

In Case of Emergency: A Simulated Disaster Event

A MEANINGFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

In anticipation of the official opening of the subway station at York University, a multisectoral Emergency Disaster Event simulation was orchestrated by key stakeholders from Toronto Fire, EMS, Police, TTC and York University. The catastrophic event included a subway accident that occurred underground and simulations for the rescue, triage, transport and treatment of victims was initiated. Nursing students enrolled in a first year Health Assessment course at York University provided the simulated victims and clinicians. As one of these students, I had the opportunity to simulate the role of subway passenger, and later the role of the clinician. s



THE LIVED EXPERIENCE

The Emergency Disaster Event simulation was an excellent opportunity to better my retention of information learned in the course, as it offered both reinforcement and application through lived experience. The simulation of a real-life catastrophic event provided a unique opportunity to:

- ❖ Integrate recently acquired nursing skills with theory
- ❖ Practice interpersonal skills
- ❖ Build confidence
- ❖ Improve clinical judgement
- ❖ Take risks in a safe environment
- ❖ Hone clinical judgement and decision making skills

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

This event integrated theoretical knowledge and practical experience using simulation and specifically through the use of simulated patients. This allowed for:

- ❖ Identification of gaps in knowledge
- ❖ Remediation in real-time
- ❖ Problem Solving – in the field
- ❖ Opportunities for collaboration
- ❖ Meaningful learning opportunities



INTERSECTORAL COLLABORATION

As a future nurse, I saw firsthand the importance of intersectoral collaboration. Which involves the following:

- ❖ Effective Communication
- ❖ Empathy
- ❖ Emotional Intelligence
- ❖ Respect
- ❖ Trust
- ❖ Team Work



The event was chaotic and stressful; the simulated atmosphere allowed quick identification of challenges in practice and also provided opportunities for collaboration among peers and other disciplines to fill knowledge gaps and create meaningful learning. As I approach professional registration, I regularly reflect on this day and how it underpinned the importance of communication and collaboration, both within and across disciplines.