

WORKSHOP SESSION SUMMARY
POST-CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS
2018 National Trainers' Exchange

1. Session Title and Presenter's Contact Information:

Workshop title: **What's In Your Bag ? " Go Bag " - Tools & Ideas For Being Prepared**

Presenter (s) Name: **David J. Coffey**

Presenter Organization: **The New England Consortium / UMass Lowell**

Presenter Email: **david_coffey@uml.edu**

2. Workshop Summary:

Most disasters and emergencies can come with little notice. Emergency responders, skilled support personnel, recovery workers, volunteers and the trainers that train them all need the right tools to do their job. Having the right tools can make the difference between success and failure.

One way to stay prepared in the midst of a sudden crisis is by packing a go-bag, an emergency carryall with just-in-case supplies.

This discussion and small group activity will provide trainers with a fun and interactive process for helping their audience think about and develop a list of materials and supplies that can be used when escaping from an emergency or responding to one.

3. Methods:

The training method utilized for the presentation was a short lecture to introduce the topic and the small group activity, in addition Power Point Slides with key elements of the presentation which included photographic examples of various types of " Go Bags " were use during the lecture portion. The majority of the workshop time was spent in small groups practicing with the activity that was introduced in the opening lecture. This was followed by discussions at each table on which courses, with their own organizations, that the trainers could use the activity.

Small Group Activity Summary:

- Each table was given 60 – 5 X 8 inch index cards.
- On each card was one item that could be useful in an emergency situation / disaster (i.e. poncho, multi tool, first aid kit, etc.)
- One person at each table was requested to lay out the cards (10 rows across of 6 cards down) so all participants could view the items listed on each card.
- Each participant was given a pen and a printed answer sheet with 24 blank lines.

- The participants were asked to select 24 items from the listed items on the cards that they believed would be most helpful to them in their specific job - duty in an emergency / disaster and record them on their answer sheet on the 24 blank lines.
- After the participants had recorded the 24 most useful items they were asked to circle 12 of their answers that they thought were the most useful items on their own personal list.
- After the participants choose 12 useful items they were asked to place a star next to 6 of their 12 circled answers, these items would be the most useful of their own personal list.
- The participants were then asked to compare their 6 most useful items with other members at their table.
Discussion expanded beyond what each individual had picked for their useful items and included being prepared for emergencies in general.

4. Main Points/ Key Points Raised from Participants:

Key Lessons:

- What's a go bag ?
- Conducting needs assessment; what tools and supplies do I really need to get the job done ?
- Small group activity ideas for helping students develop their own custom go bags.
- Resource lists of useful materials.

Responses From Participants:

- Useful as part of a larger discussion on emergency preparedness
- Activity could be used in various courses
- Activity could be adapted for different course audiences (i.e. youth groups, emergency responders, volunteer groups, skilled trade staff)
- The items listed on the cards were very comprehensive and included items they had not thought of when the activity was introduced.

Some of the participants were returning back to their organizations / homes and preparing their own real " go bags " for their own use. One participant routinely responded to small chemical spills at their institution during off hours and they were going to include Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in their bag to insure they would always have the appropriate equipment when responding to spills. Another participant, who lived in a tornado prone area, was going to equip a go bag for her young son who would take it to the neighbors storm shelter in case of a tornado warning.

5. References:

[Reference materials (including articles, reports, training materials, links, etc.)]

- TNEC Training materials
- TNEC App's List

6. Workshop Handouts/ Resources:

See attached documents