



Lesson Three

Community Preparedness and Planning



Lesson Learning Objectives

- Identify hazards to be addressed in disaster plan
- Describe components of regional, community, and institutional disaster plans
- Define the term *vulnerable population* as used in the context of a disaster
- Identify individuals and populations at risk for development of adverse health effects in a disaster
- Identify communication modalities to be used effectively to contact others



Essentials of Community Disaster Plans

1. Develop plans in advance.



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**Existing
Assets**

**Additional
Needs**

**Additional
Resources**

= Policy and Operational Systems

Community Planning Overview

- Identify types of events that might occur in region
- Plan emergency activities in advance to ensure coordinated response
- Build capabilities necessary to respond effectively
- Identify type and nature of event when it occurs
- Implement planned response quickly and efficiently
- Mobilize resources to recover from incident

2. Build and maintain relationships.



Example: H1N1 Response

- Cooperation of State agencies and Healthcare Organizations
 - Vaccine distribution & allocation
 - One State response plan
 - Vaccination clinics through PODs, local providers, and SD Community Health Nurses
- Rigorous Communication Activities
 - Regular conference calls with providers, city or county officials
 - Weekly Situation Report
 - Daily updates via SDHAN alerts

Emergency Alerts

- South Dakota Health Alert Network (SDHAN)
 - Automated alerting system
 - Used by State to share public health and safety information with key public and private partners
 - Example: Infection Control at Hospitals and Clinics



SD POD Plan



3. Establish authorities.



- Provide mechanism for cooperation and coordination of activities, resources, and policies
- Articulate chain of command for leadership and coordination

4. Assess risks.

Risk perception: understand how different people and organizations perceive and measure risk

Hazard assessment: analyze hazards for particular geographic area and magnitude of impact

Vulnerability assessment: identify particular infrastructures, organizations, and populations at risk

Capacity assessment: identify available resources to reduce risk

Common Hazards to Consider

- Communicable disease outbreaks
- Natural disasters
- Fire
- Hazardous material spills
- Industrial plant explosions
- Terrorist attacks
- Public utility disruptions
- Civil disorder
- Infrastructure damage



Karen Nutini/FEMA

What type of natural disaster is most likely to affect your area?

