

Fire Drills in Obstetric Emergencies

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Figure 1

Introduction:

Obstetric 'fire drills' are implemented in Obstetric Department, JMC, Rigshospitalet, Denmark in 2007 after a simulationbased in house obstetric skills training programme was introduced in 2003, involving 220 staff members so far.

Material and methods:

Fire drills in the management of post partum bleeding, shoulder dystocia, preeclampsia and eclampsia involving 23 staff members were carried out during March to August 2007. Anonymous questionnaires were given to all participants. To evaluate the institutional impact of fire drills in the Obstetric Department a questionnaire survey was completed by all staff members (N=154) after training.

Results:

Fire drills were considered educational on the individual as well as on the organisational level. Five out of 23 participants involved in drills considered the fire drills unpleasant despite finding them educational.

Questionnaire responses among all staff members (N=154):

- 68 percent have a positive attitude towards fire drills.
- 55 percent are looking forward to participate in a future fire drill.
- 72 percent find fire drills important for future interdisciplinary collaboration.
- 74 percent find the skills training programme to be a prerequisite for participating in a fire drill.

Conclusion:

- It is challenging for the organisation to plan and implement fire drills.
- The skills training programme seems to be a prerequisite for successful implementation of drills.
- The fire drills were well accepted by all staff members.
- All participants in the pilot study found fire drills beneficial in order to improve skills and future interdisciplinary collaboration.
- The need for organisational changes in the department became apparent when running the drills.

Definition of fire drills:

An emergency drill is scenario-based training in obstetric emergencies conducted in 'real time' in the normal working environment, without the prior knowledge of the staff involved (BJOG 2005, 112:372-375).

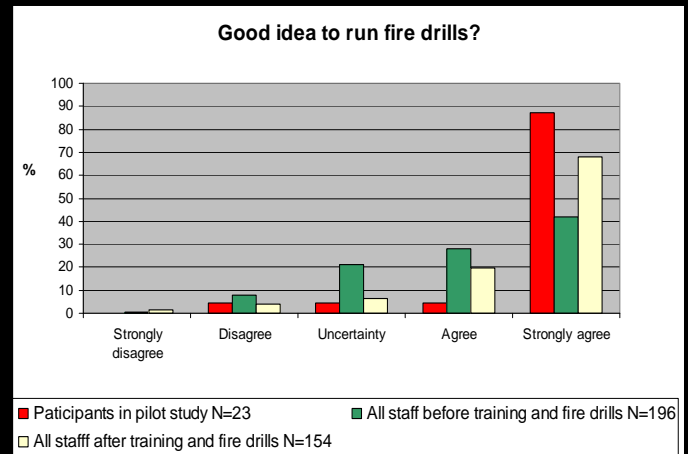


Figure 3

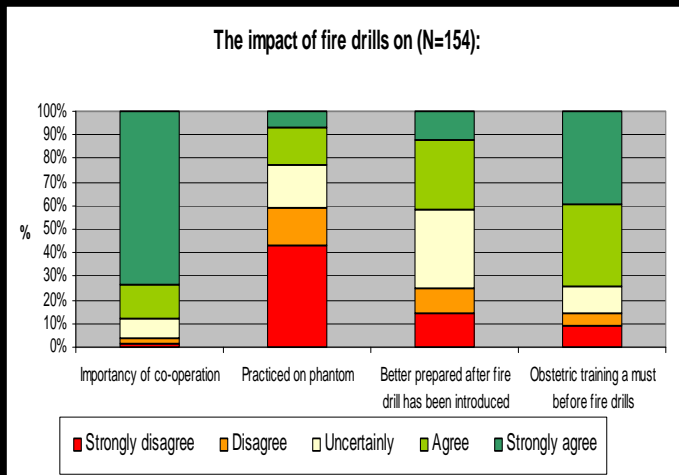


Figure 2

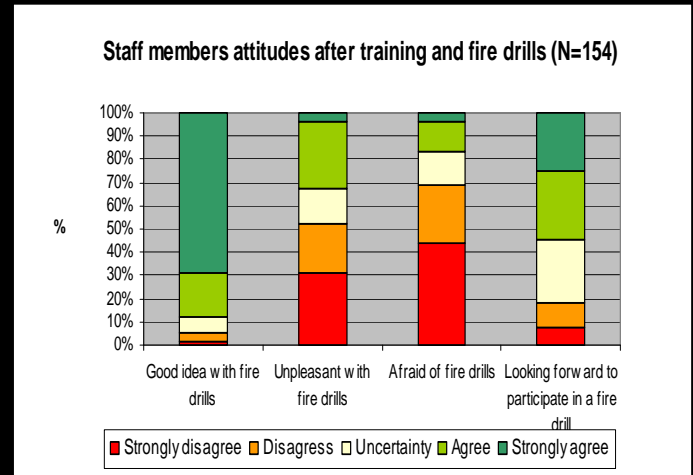


Figure 4

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 Soerensen JL. Obstetric Skills Training [Center for Medical Education, University Of Dundee (Scotland); 2007.

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