



South Central Public Health Partnership

TRAINING PROFESSIONALS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC

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Environmental Health and Shelters

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This course was developed by CAPT Mark Miller, a Senior Environmental Health Officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The content of this course is taken from a series of lectures that CAPT Miller and his colleagues deliver around the country as a package of Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response. The lectures in this course focus on teaching environmental health specialists how they can apply their knowledge of everyday environmental health problems to dealing with environmental health issues that arise in the creation of mass shelters that may follow a major disaster. By the end of this course, the student should be able to describe key environmental health issues and the roles of environmental health professionals in shelter operations. The topics covered in this course include:

Learning Objectives

Module 1 – Introduction

- Describe the role of Environmental Health professionals in mass shelter operations

Module 2 – Shelter Basics

- Identify the lead organizers of mass shelters
- Describe the role of Emergency Support Functions in the development and maintenance of shelter operations

Module 3 – Shelter Classification and Site Selection

- Describe the different types or classes of shelters
- Identify the standards that must be met for a site to be designated as a shelter facility

Module 4 – Sanitation and Housekeeping

- List the components of a SanPac and discuss the underlying assumptions for its use
- Describe when and how to use a spill kit for bodily fluid clean-up
- Discuss the sanitation and housekeeping procedures that are unique to child care and food preparation/distribution facilities within a mass shelter

Module 5 – Staffing and Assessment

- Indicate the staffing recommendations for EH personnel at a shelter
- Describe the components of a shelter assessment tool

Module 6 – Special Needs Shelters

- Describe the unique considerations in sheltering special needs populations
- List measures to prevent outbreaks in shelters

Module 7 – Pets and Shelters

- List special considerations for maintaining pets in shelters
- Discuss options for pet sheltering and the pros and cons of each

Module 8 – Health Education in Shelters

- Discuss the types of information that need to be communicated to the residents of a shelter, and the best means to do so

Competencies

- Describe the public health role in emergency response in a range of emergencies that might arise.

* *Bioterrorism and Emergency Readiness*

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