Developing A Health & Safety Plan for Disaster Response: A Closer Look at the Ideal vs. Reality

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Countless hours of man-power are spent ensuring training programs, training facilities, & trainers meet appropriate criteria. Yet, does your training facility have an emergency action plans and is truly prepared for an event such as Katrina? An event like Katrina has rewritten the rules for trainers and health and safety professionals whose job is to prepare and secure their facilities for events involving hazardous materials before, during and after a natural disaster. This presentation will explore the lessons learned from Katrina. It will also examine what went right and what went wrong.

INTRODUCTION
Agenda

- The Events – The Ideal
  - Preparation stage
  - Post events
- Disaster Impact & Challenges - Reality
  - Loss of power
  - Training Staff
  - Trainees
  - Equipment
  - Training class
- Katrina Impact on Trainees
  - 2002 DSCEJ Trainee, Tracy Johnson
- Lessons Learned
- Questions
The Events – The Ideal

- Preparation Stage – Before the disaster
- Post Event
  - Outcomes
  - Lessons learned
Preparation Stage – Before the Disaster

- **Written Emergency Action Plans**
  - Assign responsibilities
  - Inventory supplies and equipment*
  - Develop a current list of contacts*
  - Secure departmental assets

*On-going activities*
Post Events – Outcomes

- Assess damage to training organization
- Restart business
Disaster Impact and Challenges - Reality

- Loss of Power
- Training staff
  - Difficult to find
  - Limited
  - Have to allow for personnel personal issues
- Trainees
  - Difficulty to find
  - Have to allow for trainee personal issues
- Equipment
  - Availability
  - Vendor Issues
  - Had to make due make due with changes
  - Money not readily available or cash only deals
- Training class
  - Locating a good facility
  - Conduct training in certain order
  - New regulatory requirements - Waivers and variances
  - Shift in training priorities and training order
Katrina Impact on Trainees

- More job opportunities
- Business opportunities for trainees

  - Shantra, LLC
    - Owners – Tracy Johnson (2002 DSCEJ trainee) & Shannon Johnson (wife)
  - Performs house gutting, home repairs, pressure washing, debris hauling
    - Cut Masters – lawn division
Debris Removal
House Gutting
House Gutting
Lessons Learned

- Write and implement Emergency Action Plans and review and update plans on a continuous basis.
- Critique events with all involved to update program and better address future disasters.
- Develop relationships and network with other training and professional organizations who have had to address disasters or problems to obtain ideas and learn from their experiences.
- Develop relationships to secure equipment, info, and needs to provide training and trainees as soon as possible after the disaster strikes.
- Update training inventories.
- Secure training documents in both electronic and hard copy forms.
- Develop alternative communication systems.
- Allow for exceptions when it comes to training personnel and trainees.
Questions?