1. Earthquake
2. Flood
3. Hurricane
4. Tornado
5. Tsunami
6. Other

Hazards in South Dakota

Natural Disasters

- Flood
- Wildfire
- Blizzard/Ice Storm

Technological

- Electrical Failure
- IT Failure

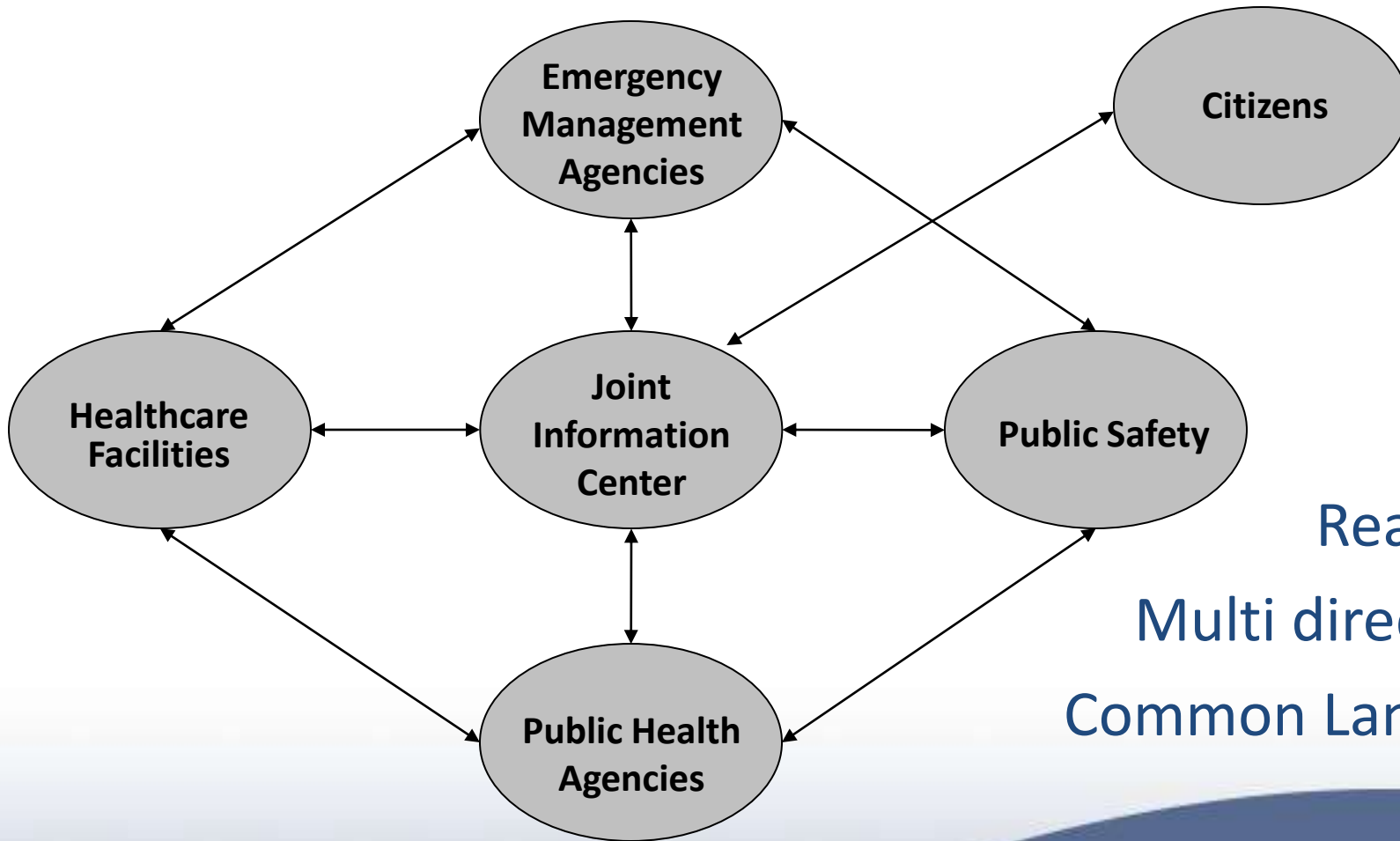
Human Disasters

- Mass Casualty (Medical/Infectious)
- Mass Casualty (Trauma)

Hazardous Materials

- Hazardous Spill
- Terrorism, Chemical

5. Establish communication process.



Real Time
Multi directional
Common Language

Communicating with the Public

- Respond quickly and accurately
- Identify primary person to be “voice” for public to receive single, clear message
- Control nature of content released as every detail need not be shared
- Convey concern, compassion, and understanding to media
- Appreciate role and effort of media in emergency management

6. Consider legal and ethical issues.

- Scarce resources
- “Altered” standards of care
- Implementation of police powers
- Liability (Ex: SERV SD Law)



Leif Skoogfors/FEMA

7. Consider all populations.

Vulnerable populations: groups with needs not fully addressed by traditional service providers

- Age
- Disability
- Economic Disadvantaged
- Limited Language Competence and Cultural/Geographic Isolation

Examples of Challenges



Liz Roll/FEMA

- A disabled person whose needs cannot be met in shelter
- A non-English speaking person who does not understand evacuation order
- A frail elderly person with limited mobility
- A recent immigrant reluctant to ask for help

8. Be exercised and evaluated.

1. Request resources:

- Emergency management contacts
- Community responders
- Supply vendors

2. Practice processes:

- Tabletop exercises
- Full scale drills

3. Include stakeholders:

- Hospitals
- Businesses
- Schools

Disaster Planning for Health Care

- Component of larger community plan, and includes:
 - Decontamination
 - Drills and exercises
 - Evacuation and transportation
 - Surge capacity
 - Triage and treatment
- Must address possibility of health facility becoming disaster “casualty”

Resource Identification: Volunteer Healthcare Professionals

Goal 1: Maintain a registry of pre-credentialed healthcare professionals & students.

Goal 2: Deploy volunteer healthcare professionals & students during a public health emergency.

Goal 3: Rapidly verify the credentials of spontaneous unaffiliated volunteers.



<http://serv.sd.gov>



Deployment to a Public Health Emergency:

- SERV SD activated by a request for volunteers
- Volunteers alerted of opportunity to deploy
- No obligation to deploy. Only if it's right for you.
- Legal protection for volunteer deployed by SERV SD

Event Specific Planning: Flu Pandemic



H1N1 (2009) and **H5N1** highlight need to prepare for pandemics and other infectious diseases in advance, including vaccination.

Prevention and personal hygiene:

- Frequent hand washing
- Proper cough etiquette
- Avoid contact with sick
- Use of PPE

Lesson Summary

Institutional and community planning includes:

- Identifying the type of event most likely to affect your community, business, or institution
- Planning activities to ensure coordinated response
- Building capabilities necessary to respond effectively
- Implementing planned response quickly and efficiently
- Mobilizing resources to recover from incident

