

Introduction to Preparedness

Core Competencies For All Public Health Workers

Florida Department of Health
Office of Performance Improvement

Objectives:

- Describe the Public Health Core Competencies
- Identify public health's role
- Recognize the need for creative thinking
- Begin preparing your personal Family Disaster Plan

Core Competencies:

- Describe the public health role during disaster response within a range of natural or man-made disasters
- Describe chain of command during emergency response
- Identify & locate the agency emergency operations & continuity of operations plans

Core Competencies: *(cont'd)*

- Describe your functional role(s) in emergency response
- Recognize limits to your Knowledge, Skills & Abilities (KSAs)
- Identify key system resources for referring matters that exceed job functions

Core Competencies: *(cont'd)*

- Describe the role of communication in an emergency response

- **Recognize unusual events** that might indicate the need for action/evaluation & describe appropriate action

Public Health Roles

Prevent the spread of disease

Public Health Roles

Chain of Command

- **Be aware** of the Incident Command System (ICS)
- **Know the chain of command** within your work unit

Florida's Disaster Management System

Governor of Florida

Emergency Operations Plan

- **Ensures active involvement** in planning to meet public health responsibilities in times of emergency or disaster
- **Delivers essential public health services**
- **Meets emergency needs**

Emergency Response Plan (cont'd)

- **Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)** provides framework for each county's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
- **Organizes health department response** activities
- **Addresses major phases of a biological attack:** surveillance,

investigation, response, & recovery

Functional Roles

- **Know your role in an emergency:**
 - Essential services personnel
 - Support services personnel
- **Be familiar with your Continuity Of Operation Plan (COOP)**
- **Be familiar with your position description**

Job Function Limitations

- **You will never be required to do what you are not trained or qualified to do**
- **You will never be asked to do something limited by licensure requirements**
- **You will probably be assigned to help support the effort or to back up other responsibilities**

Job Function Limitations *(cont'd)*

- **You will be expected to be flexible & perform in ways that are not expected of you during normal operations**
- **If you don't know how, don't do it**
Get help

System Resources

Emergency response starts **locally**, then moves to the state & federal levels.

System Resources-DMATS

- There are 6 Florida mobile **DMATs** that travel to disaster areas
- Each DMAT consists of 30-50 health care providers & a **mobile clinic**

Communication Roles

- **Use established communication systems**
- **Be aware of media policy**
Who is your Public Information Officer (PIO)?
- **Refer all media requests to PIO**
- **PIO works with ESF 14 & partner agencies** to ensure a unified message is given to the public

Communication Roles *(cont'd)*

- **Be aware of public communication policy**
What is communicated & by whom?
- **Be familiar with the communication plan & pre-established meeting places**

Communication Equipment

- **Cell phones**
- **Land line phones**
- **Internet**
- **800 MHz radios (hand-held satellite radios)**
- **Direct connect radio**
- **Satellite phones**
- **Blackberries**

Unusual Event Indicators

- **Reports of unexplained increased activity in emergency rooms & use of Emergency Medical Services**
- **Reports of unexplained animal or crop die-off**
- **Lab results**

Unusual Event Indicators *(cont'd)*

- Person seeking medical care for signs & symptoms of WMD agents
- Documentation of confirmed or suspected cases in other countries
- Other

Creative Problem Solving

- Usual procedures may not work
- Have a back-up plan
- Don't overlook the obvious

Family Disaster Plans

- To respond in a disaster it is essential to have a good emergency plan in place for you & your family
- What are your personal communication priorities? (e.g. family, friends, etc.)

**Failing to Prepare
is
Preparing to Fail**