

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

Lesson 4 – Starting your
Environmental Health Emergency
Response Plan



Government's Responsibility

- Elected leaders take immediate action
- Government marshals resources
- Work with voluntary agencies & private sector



Preparedness

- Establish responsibilities for emergency actions
- Garner resources to support your emergency actions
- Emergency preparedness activities require upkeep-training, drills & exercises



Focus on Response

- Time-sensitive actions to save lives/property
- Sustain morale
- Assessing damage (EH role)
- Mass shelters (EH role)



Recovery

- Restore critical infrastructure
- Rebuild social, economic & cultural life
- Provide basic human needs




EH Emergency Plan Format

- No mandated format
- Format is good if:
 - Users understand it
 - Are comfortable with it
 - Easily find information



Group Activity No.4


Organizational Framework



FEMA Plan Components for an EOP


- Purpose
- Situation and assumptions
- Concept of Operations
- Assignment of Responsibilities
- Administration and Logistics
- Plan Development and Maintenance
- Authorities and References

Source: FEMA State and Local Guide 101: Guide for All-Hazard Emergency Operations Planning (9/96)



Plan Components Used in Two EH Emergency Response Plans

| | |
|---|--|
| ➤ Purpose | ➤ Introduction |
| ➤ Assumptions | ➤ Purpose |
| ➤ Concept of Operations | ➤ Situation & Assumptions |
| ➤ Organization & Assignment of Responsibilities | ➤ Roles and Responsibilities |
| ➤ Authorities & References | ➤ Concept of Operations |
| ➤ Resources | ➤ Responsibility, Notification, Activation & Reporting |
| ➤ Amending the Plan | ➤ Response Actions |
| ➤ Quick Start | ➤ Communications |
| | ➤ Training |
| | ➤ Authority |



Purpose of the Plan

- Provide formal written guidance and instructions to EH staff working immediately after a disaster/emergency strikes a community and during the recovery period



Assumptions

- Are treated as true
- Many are obvious
- Must be spelled out in the plan



Group Activity No.5

Assumptions Discussion



Plan Assumptions (In HC Plan)

- Follow Existing Agency Policies
- Inform & Protect Employees and Workers
- Inform Key Policy Makers & Response Partners
- Inform the Public
- Intra/Inter Agency Communication and Collaboration
- EH Staff Role
- Availability of EH Staff
- Training



Concept of Operations

- Understand the sequence and scope of the planned emergency response
- It explains your agency's overall EH approach to a disaster or emergency



Group Activity No.6

Concept of Operations Discussion



Concept of Operations (In HC Plan)

- Awareness of an Incident
- Activation of the Plan
- Management Structure
- Response Procedures
- Media Contact
- Plan Development
- Intergovernmental Communication
- Emergency Equipment and Supplies
- After Action Report



Organization & Assignment of Responsibilities (In HC Plan)

- Organizational Structure
- EH Incident Commander
- Planning Section Chief (for a Case II Incident)
- Operations Section Chief (for a Case II Incident)
- EH Technical Specialists
- Strike Team
- Job Action Sheets




Authority for Plan

- Federal Laws
- State Statutes
- County/City Resolutions
- County/City Ordinances




EH Related Resources

- Web Addresses
- Hard Copy Fact Sheets




Amending the Plan

- If the provisions of the plan fail in an exercise, drill or actual emergency
- Significant amount of new information must be added to the plan
- Updating information
- Semi-annually




Plan Appendices

- Contact information for Hennepin County, municipalities, state & regional agencies
- EH Go Kits
- Field Operations Report Form
- Decision Flow Charts
- Job Action Sheets
- Fact Sheets




Group Activity No. 7

Emergency Contact Information




Group Activity No. 8

EH Go Kits



Group Activity No. 9

Documenting Field Activities



Contact Information

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