CORRELATION BETWEEN NATURAL DISASTERS AND DISEASES IN THE STATE OF SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL: A PROBLEM OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Abstract: There is great significance in the correlation between natural disasters and diseases that are reported in the State of São Paulo in Brazil, being greater when these natural disasters occur in sites of high environment risks. Risk analysis of Civil Defense in the last 20 years has been identified following natural phenomena: fluvial erosion, linear erosion, droughts, frost, hail, flood sudden, gradual flooding, mass movement, windstorm or cyclones and tornadoes. Children and ancients are the most vulnerable groups to environmental factors. In 2007 there were in São Paulo 5,667 industries of chemicals, which accounted for the third most important industrial activity in Latin America. The increasing production of chemicals in the planet has increasingly supported the notion of the risk society. The metropolitan region of São Paulo has great environmental vulnerability with high concentration of industries and high risk for chemical accidents. The density of industries is the highest in Brazil, and the metropolitan area has a number above 16 industries in five of its municipalities (3.65% of all state industries). So the Health Department presents prevention programs based on the detection and control of risk factors to human health; identification and characterization and monitoring of the local population exposed to chemicals.

The areas of soil contaminated and cataloged in São Paulo are 4,131 in number and the metropolitan areas contributes 2,037 (49.31% of total) of soil contaminated areas. Between 2003 and 2007, were notified by the Civil Defense 1,865 disasters; of these, 1,483 (79.5%) were associated with floods. Municipalities have medium risk in health and environment (549 - 85.11% of total). The municipalities of the state of São Paulo who stayed in emergency or calamity in the summer by floods had increased in recent years, from 3 in summer 2011/12 to 17 in 2012/13. In all affected municipalities contaminated areas are mostly of gas stations. The areas of contaminated soil in the state in which there was at least one inhabitant intoxicated between 2007-2013 totaled 2884 , with the gas stations the vast majority of contaminants factors (above 90 %). Diseases transmitted by food and water have also increased in the summer's natural disasters, being mostly related to the flooding. The most common diseases related to contamination are cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A and acute diarrheal diseases, and the most severe leptospirosis, with high morbidity and mortality (incidence from 2007 to 2011, a total of 4,015 cases with mortality rate was 486 people).

Keywords: Disasters, diseases, contaminated soil, public health.

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