

## General Presentation Syllabus

**Title:** *Weapons of Mass Distraction*

**Intended Audience:** General

**Length:** 60 minutes

**Brief Description:**

Since 9/11, continuing education in EMS has shifted heavily toward disaster preparedness, WMD training, and training aimed at major incident response. The flow of grant money from the federal government, and the inevitable proliferation of alphabet soup certification courses to take advantage of it, has seen EMS education become ever more specialized. This poses the question: In our zeal to be prepared for the Next Big One, have we begun to forget our core mission? Did we ever do it that well in the first place? Does it matter if we're all hazmat specialists if none of us can interpret a 12 lead EKG? Does it matter if we all know how to deal with a SARS epidemic, yet many paramedics cannot manage a difficult airway? This presentation will address these questions, and more.

**Objectives:**

1. Examine the proliferation of specialty WMD and disaster management courses that have come about since 9/11.
2. Discuss and describe the various inadequacies of initial and continuing EMS education.
3. Discuss and describe the practice of clinical medicine in the disaster setting.
4. Examine how to reconcile the knowledge and skill sets unique to each type of education, and discuss how proficiency in one may prove useful in the other.

**Resources Required:** LCD projector, computer audio, wireless mouse, wireless microphone