21 people.[[5]](#footnote-5)
* The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history and has affected multiple counties in West Africa, with two imported cases, one death and two locally acquired cases in U.S. health care workers.[[6]](#footnote-6)
* The April 2015 earthquake in Nepal was the worst quake to hit the Himalayan nation in centuries, killing over 9,000 people and injuring more than 23,000.[[7]](#footnote-7)
* CHEST released [*Care of the Critically Ill and Injured During Pandemics and Disasters: CHEST Consensus Statement*](http://journal.publications.chestnet.org/article.aspx?articleid=1899971), whichaims to guide ethical decision-making, coordination of care, resource conservation and research in crises.

**Are health care teams prepared to care for patients injured in a crisis or disaster?**

Recent tragedies, such as the shootings in San Bernardino, California, underscore the need for a prepared health care team to respond during a crisis. [*Care of the Critically Ill and Injured During Pandemics and Disasters: CHEST Consensus Statement*](http://journal.publications.chestnet.org/article.aspx?articleid=1899971)aims to guide ethical decision-making, coordination of care, resource conservation and research in crises. More than 100 clinicians and experts representing a broad variety and scope of clinical fields from more than nine countries developed the statement. It offers the latest evidence-informed suggestions on how to best prepare and manage the critically ill and injured during large-scale disasters and pandemics.

***Expert resources***

The American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST) has several experts in care of the critically ill and injured during pandemics, disasters and mass casualty incidents available for interview or commentary. Please contact us if you are interested in learning more about preparations and how health care teams best plan for surges in critically ill and injured patients. You may also view our resources now:

* Consensus Statement: [*Care of the Critically Ill and Injured During Pandemics and Disasters: CHEST Consensus Statement*](http://journal.publications.chestnet.org/article.aspx?articleid=1899971)
* Blog: [Will Your Institution Be Prepared if Disaster Strikes?](http://www.chestnet.org/News/Blogs/CHEST-Thought-Leaders/2014/08/Will-Your-Institution-Be-Ready-if-Disaster-Strikes)

1. <http://shootingtracker.com/wiki/Mass_Shootings_in_2015> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.londontraumaconference.com/about.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [http://www.rte.ie/news/2015/1120/747897-paris/http://www.rte.ie/news/2015/1120/747897-paris/](http://www.rte.ie/news/2015/1120/747897-paris/) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/12/middleeast/beirut-explosions/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/20/africa/mali-shooting/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/nepal-earthquake> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)