

# Inside a Disaster Response

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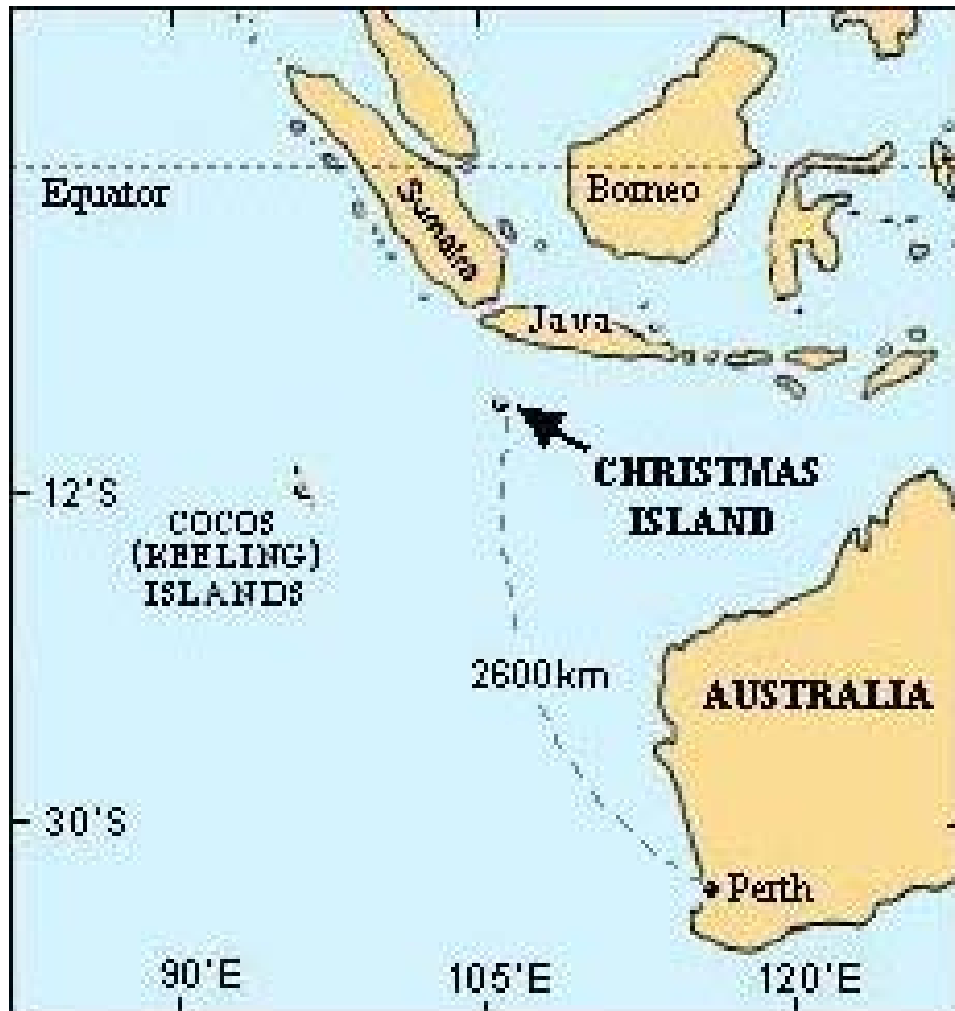
# Disclosures

- None!

# Objective

- To convince you that your community needs a detailed disaster plan!

# Situating the Problem



Population 2500+2500

Number of MDs: 7

Number of RNs: ?

Topography: sheer cliffs, 2  
boat ramps

Yearly mock disaster practice

<http://www.worldofmaps.net/en/oceania/map-pacific/map-christmas-island.htm>

Photo of cliffs

# Dec 15, 2010

- Christmas Islanders wake up to screams 0600h
- Approximately 90 passengers
- Cyclone/monsoon create maritime difficulties
- Wooden boat without power
- Attempts to get help
- Crash 0730h
- First victims to hospital 1230h
- RFDS plane arrives 2030h to evacuate 2 pts

# You Will Never be FULLY Prepared

- But you can be as prepared as possible
- Twists: monster waves, monsoon rains, diesel, couldn't launch/land boats, needed to change triage area, get staff/supplies/vehicles to remote location, transport patients, ambulance died, traumatized responders
- Referral centre 2600km away

# The ENTIRE Medical Community

- Dentist, dental assistants
- Optometrist
- Psychologist
- Physio
- OT
- They can take vitals, transfer patients, monitor patients, sterilize instruments



# Phases

- Activate disaster plan
- Bring in the people, inform key players elsewhere
- Assign roles (HINT: doctors shouldn't do this!)
- Rescue
- Triage
- Transport
- Re-evaluate (fresh eyes)
- Treat
- Determine disposition

