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BOOK REVIEW

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'Weapons of Mass Casualties and Terrorism Response Handbook'

Charles Stewart MD FACEP - American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Jones and Bartlett. 2005

286 Pages. ISBN 0-7637-2425-4

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The *Weapons of Mass Casualties and Terrorism Response Handbook* by Charles Stewart is aimed at being the ultimate resource on weapons of mass destruction for all levels of emergency care providers, covering emergency care of injuries and illness resulting from weapons of mass casualties. It contains comprehensive information geared to both pre-hospital and in-hospital providers, with all text pertaining to in-hospital providers being distinctly marked. Vocabulary terms are bolded and defined throughout the text, and a glossary provides a ready-reference to key terms. Tables outlining protection methods, toxins exposure routes, effects, suggested therapies, and medication doses are provided.

Likewise, in-text photos and illustrations depicting examples of autoinjectors, antidote kits, dispersal methods and tools, protective gear, and mass casualty incidents are also provided. Of particular interest are the six different boxed features throughout the text that provide background information on historical events involving terrorism including Chemical, Biological, Toxin and Radiation incidents. A separate four-page insert with colour photographs of medical signs, symptoms, equipment and imaging completes the handbook, and the hard cover will ensure that your investment remains well protected.

This handbook sets out to be the ultimate resource on weapons of mass destruction, and to that end it did not disappoint. In my opinion, a more compressive handbook on this topic would be hard to find, and despite the fact that more recent terrorist events in our particular region have only involved blast injuries, the threat of a Chemical, Biological or Radiological incident still remains one of the primary concerns of a number of our Emergency Medical System providers in this country. Post 9/11 this handbook is also a timely reminder that first responders are often the intended victims of a terrorist attack using weapons of mass destruction, and if nothing else some knowledge of the intended use, exposure routes, and protection methods may well help to prevent further casualties.

This book is available through:

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