



South Central Public Health Partnership

TRAINING PROFESSIONALS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC

<http://lms.southcentralpartnership.org/scphp>

Environmental Health Issues in Disasters

Instructor: Amy V. Lafreniere, MS, ScD

This course in Environmental Health Issues in Disasters takes a closer look at the fundamentals of environmental health through the lens of a disaster situation. Environmental health issues that arise during disasters are explored, and suggestions for environmental health responses unique to disasters are given. Several historical disaster examples are used, with a focus on Hurricane Katrina, the Indian Ocean tsunami and the World Trade Center collapse as the major case studies. Upon completion of this course, the student will be proficient in the knowledge, theory, planning and application of each of the following fields of environmental health before, during and after a disaster:

- Water quality
- Wastewater and sewage treatment
- Food safety
- Rodents and insects
- Debris and hazardous waste
- Indoor and outdoor air quality

Learning Objectives

Module 1: Introduction

- Identify and prioritize the major elements of environmental health that become critical in disaster situations

Module 2: Drinking water and wastewater in disasters

- Compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of individual drinking water wells and municipal drinking water treatment systems after a disaster
- Compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of individual and municipal sewage treatment systems after a disaster

Module 3: Food safety after a disaster

- Identify reasons that food safety may become compromised in a disaster situation
- List ways that food safety may be maintained during a disaster

Module 4: Pest and vector control after a disaster

- List the major types of pests and vectors of concern following a disaster and identify the diseases that they may transmit
- Describe measures that can be taken to control or eliminate exposure to each of these pests

Module 5: Debris and hazardous waste after a disaster

- Discuss the main challenges to proper disposal of debris and hazardous waste after a disaster

Module 6: Air quality after a disaster

- List some examples of possible air contaminants resulting from a disaster
- Describe some issues that an environmental health specialist may encounter in trying to monitor air quality post-disaster

Competencies

- Recognize unusual events that might indicate an emergency and describe appropriate action.

* *Bioterrorism and Emergency Readiness*

To register for this course visit us at
<http://lms.southcentralpartnership.org/scphp>