

The Behavioral Health Response to Disasters

Satellite Conference

Tuesday, August 24, 2004 • 2:00-4:00 p.m. (Central Time)

3:00-5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) • 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) • 12:00-2:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)

This satellite conference will feature two segments of Behavioral Health Disaster Response. The first segment is "The Integration of Behavioral Health into the Incident Command Structure." In this segment, participants will learn the formal Incident Command System utilized by Emergency Response Organizations and where behavioral health fits within. The recent literature indicates that psychological responses to disasters, especially terrorism, have the second largest impact on communities after physical injuries. This has facilitated the integration of mental health and substance abuse into the Incident Command System internally, as well as externally. This segment will discuss that integration process and is geared towards the professional and management response staff.

The second segment details the Crisis Counseling Training and Assistance that is generally offered to communities in the aftermath of disasters when the local response system is overwhelmed. This segment defines the goals of a Disaster Behavioral Health Response Program and describes in detail the components of the crisis counseling intervention. Public education, training and outreach to special populations are also addressed as part of the overall implementation of the program. This segment is geared towards professional, paraprofessional and community response staff.

FACULTY:

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COURSE OBJECTIVES: Segment 1 - The Incident Command System as it relates to Behavioral Health

1. Discuss the history of the development and use of the Emergency Management Incident Command System.
2. Understand how the ICS system works in small, as well as, large-scale emergency incidents.
3. Define the tasks and responsibilities of the individuals in the various roles within the ICS system.
4. Identify where mental health and substance abuse services fit within the external ICS systems in an emergency.
5. Describe the current efforts to further integrate behavioral health services into the structure of the ICS as part of all hazards planning and preparedness for future events.
6. Understand the potential roles that participants may play via their behavioral health organization in the event of a disaster.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Segment 2 - Crisis Counseling

1. Discuss the goals of crisis counseling, public education and training as a part of a disaster response.
2. List the key aspects of the crisis counseling intervention.
3. Describe the differences between formal, office based mental health services and crisis counseling and outreach.
4. List three normal reactions of adults and children in the aftermath of a disaster.
5. Discuss strategies to successfully outreach to special populations, ethnicities and cultures as part of disaster response efforts.
6. List the types of trainings that may most effectively prepare counselors to respond to a disaster.

CONFERENCE DETAILS:

Target Audience: Nurses, Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors

Registration: www.adph.org/alphtn **Cost:** No cost to view

CEU's: Nurses (2.1 hours), Social Workers (1.75 hours), Licensed Professional Counselors (2 hours).

Satellite Coordinates: C & Ku Band.

Conference Materials: Posted on our website approximately one week before the program.

Questions: alphtn@adph.state.al.us or 334-206-5618. This program will be closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.