

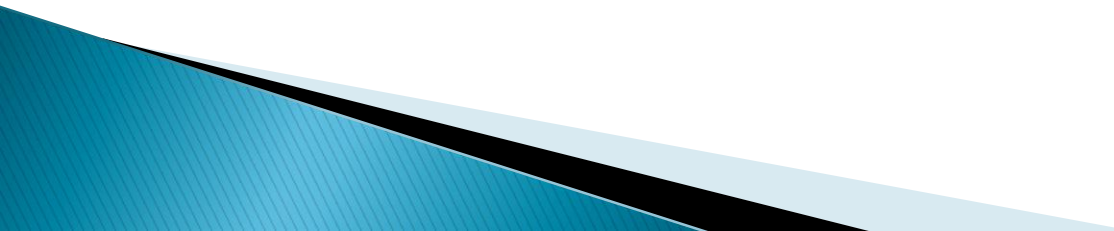
# The Public Health Nurse's Role in Disaster Preparedness

*Clair Millet, MN, APRN, PHCNS-BC, DNPc*

*Public Health Nursing Webinar*

*July 31, 2013*

# Objectives:

- ❖ Discuss the types of disasters, including natural and human made
  - ❖ Identify what Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) of the National Response Framework apply to public health nursing during disaster
  - ❖ Describe the public health nursing role in disaster preparedness
- 



Images from: LA DHH



# “Disaster” Defined

▶ Disaster- dis·as·ter *n.*

a. a sudden calamitous event bringing great damage, loss, or destruction; *broadly* : a sudden or great misfortune or failure

b. An occurrence causing widespread disruption, destruction and distress requiring external assistance;



# ***What is a “Disaster”?***

*A disaster is present when need exceeds resources!*

**DISASTER = Need > Resources**

A response **NEED** that is *greater* than the **RESOURCES**  
that are available!

# TYPES OF DISASTERS



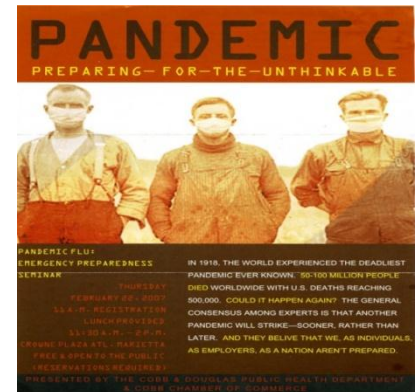
## Human-Made Events

Warfare, Transportation accidents, Bombing, Structural collapse, Fires, Pollution, Hazardous Materials Incident (Oil Spill), Civil unrest, Terrorism (CBRNE incidents), Cyber attacks, Airplane crash, Water supply contamination



## Natural Disasters

Earthquake, Volcano, Hurricane, Flood, Tornado, Landslide, Avalanche, Pandemics/Epidemics, Tsunamis, Extreme heat and cold, etc.



# National Overview

- ▶ 2002 – U.S. Department of Homeland Security created
- ▶ 2003 – Homeland Security Presidential Directive-8/Presidential Policy Directive (PPD)-8 (2011)
  - National Preparedness
    - 5 Preparedness Mission Areas:
      1. Prevention
      2. Protection
      3. Mitigation
      4. Response
      5. Recovery
- ▶ 2004 – National Response Plan (NRP)
- ▶ 2006 – Pandemic & All Hazards Preparedness Act

# National Overview (continued)

- ▶ 2008 – National Response Framework (NRF evolved from NRP)
  - National Incident Management System (NIMS) – PPD 5 to include Incident Command System (ICS)
  - Emergency Support Functions (ESFs): 15 total
    - ESF 8 : Public Health & Medical
- ▶ Two national documents to be aware of that guide disaster preparedness, response and recovery:
  - Homeland Security Presidential Directive 21
    - Public Health & Medical Preparedness
    - National Health Security Strategy



# **Disaster Management**



# The Disaster Management Cycle



# PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES (PHNs) & DISASTERS

- ▶ Public Health Nurses play a critical role in coordinating and implementing *any* disaster response plan
  - *Largest segment of the public health workforce; Most trusted profession*
  - *Community advocates*
  - *Unique skill sets*
- ▶ Must understand the disaster cycle and be able to be integrated at every phase

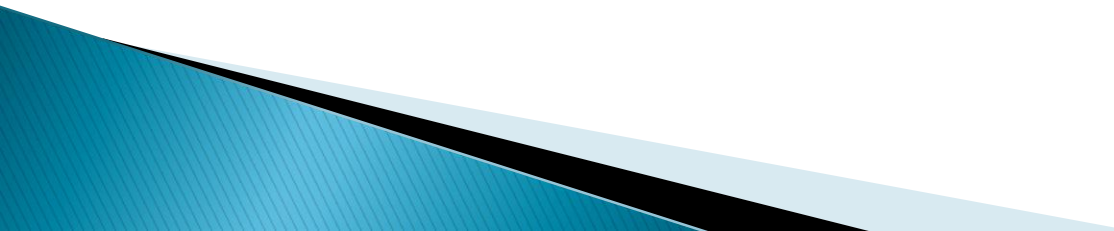




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# PHNs & Disasters (continued)

