

	Título	Autores	Apresentação
	Madeira/Portugal Nurses' Response when faced with a calamity situation.	Merícia Bettencourt Vera Pestana	Vera Pestana
	Área: Pandemic and Catastrophe		
<p>Madeira, a Portuguese Island, located 980 Kilometres from the European Mainland and 660 from Africa, with a 740,7 Km2 area and around 250 000 inhabitants. It is a mountainous Island, of Sub-Tropical climate. The population resides, mostly, within the southern littoral stretch and valleys. On February 20th, 2010, it was struck by harsh weather with heavy rains throughout the dawn hours, followed by an increase in ocean tide and waves. These events provoked flooding, and landslides, which carried great amounts of material along the shores of creeks, especially in the Southern half of the Island. This affected some heavily populated places and caused 44 confirmed killed, some missing persons and 150 wounded.</p> <p>The nurses of the Regional Health System, guided by values and principles of their profession, such as altruism, solidarity and the responsibility inherent to their given role towards society and their duty of solidarity towards the community in case of catastrophe, as stated in the Deontological Code of Nurses, helped to minimize the suffering of those afflicted by circumstances so hostile to life and human stability as well as to their health and well-being.</p> <p>The action of the nurses were developed in several different contexts: places of reception for the afflicted, where they cooperated within the emergency plans; health centres, where they cared for people or in places where they knew of people living alone; emergency room or wards, where, especially within the latter, they developed interventions aimed at tranquilizing patients suffering from the angst of not being able to reach their family members and saved their colleagues the dangers associated with a house-call, working 24 consecutive hours voluntarily. In other health institutions lead by nurses, hundreds of displaced people were received, their biological needs catered for and emotional support given.</p> <p>From the content analysis of some in-depth interviews about the experience lived, emerges a sentiment of empathy towards others' sufferance and satisfaction coming from accomplished duty, as recognized by the Ordem dos Enfermeiros and the Regional Authorities.</p>			
Palavras-chave: Natural disaster; Nursing intervention; Citizenship; Professionalism.			
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