

Activity No. 5 – Plan Assumptions

Assumptions that are included in an environmental health emergency response plan are simply statements that are treated as true regarding the execution of a plan. They should be included to show the limitations of the plan, allowing users and others to foresee that some improvisation or modification may become necessary. It is valid to include even obvious assumptions: that identified situations or hazards will occur, that individuals will execute their assigned responsibilities, that EH staff will have received adequate training, and that safety and security of responding EH staff is a top priority throughout any emergency.

What assumptions do you think should be included in an EH emergency response plan?

Potential topics are presented on the following page.

Activity No.5 (Continued)

- EH Section staff will be available for emergency response activities on an as-needed basis, acting under the direction of the Department's Public Health Incident Management Team and the Incident Commander.
- The safety and security of responding staff is the top priority throughout any emergency event.
- Staff will receive the necessary training, materials and supplies prior to engaging in emergency response activities.
- Staff will have prepared a personal emergency plan for themselves and their families, understanding the importance of ensuring the safety of loved ones in order to be effective on the job during an emergency.
- All staff participating in a response effort will be provided the opportunity to ask questions about the incident, the Department's overall response, compensation and other relevant policies and procedures.
- Staff will have access to emotional, mental and personal support systems.
- Additional outside staff will be available as needed.
- Interoperable communications and computer equipment will be available.