

## Education, training and disaster preparedness

PKMC, Prehospital and Disaster Medicine Centre, is the medical training facility unit for crises and disaster preparedness in the region Västra Götaland, Sweden. PKMC is responsible for major incident preparedness in the region. We organize regional, national and international courses and are one of Sweden's five training centres in disaster medicine.

During a major incident the task of the medical services is to minimize physical and psychological trauma in the victims, on site, during transportation and in the medical facilities.

The medical organization must also control the flow of patients between the medical facilities. Other tasks also include psychosocial management of the injured and information to family members, the general public and the media.

Preparedness for a major incident includes being aware of the risks in the region and to do risk assessments. We must be able to assess the likelihood of major incidents happening, make continuously plans and provide training and exercises for medical staff.

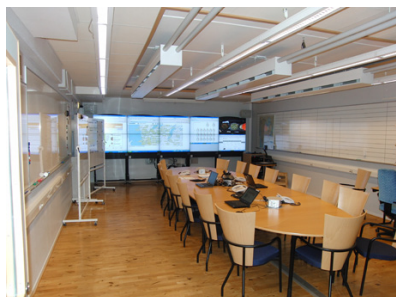


## Regional medical management of major incidents

For major incidents involving several hospitals, PKMC coordinates all medical resources in the region. At each hospital there are local disaster management

groups. The activities in each hospital maintain update information regarding the number of ICU beds, surgical capacity etc.

The core of the disaster medical management consists of an officer on call (RTiB) and a staff physician. When necessary, staffs with various types of expertises are added.



## Contingency plans

The region Västra Götaland has a regional disaster plan with guidelines for local contingency plans found at each hospital and in primary health care facilities. Local contingency plans serve as a basis for how to best utilize resources when the medical facilities are under heavy pressure. Contingency plans are continuously updated.

## Education and training

PKMC deliver courses in disaster medicine and psychosocial care. PKMC is one of Sweden's five training centres in disaster medicine and perform national courses on behalf of the National Board of Health and Welfare.

ALSG Sweden has since 2004 been a part of PKMC. ALSG Sweden is the only centre in Sweden that, in agreement with ALSG (Advanced Life Support Group) in Manchester, delivers national and international courses according to the systems developed by ALSG.



## Research and Development

The development of disaster medicine has been intensified within the last decades due to the increased risk for major incidents, global terrorism and natural disasters including climate changes. As a result of this renewed interest, the need for a better scientific basis for both research and training within this young speciality has been recognized.

Traditionally, research and development in disaster medicine has been characterized as reports and feedback gained from major incidents, a descriptive science without any major scientific assessment of methodology and results. Thus, there is a great need for research within this multidisciplinary field. PKMC has taken new steps investing in research and development in the field by inviting interested researchers to work with the centre. The result of this investment has been a growing number of publications, ongoing and planned projects, and participation in various national and international meetings.

**For more information see [www.vgregion.se/pkmc](http://www.vgregion.se/pkmc)**



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