East Central Public Health District
Disaster Health Information Project

Presenters: Kathy Davies, MLS
Chair, Research & Education Services

Brenda Seago, MLS, MA, PhD
Director, GRU Libraries
Project Goals

Facilitate access to health information resources
  • Assess local disaster information needs
  • Targeted survey for emergency response community

Greenblatt Library hosted disaster information web portal
  • Utilize results of information needs assessment
  • Customized disaster topics links

Develop disaster information training sessions
  • Scheduled across health district
Project Goal: Information Needs Assessment

Survey contacts determined by public health partners

- All 13 counties represented
- 63% response rate
- Participants included:
  - EMS and EMA
  - Hospitals
  - Health Departments
  - Salvation Army
  - American Red Cross

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Project Goal: Information Needs Assessment

Questions Designed To Identify:
• Most likely disaster situations
• Natural and Man-Made disaster risk
• Information resources commonly used
• Finding disaster information
• Need for specific types of information
• Mobile device and social media usage

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High Level Disaster Risks

Natural Disasters
- Tornadoes
- Winter Weather
- Floods

Man-Made Disasters
- Radiation Emergencies
- Fires
- Chemical Emergencies

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Acknowledged Information Pathways

- Trusted Website: 87%
- Colleagues: 70%
- News Media: 60%
- Printed Manuals: 53%
- Internet Search: 52%
- Reference Texts: 52%

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Disaster Information Reported As Commonly Needed

(By Percentage of Respondents)

- Multilingual Information
- Disaster Lessons Learned
- Specific Populations
- Specific Disaster Fact sheets
- Directory Of Organizations
- Disaster Health Conditions

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Project Goal: GRU Disaster Health Information Portal
Web Portal Design Elements

Mobile Version

GRU Greenblatt Library Disaster Health Information

- Tornadoes
- Floods
- Winter Weather
- Chemical Emergencies
- Radiation Emergencies
- Fires

NLM Resources:

* Other Disaster Types and Topics
* NLM Disaster Management Information Center
* Disaster Organizations
* MedLine Plus Disaster Preparation and Recovery

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Web Portal Design Elements

Local Resource Links

- Local Public Health Websites
- Regional Maps
- Local News
- Local Public Libraries
- Training Materials

- Regional Maps
  - Regional Coordinating Hospitals
  - Georgia Public Health Districts
  - GEMA Field Coordinator Area
  - Emergency Medical Service Regions

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Web Portal Design Elements

• Direct link to NLM Disaster Information Management Resource Center for high risk disasters

• Link to MEDLINEPlus Disaster Preparedness

• Disaster Types and Topics link for more information

• NLM Organization widget to identify potential partners

• Direct link to NLM disaster apps

• Links to key local resources
  • Media outlets for each county
  • Coordinating hospitals and emergency regions maps

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Project Goal: Training Sessions

• Four sessions completed to date with 38 attendees
• Joint presentation with grant partners
  • Strategic National Stockpile & CDC Updates
• Computers available for hands-on learning
• CE Credit awarded to health care providers

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Project Goal: Training Sessions

- Tornado was example disaster to navigate web portal

- Highlighted resources included
  - Psychological information resources
  - Resource Guide Disaster Medicine and Public Health
  - MEDLINEPlus information for community preparedness
  - Links to journal literature
  - Mobile portal & disaster apps

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There was a significant increase in knowledge after the training session (M= 5.52, SD= 0.750) over before the training session (M= 1.24, SD= 1.446). t(20)= 15.00, p < .001.
Training Comments

Most useful information from classes:

- Being informed of availability of web resources
- Getting to navigate NLM site
- Knowing “disaster types and topics” resources

Least useful information from classes:

- Do not have smart phone to use apps
Final Project Survey Results*
(By Percentage of Respondents Post-Training)

100% Found Web Portal Easy to Navigate
75% Accessed Web Portal Post-Training
50% Performed a General Search
33% Searched for Mobile Apps

Comments reflect approval of current web design
*20% response rate – final training held September 19

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Project Goals: Lessons Learned

- Scope of disaster information is barrier
  - Challenge to move beyond known sites
  - Unaware of MEDLINEPlus

Technology can be a obstacle
- May not be comfortable with database searches or complex website navigation
- Smartphones used as communication tools
- Not aware of disaster specific apps

- Reliance on print materials and training guides
  - Purchase of current disaster medicine texts
  - Promotion and training key for internet resources

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Project Goals: Future Directions

- Host and maintain disaster web portal
- Increased awareness for emergency responders
- Investigate refresher training options
- Partner with GRU Disaster Prevention personnel
Project Personnel

Principal Investigator
Brenda Seago, PhD, Director of University Libraries

Project Manager
Kathy Davies, MLS, Chair, Research & Education Services

Project Consultant
Grace Xu, MS Information Science

Grant Partners – East Central Public Health District
Jonathan Adriano, MPH, Emergency Preparedness Director
Larry Walker, BA, Public Relations Information Coordinator

Public Health Intern
Andy Bruner, BA

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