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Dr. Nabil Ebraheim, professor and chair of orthopaedic surgery, speaks to the Toledo Area Disaster Medical Assistance Team, which responds to disasters like hurricanes. [Click here for the full story.](#)

Number of work orders completed by Facilities Maintenance in 2000

40,268

Number of honorary degrees awarded by MCO through 2001

110

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In the News

Drilling for Disaster

Last Friday was the beginning of hurricane season. And unless you're a fan of the Weather Channel or have relatives living somewhere like the Carolinas, you're probably not too concerned about it. However, it's a fact that hasn't escaped the radar of about 30 MCO employees. They're part of the Toledo Area Disaster Medical Assistance Team that responds to disasters like hurricanes.

Over the weekend the team gathered for a field exercise to make sure its \$350,000 worth of equipment still works and that everyone remembers how to operate it.

Churton Budd, a systems analyst in clinical informatics, is the team's unit commander and says its bi-annual drills are vital to ensuring the team is prepared to treat people as soon as possible when it arrives at a disaster.

"Drills are extremely important," Budd said. "They keep the team interested since disasters don't happen that frequently. Drills also help to educate them that disaster medicine is different than hospital medicine."

The Toledo team can deploy in 12 to 24 hours, it can stay in the field for up to 72 hours without being re-supplied, and it can treat about 250 patients a day. Those impressive numbers are why it's considered one of the top medical assistance teams in the country.

This August, the team is listed the federal government as the "first to go" in the event of a disaster. It's a designation that will keep members on their toes, but one they relish.

"In health care there tends to be an attitude that a hospital and nurses will be there to take care of people, that's just their job," Budd said. "Post-disaster there's a different attitude. We're seen as going in to save them and we get some more rewards from it."

In the past the Toledo-area team has responded to hurricanes Andrew, Marilyn and most recently Floyd.



A member of the Toledo Area Disaster Medical Assistance Team.

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