- ▶ Services provided should be consistent with the scope of practice; PHNs clinical knowledge regarding disease pathophysiology and epidemiology in conjunction with community assessment skills can serve a crucial role in emergency preparedness and response
  - ▶ Participation in healthcare policy development
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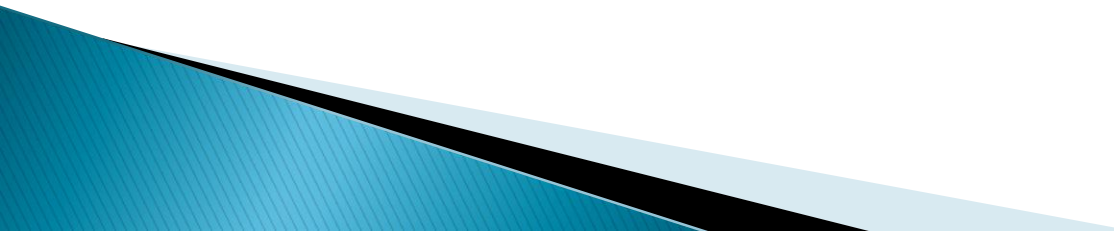


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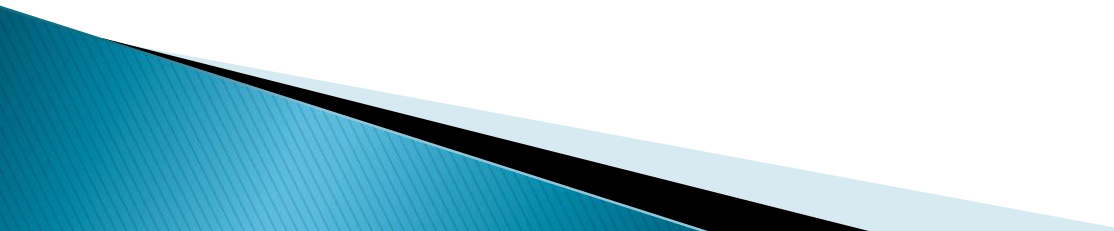
# Prevention (Mitigation)

# Prevention Measures

- ▶ All-hazards mitigation
  - ▶ Structural & Nonstructural
  - ▶ Deter potential threats
  - ▶ Take action to eliminate threats
- 




# Examples of Prevention Activities

- Hazard vulnerability assessment/risk assessment
  - Increase security
  - Increase testing specific to the event; increased surveillance
  - Mass prophylaxis/immunization
  - Assessment & identification of potential hazards/vulnerabilities
  - Isolation & quarantine
  - Halting of CBRNE threats
- 

# Preparedness



# Preparedness

- ▶ Personal
  - ▶ Professional
    - Disaster competencies -
      - *International Council of Nurses (ICN) Framework of Disaster Nursing Competencies (ICN and World Health Organization, 2009)*
      - *Public Health Preparedness and Response Core Competencies (ASPH, 2010)*
  - ▶ Community
  - ▶ Training, Drills & Exercises
- 





ARE YOU  
PREPARED?



Images from: LA DHH and Google Images

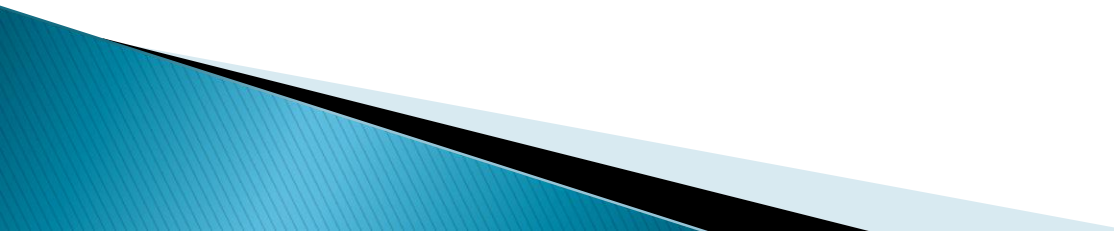


# Response

# Response

- ▶ National Response Framework; NIMS; ICS
  - Event begins and ends at the local level

Public health nurses bring leadership, policy, planning and practice expertise to disaster preparedness & response