# No, I don't need a Hercules!

- The government will meddle – I wanted body bags and the RFDS jet – but they wanted to send blood, doctors, a Hercules, etc.
- The media will call (and lie) and then descend

# PEARLS

- Consider keeping some people home to prepare for the next shift – you will need fresh people
- Request locums for the following days – you'll need help (whether you think so or not!)
- f/u with all agencies quickly to inform them of outcomes
- Refrigerated containers as a morgue

# It's the Little Things

- Bug repellent
- Zip lock bags to keep cell phones dry
- Food
- Dry clothes
- Share the successes

# To Improve On

- Give locums a copy of the disaster plan
- Sort out interpersonal differences
- Poor communication results in rumours
- Report outcomes to all involved agencies quickly
- Make sure staff, not just the community, is aware of resources for help

# How Good is Your Disaster Plan?

- Day care?
- Multiple copies in multiple locations?
- Does it reflect actual staffing (are you chronically short staff?)
- Gas demands?
- a checklist for resupplying post-disaster?

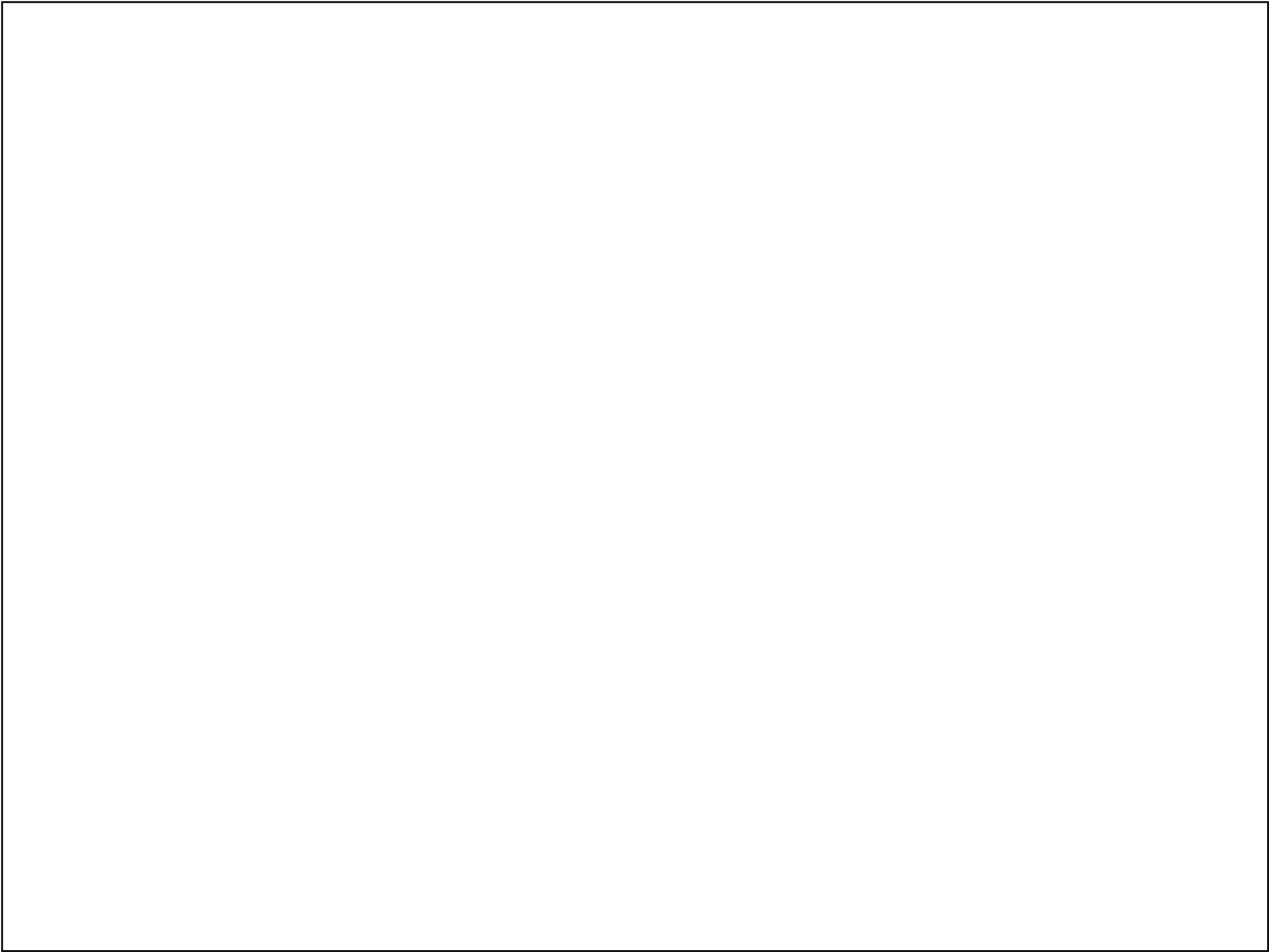
# At the end of the day

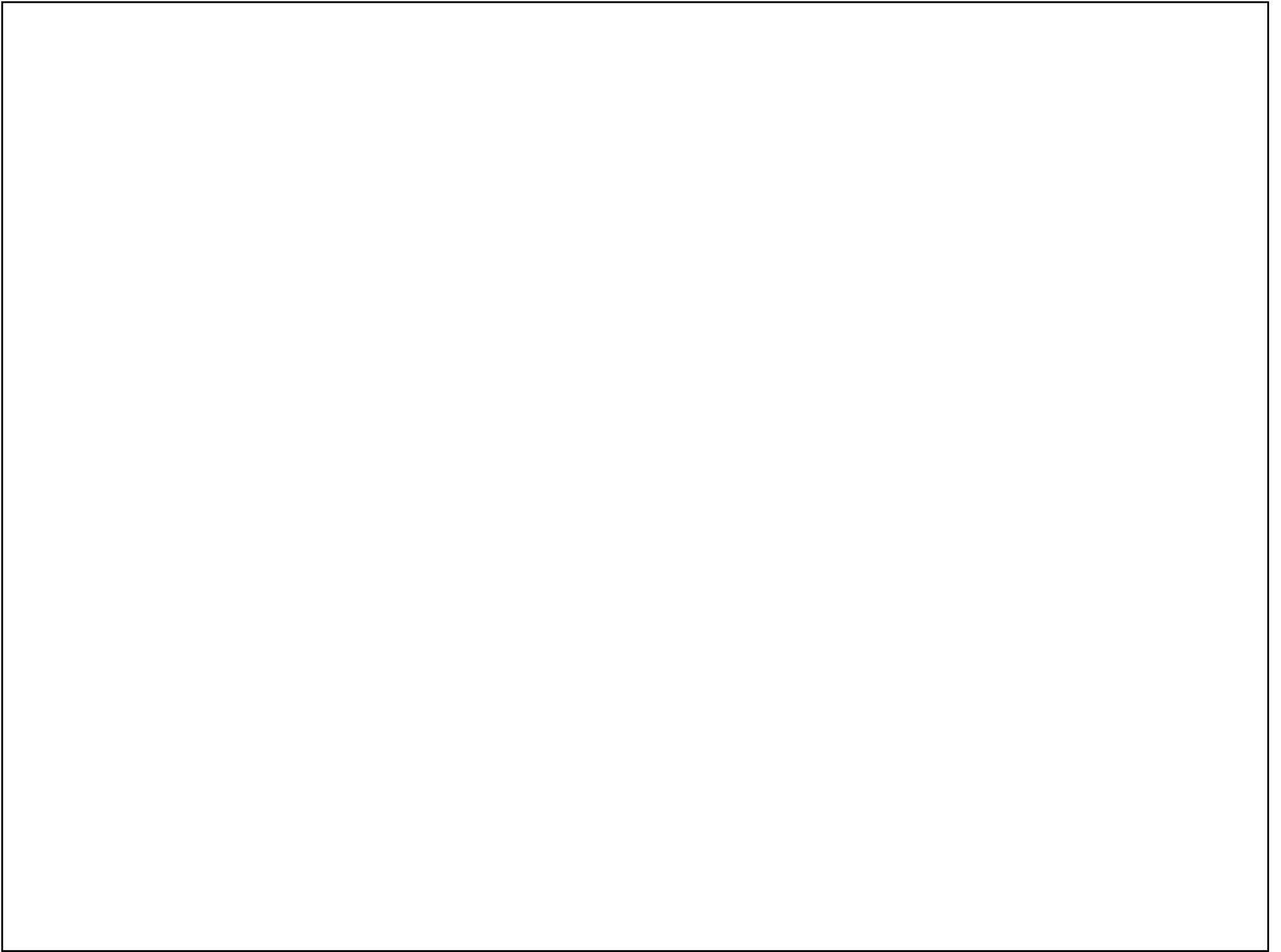
- Everyone who made it out of the water survived
- 90 aboard
- 42 survivors
- 48 dead (though only 30 confirmed)
- 13 men, nine women, four children and four babies.

# At the end of the day

- Response plan worked
- YOU NEED A RESPONSE PLAN AND IT NEEDS TO BE PRACTICED
- Make all new and locum staff aware of the plan
- Only then will you be able to live with yourself







Thank You