



Singapore
Medical
Association

For Doctors, For Patients

CMAAO – Disaster Preparedness, Response and Management

A perspective from Singapore
Dec 2025

Contents

- Disaster Preparedness, Response and Management
- History
- Involvement of medical community
- Contributions by SMA
- Current status [as of Aug 2025]
- Looking forward
- References



Singapore
Medical
Association

For Doctors, For Patients

Disaster Preparedness, Response and Management

- Mainly under domain of Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)
- Uniformed service
- Coordination with major hospitals, e.g. via regular training exercises
- Medical community typically in supporting role, e.g. via Public Health Preparedness Clinic scheme



Singapore
Medical
Association

For Doctors, For Patients

History

- 1978 – Spyros
 - explosion and fire on oil tanker S. T. Spyros
 - 76 deaths
- 1982 - National Civil Defence Plan formulated
 - Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) the incident manager (IM) for civil disasters, while the Ministry of Health (MOH) was responsible for on-site medical support



Singapore
Medical
Association

Involvement of medical community

- Examples of involvement of medical community
 - National University Hospital – annual Decontamination exercise
 - Test of emergency response plans for handling mass casualty incidents involving hazardous materials (HAZMAT)
 - Most recently held in Apr 2025



Singapore
Medical
Association

Involvement of medical community [con't]

- Examples of involvement of medical community
 - Exercise Kingfisher - Khoo Teck Puat Hospital took part in Exercise Kingfisher, a large-scale civil emergency response drill led by the Ministry of Health
 - test of ability to respond to mass casualty incidents – from first response at Emergency Department to care in Operating Theatre, Radiation Isolation Room (RIR) Intensive Care Unit, and Disaster Ward
 - Most recently held in Apr 2025



Singapore
Medical
Association

Contributions by SMA

- Although disaster response is not a focus area for SMA, some small contributions during recent COVID-19
- SMA also highlighted efforts by other organisations in publications like SMA newsletters



Singapore
Medical
Association

For Doctors, For Patients

Contributions by SMA [con't]

- Sold PPE to doctors/clinics during initial mask shortage during COVID-19
- Joint AMS-CFPS-SMA survey on public sentiments towards the National Electronic Health Record
- Articles and thematic issues on primary care in SMA News
- Provided quickstart guide to Telemedicine, to help doctors in primary care
- Train-and-place scheme to train clinic assistants for clinics



Singapore
Medical
Association

Current status [as of Aug 2025]

- Cell Broadcast System
 - Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) currently working with telco companies to set up Cell Broadcast System
 - alert the public in the affected area of an incident and broadcast emergency messages directly to their mobile phones
 - System is in addition to current Public Warning System, a network of sirens, and SCDF's myResponder App, which alerts the public to respond to nearby minor fires and cardiac arrest cases



Singapore
Medical
Association

For Doctors, For Patients

Current status [as of Aug 2025] [con't]

- Technology
 - Singapore deployed cyborg cockroaches following an earthquake in Myanmar earlier in 2025
 - These cyborg cockroaches helped in search-and-rescue efforts in very hard-to-reach, inaccessible and even dangerous places under the rubble



Singapore
Medical
Association

For Doctors, For Patients

Current status [as of Aug 2025] [con't]

- Knowledge exchange
 - Inaugural Singapore-International Disaster and Emergency Management Expo, held in Nov 2025
 - The conference will cover topics ranging from societal resilience to psychological resilience of the community
 - ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team



Singapore
Medical
Association

For Doctors, For Patients

Looking forward

- Flood resilience by Public Utilities Board, Singapore's national water agency
- Communicable Diseases Agency, officially launched in Nov 2025, consolidating public health and scientific expertise, operational and policy capabilities, and surveillance and analytics skills and systems, which formerly resided across Ministry of Health, the National Centre for Infectious Diseases and Health Promotion Board
- Exercise SG Ready, first held in 2024, and will continue annually



Singapore
Medical
Association

For Doctors, For Patients

References

- <https://www.nlb.gov.sg/main/article-detail?cmsuuiid=594c590a-defc-4687-af02-f7fd5a1ffe3a>
- https://journals.lww.com/smj/fulltext/9900/disaster_medicine_in_singapore_past_present,.106.aspx
- <https://www.facebook.com/NationalUniversityHospital/posts/when-every-second-counts-preparation-makes-all-the-differencelast-saturday-we-he/1104678231705731/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/khooteckpuathospital/posts/-on-5-april-2025-khoo-teck-puat-hospital-took-part-in-exercise-kingfisher-a-larg/1121237663381064/>
- <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/emergency-broadcast-system-to-alert-spore-public-of-disasters-on-their-mobile-phones-edwin-tong>



Singapore
Medical
Association

References [con't]

- <https://www.sma.org.sg/news/2018/August/joint-survey-on-the-public-sentiments-towards-the-national-electronic-health-record>
- <https://www.pub.gov.sg/Resources/News-Room/PressReleases/2025/11/PUB-launches-second-flood-resilience-campaign-to-promote-community-preparedness>
- <https://www.cda.gov.sg/news-and-events/official-launch-of-communicable-diseases-agency>
- <https://www.totaldefence.gov.sg/exercise-sg-ready/>
- <https://www.primarycarepages.sg/schemes-and-programmes/public-health-preparedness-clinic>



Singapore
Medical
Association

For Doctors, For Patients