



NATIONAL
HEALTH CARE
for the
HOMELESS
COUNCIL

**REDUCING DISASTER VULNERABILITY FOR CONSUMERS
THROUGH A PEER-TO-PEER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
TRAINING**

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NATIONAL
HEALTH CARE
FOR THE
HOMELESS
CONFERENCE &
POLICY
SYMPOSIUM
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WHY THIS TRAINING [MACRO LEVEL PERSPECTIVE]

- Individuals are expected to protect themselves during emergencies
- The resources available during a federally declared disaster are often not available during severe weather and local emergencies
- Community emergency management efforts are most effective when individuals living in the community know their role.



WHY THIS TRAINING [CONSUMER PERSPECTIVE]

- Increase knowledge about potential emergencies and appropriate actions.
- Avoid inaction resulting from past experiences.
- Build relationships with service providers who can provide direction during emergencies.

OBJECTIVES FOR TODAY'S WORKSHOP

- Understand how emergencies and disasters affect people experiencing homelessness
- Learn how the Surviving the Streets training can improve health and safety
- Become familiar the content of the Surviving the Streets Training
- Know how to implement this training in your community



HIGH DISASTER RISK

HAZARD X VULNERABILITY = DISASTER RISK



VULNERABILITIES CONTRIBUTING TO DISASTER RISK

- Limited access to media outlets to receive emergency communication
- Limited resources to take risk reduction measures
- Laws that criminalize homelessness push people out of public areas making them harder to reach
- Most shelters are closed during the day
- Lack of transportation for evacuation
- Poor social support networks
- High prevalence of mental illness, trauma, disability

SURVIVING THE STREETS TRAINING OBJECTIVES

- Increase knowledge of local weather-related hazards
- Build on existing skills needed to survive outdoors during severe weather
- Establish safety plans for people caught outdoors during severe weather
- Provide a forum of support for people who are experiencing homelessness
- Increase knowledge of local resources available during emergencies and disasters



WHO SHOULD DO THIS TRAINING?

A person who conducts this training should have the following skills and traits:

- Experience living outdoors in severe weather, emergency, or disaster.
- Confidence
- Organized
- Resourceful
- Instinctive
- Passionate



TRAINING OVERVIEW

- Opening remarks
- Local hazards and emergency response: Emergency Management
- Group discussion
- Health and Safety: Public Health/Health Care for the Homeless
- Group Discussion
- Safety Planning



TRAINING: OPENING REMARKS

Objectives of opening remarks:

- Thank everyone for attending the training, introduce yourself and briefly describe your experience being without housing and why you wanted to do this training.
- Describe the objectives of this training and walk through the agenda.
- Describe the timeframe for this workshop and encourage participants to share their experiences during the times allocated for group discussion.
- Introduce the other speakers.

TRAINING: LOCAL HAZARDS & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Objectives:

- Increase participant knowledge of local weather-related hazards
- Describe the role of the emergency management agency as it relates to these hazards.



Clyde's Place, a tent city in Joplin, MO
June 27, 2011
Photo: Valerie Mosley / News-Leader

TRAINING: GROUP DISCUSSION 1

Objectives:

- Describe actions that can be taken to protect oneself from severe weather and disasters.
- Facilitate conversation about past experiences and appropriate precautionary measures.



TRAINING: HEALTH AND SAFETY

Objectives:

- Describe common illness and injuries related to extreme weather
- Discuss emotional wellbeing after a disaster
- Provide resources for assistance



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-CdsZLPoDQ&feature=related>

TRAINING: GROUP DISCUSSION 2

Objectives:

- Discuss experiences with weather related illness and injury
- Discuss actions that can be taken when symptoms arise
- Discuss local resources



TRAINING: SAFETY PLANNING

- **Complete a safety plan.**

Safety plan components:

- How will I stay informed?
- Where will I go if I need to get to shelter quickly?
- What will I do if I don't have time to get to a shelter?
- What is my escape route?

- **Encourage participants to complete the emergency health information card.**

TRAINING PACKET

- Flyers to promote this workshop in your community
- Copies of this emergency preparedness curriculum to give to other presenters
- Copies of the Emergency Preparedness booklet to give to participants of the training
- Emergency health information cards to give to participants during the training
- Evaluation forms for participants to complete
- A prepaid envelope for returning completed evaluation forms to the National Health Care for the Homeless Council

QUESTIONS?

MORE INFORMATION

National Health Care for the Homeless Council
Emergency Preparedness Resources

www.nhchc.org/resources/clinical/tools-and-support/emergency-preparedness/

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