

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

1. Session Title and Presenter's Contact Information:

Workshop title: Emergency Preparedness Training for Volunteers, Community and Faith-based Organizations

Presenter (s) Name: Bruce McClue, and Kim Dunn

Presenter Organization: Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Inc

Presenter Email: brucem@dscej.org

2. Workshop Summary:

The advent of natural disasters over the last decade has put a strain on our federal, state and local government resources. The pressure of meeting the economic, structural, medical and emotional needs has caused them to become inefficient and slow to respond. This inefficiency has caused volunteer groups such as the Cajun Navy to try to fill the gaps. Having volunteer, community and faith-based organizations responding in time of disasters to help is not the issue. Untrained or poorly trained individuals can cause additional safety issues. Volunteer, Community and Faith-based Organizations (VCFO) can provide resources that can help reduce the impact of a large-scale emergency. There are several reasons why it is important to train VCFOs. 1 They are already a big part of the community and have in place distribution networks. 2 They have the trust of the communities they serve. 3 They have a vested interest to see the communities restored physically and emotionally. This training is designed to help VCFOs properly prepare and respond to disasters. They are able to prepare the physical facilities in case an emergency takes place during a service; and prepare church leaders and volunteers to spread the word about disaster readiness among their congregation through information and readiness toolkits. VCFOs will provide church leaders and volunteers the training required to help the community during disaster response and recovery.

3. Methods:

Training method is the use of a PowerPoint for lecturing and discussion. Advantage: control the flow and subject of the presentation. Disadvantage: Limits class participation.

4. Main Points/ Key Points Raised from Participants:

A. Difficulty in getting experienced trainers and organizations to commit to training volunteers;

B. Faith-based groups often do not want to turn away unqualified volunteers;

C. Time and materials

5. References:

- FEMA - Volunteers Play Integral Role in Disaster Relief and Recovery Efforts, September 18, 2017; <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2017/09/18/volunteers-play-integral-role-disaster-relief-and-recovery-efforts>
- American Red Cross: Across the Nation: Red Cross Deploys Record Number of Volunteers for Disaster Response, August 2016, <http://www.redcross.org/news/article/Across-the-Nation-Red-Cross-Deploys-Record-Number-of-Volunteers-for-Disaster-Response>
- NIEHS, Safety Awareness for Responders to Hurricanes and Other Disasters; http://www.njwec.org/PDF/Factsheets/NIEHS_SafetyAwareness.pdf
- OSHA, Hazardous Waste and Operation, Recovery, 29CFR1910.120(e)

6. Workshop Handouts/ Resources:

None