Mosquito Abatement in Louisiana Post Katrina and Rita

Instructor: Kyle Moppert

Course Description
On August 31, 2005, the landfall of Hurricane Katrina and its associated storm surge resulted in the destruction of large areas of Louisiana, which included Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes and the cities of Slidell and New Orleans. Three weeks later, Hurricane Rita pushed a second record storm surge over the western coast of Louisiana, destroying huge areas of Cameron and Vermillion Parishes. Vector control became an issue of utmost importance. Many of the professionals who normally handled these duties had evacuated and were as far away as California.

This course will address the mosquito/vector control response capacity pre-Katrina and Rita and compare it to mosquito/vector control response post-hurricane. Other topics to be covered include vector-related public health concerns such as arboviruses, as well as vectors of concern such as various mosquitoes, filth flies, bottle and blow flies, and rats. The course also will address the vector-related problems that continue to confront professionals, as storm-related changes in the ecology of vast areas of the state present ongoing challenges to mosquito abatement. NOTE: This course was originally delivered as a satellite broadcast.

Learning Objectives
- Describe several post hurricane (major) public health vector concerns
- Discuss several Katrina/Rita public health vector abatement solutions
- Explain how post Katrina/Rita ecological changes have permanently altered vector abatement in Louisiana

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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