- ▶ First responders; triage
  - ▶ Epidemiology; surveillance
  - ▶ Rapid needs assessment
  - ▶ Risk communication
  - ▶ Assist with medical surge capacity
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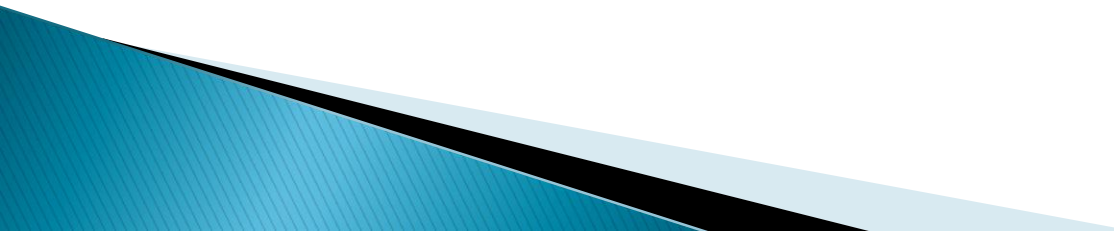






# Recovery

# Recovery

- ▶ Flexibility is important; attempt to return to “usual” operations.
  - ▶ Community assessment
  - ▶ Psychological support
  - ▶ The public health nurse is the community and client advocate
- 

***The mission of public health, core functions, and essential services do NOT change in a disaster – Neither does the practice of public health nursing***



# PARTNERSHIPS & TEAMWORK



PUBLIC  
&  
PRIVATE



# Resources



## **The Role of Public Health Nurses in Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery**

*A Position Paper*

**Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN)  
Public Health Preparedness Committee**

**Goal for Completion: *September 2013***

**APHN website [www.phnurse.org](http://www.phnurse.org)**

# Phases of Disaster Linked to the Nursing Process

Disaster Phase	Definition	Assessment	Planning	Implementation	Evaluation
<b>PREVENTION (MITIGATION)</b>	Prevent a disaster or emergency; Minimize vulnerability to effects of an event.	Assess a group of elderly citizens for their awareness about preventing heat stroke.	Develop community education plan to increase awareness about preventing heat stroke.	Conduct community education activities to increase awareness about preventing heat stroke.	Evaluate community education activities on preventing heat stroke.
<b>Preparedness</b>	Assure capacity to respond effectively to disasters and emergencies.	Assess the populations at risk for special needs during a disaster.	Develop plans to care for special needs populations during a disaster.	Conduct training, drills and exercises related to care of special-needs persons.	Evaluate plans for serving populations with special needs.
<b>Response</b>	Provide support to persons and Communities affected by disasters and emergencies.	Serve on a response team to determine the impact and specific health needs of hurricane survivors. Triage victims.	Develop plans to rotate staff on response teams to prevent stress and burnout among responders.	Deploy staff to shelters after a hurricane, in accordance with local and/or state emergency response plans.	Participate in after action reviews and/or debriefings to evaluate quality of health services provided and lessons learned.
<b>Recovery</b>	Restore systems to functional level.	Serve on team to assess community assets and potential for recovery from a recent flood.	Collaborate with partners and community leaders to plan long-term recovery priorities after a flood.	Participate in restoring community services after a flood.	Serve on team to evaluate long-term impact on persons displaced by a flood.

**Source: ASTDN 2007**



# Recommended Resources

## *National, Public Health, and Nursing References for understanding Public Health Nurse Practice in Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery*

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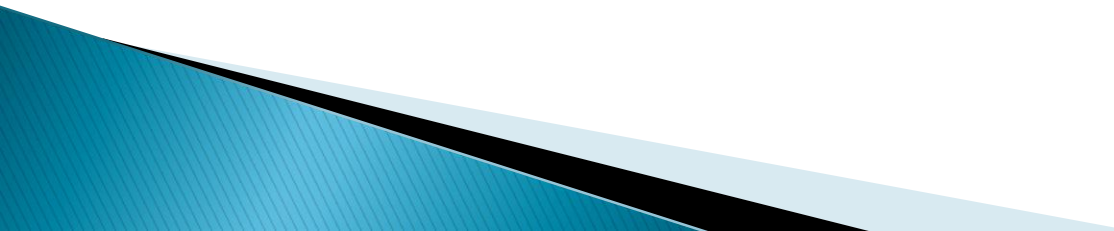
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Fill out your evaluation in Survey Monkey and at the end there will be instructions to “click here” to get your CE Certificate. Click to open up your certificate first and then submit your evaluation.

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# Links to PHN webinar archives

- The link to the archives and the PP slides are available at

[http://www.masslocalinstitute.org/?page\\_id=2888](http://www.masslocalinstitute.org/?page_id=2888) To view the archive select the session you wish to view, click on the right facing arrow below the large black viewing box and the video will play.

- You can also access the archive link and the PP slides on the MAPHN website at <http://www.map hn.org/nea2013>



**Thank You!**