

**Disaster Strikes –
Do you have an Environmental
Health Emergency Response Plan?**

Lesson 2 - Overview of EH
Roles and Responsibilities when
Responding to a Disaster/Emergency



Environmental Health Skills

- **Assessment**
- **Management**
- **Communication**



Environmental Health Skills (Cont.)

- **Assessment**
 - Information Gathering
 - Data Analysis
 - Evaluation



Environmental Health Skills (Cont.)

➤ Management

- Problem solving
- Project Management
- Reporting



Environmental Health Skills (Cont.)

➤ Communication

- Education
- Risk Communication
- Conflict resolution



EH Functional or Topic Areas

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Food/Water Outbreak Investigation | 8. Hazardous waste |
| 2. Water safety | 9. Household hazardous waste |
| 3. Food safety | 10. Medical/infectious waste |
| 4. Sanitation (sewage) | 11. Chemical incident |
| 5. Mass care | 12. Radiological incident |
| 6. Vector control | 13. Flood |
| 7. Solid waste | 14. Tornado/Windstorm |



Outbreak Investigation

- Outbreaks uncommon
- Preventive activities
- Early detection & treatment
- Evaluation of food facility or water source
- Health Dept. - supporting role



Water Safety

- Ensure safe, potable water is available
- Prevent outbreaks of water-borne diseases
- Provide information about water safety and supply to the public
- Provide technical assistance & guidance to regulated food service establishments



Food Safety

- Conduct inspections of licensed facilities
- Ensure facilities can provide for hand-washing, safe water, and refrigeration
- Provide information about food safety



Sanitation

- Prevent human exposure and the spread of disease-causing microorganisms
- Prevent contamination of domestic water supplies
- Prevent the degradation of surface and groundwater quality



Mass Care

- Provide care assistance through:
 - temporary shelters
 - mobile feeding operations
 - direct distribution of relief supplies
- Ensure that safe feeding and shelter conditions are available at emergency gathering places



Vector Control

- Reduce spread of disease & psychological stress from increase in insects and rodents
- Provide information to residents about mosquitoes
- Coordinate emergency corrective measures against vectors



Solid Waste

- Solid waste infrastructure interruption
- System overburden
- Potential public health concerns
- Solid waste – proper storage, collection and disposal
- Guidance, oversight and liaison



Hazardous Waste

- Hazardous waste generators/facilities
- Lead agency for release
- Technical assistance for cleanup activities
- Waste disposal



Household Hazardous Waste

- Provide information about waste collection activities for homeowners
- Discourage washing or disposing of hazardous materials into sewers, drains or soil



Medical/Infectious Waste

- Identify locations where medical waste is being generated
- Verify facilities are operational
- Determine availability of medical waste transporters
- Inspect medical waste facilities



Chemical Incidents

- Work with emergency responders & agencies to ensure public safety
- Assess impact on food safety and water supply sources
- Assess casualties & alert facilities
- Provide information about the nature of the chemical
- Explain decontamination
- Inform the public



Radiological Incidents

- Provide information, guidance & reassurance to the public
- Collaborate with other emergency response organizations
- Collect soil, water and/or vegetative samples in cold zone
- Conduct environmental monitoring & assist in personal monitoring

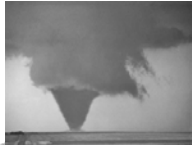


Floods/Tornados/Wind Storms

- Conduct rapid qualitative assessment for:
 - Vulnerable populations
 - Building habitability
 - Debris
 - Hazardous materials
 - Dead animals



- Coordinate with Red Cross



- Provide information to homeowners and regulated businesses



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