



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

**University at Albany
Center for Public Health Preparedness
Grand Rounds Series**

April 12, 2007



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Florida

Port Charlotte - Punta Gorda - Englewood

April 12, 2007

**From Teachers to Leaders
In Crisis**

Call-In

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Evaluation

www.UAlbanyCPHP.org/evals

**Nursing Contact Hours,
CME & CHES Credits Available**

Duty to Shelter and Protect

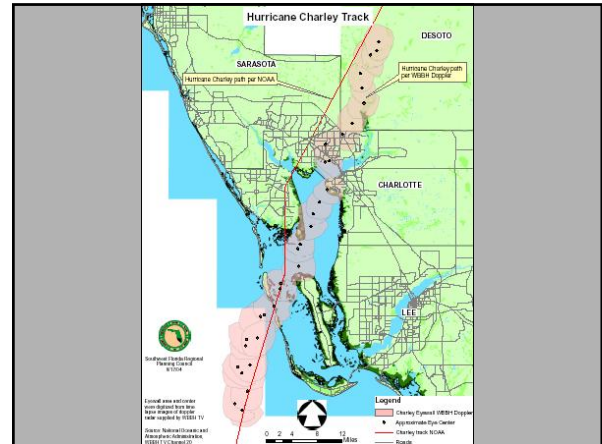
- School children
- Staff
 - Teachers
 - Aides
 - Bus Drivers
 - Food staff, etc.
- Community Members



Threats to Schools



- **Natural Disasters**
 - Earthquakes
 - Tornados
 - Hurricanes
- **Disease Outbreaks**
 - Pertussis
 - Influenza
- **Terrorism**
 - September 11th
 - School shootings



Charlotte County Public Schools

- 20 schools
- 19,200 students



Charley's Destruction:

- 6 schools completely destroyed
- 6,000 students without a school to go to
- 10,000 homes destroyed

Baker Center - Hurricane Charley - August 2004

Charlotte County Public Schools, Florida



Baker Center - Hurricane Charley - August 2004

Charlotte County Public Schools, Florida

Drill Meets Reality

Positives:

- Knew key partners in advance
- Established meeting places
- 800 mh radios

Problems:

- Cell phones didn't work
- Electricity was out
- Insufficient resources

Key Partners

- County Coordinator
- Fire department
- Police department
- Command Center personnel
- Hospitals
- YMCA, Parks and Rec personnel
- Red Cross, Salvation Army
- NOVA (National Org Victims Assistants)
- All school personnel – teachers *and* support staff

Engage All School Personnel in Planning & Response

- Teachers & Administrators
- Transportation staff
- Food service staff
- School Nurses
- Maintenance
- Librarians
- School Board members

The Role of Public Health

- Undertake risk assessment & hazard mitigation
- Keep current contact lists of schools, MDs, nurses, health volunteers
- Staff clinics
- Manage NOVA providers
- Manage mobile care units
- Provide vaccines if needed
- Manage mental health issues
 - *DOH facilities may also be destroyed*

School Nurse

- Assess each child after disaster
- Talk with family if a child shows signs of trauma
- Serve as bridge to Public Health/Parents
- Preserve student health records
- Link community resources
- Monitor student immunization schedule

School Nurse

Cont.

- Maintain medication schedule
- Anticipate possible lack of student medications
- Anticipate possible lack of medical equipment
- Take care of self



Deep Creek Elementary - Hurricane Charley-August 2004 Charlotte County Public Schools, Florida

Communication Plans & Equipment in place

Hard copies of contact lists

- 800 mgh radios
- Crank Radios
- Cell phones with batteries & car chargers
- Extra batteries
- Generators
- HAM radios
- Create a phone tree for recovery



Hurricane Charley, August 2004, Charlotte Cty Public Schools, FL



Hurricane Charley, Aug. 2004, Charlotte County Public Schools, Florida



Hurricane Charley - August 2004 - Charlotte County Public Schools, Florida

Protecting School Computers

In advance:

- Install wireless computer systems
- Back-up data and store elsewhere

Before a storm/crisis:

- UNPLUG and set computers up high
- Put computers in sealed plastic bags
- Retrieve data and get 'online' before resuming classes if possible



Charlotte High School - Hurricane Charley - August 2004
Asset Preservation Report
Charlotte County Public Schools, Florida

Food Supplies

- Sufficient supply of food & water
- Back-up refrigeration plans/options
- Staff to manage donations
- Volunteers to serve food
- Advance menus for service
- Supply of beverages, banked ice
- Proper sanitation and service of food
- Law enforcement on site

Transportation

- Vehicles always sufficiently fueled
- Fuel storage tanks refilled
- Buses stored in different locations
- Use school buses to transport people to shelters
- Use school bus PA systems
- Store spare tires for buses and cars
- Know where your keys are at all times



Punta Gorda Center – Transportation - Hurricane Charley – August 2004, Charlotte County Public Schools, Florida

Preparing Shelters

- Know which schools are Red Cross designates shelters
- If none are designated, create shelters in available spaces



Hurricane Charley - August 2004 - Charlotte County Public Schools, Florida

You and the Media

- Appoint ONE spokesperson
- Refer all questions to the spokesperson
- DO NOT talk to the media if you are not the spokesperson
- Be polite and kind and firmly say, *“I’m sorry, you’ll have to talk to our spokesperson.”*

Use Media to Your Advantage

- Fact finding/sharing
- Designate specific radio station
- Disseminating information
- Requesting needed supplies
- Publicizing hotlines and websites

Account for Everyone

Contact:

- All teachers
- All staff
- All students and their families
- All partners (bus drivers, etc)

Method:

- Phone tree
- Driving to homes in school buses
- Check online lists at shelters

Documentation

- Inventory everything in advance
- Note books – logs all activities
- Details: dates, locations, quantities

Tools:

- Digital cameras, videos, and cards
- Memory cards and chargers
- Calculators
- PDA or laptop computers

Getting Back to School

- Resume classes as soon as possible
- Be creative in scheduling
- Keep students with their teachers whenever possible
- Retain the school's identity – even if classes are held elsewhere
- Request donations for supplies
- Request federal support for lunches

Students' Mental Health

- Allow time for the transition
- Keep in touch with families
- Allow students to tell their personal stories – in their own time and way
- Follow-up with students who show signs of emotional trauma and get them professional help
- Return to routines asap

Environmental Health Issues

- Mold
- Trash
- Debris
- Stagnant water
- Animals living in wreckage

(will add photos of mold, etc)



Neil Armstrong Elementary - Hurricane Charley - August 2004 Charlotte County Public Schools, Florida
Mirco Assessment Report

Rebuilding

- Plan space for rebuilding
- Consider rebuilding plan before placing mobile classrooms

Begin with the End In Mind



Charlotte High School - Hurricane Charley - August 2004 Charlotte County Public Schools, Florida
Modular City Report

Prepare in Advance



Neil Armstrong Elementary Hurricane Charley - August 2004 - Charlotte County Public Schools, Florida
Modular City Report

Lessons Learned


- Schools need to be notified & prepared (across districts planning)
- Familiarity with key partners essential
- Coordinate with county emergency plans
- Redundant emergency communication plans & equipment

Conduct Drills Regularly

- Table top exercises
- Lock downs
- Disaster drills
- Random dates of drills

All-Hazards Approach Key

- Severe weather
- Fire
- Air disasters
- Violence
- Terrorism
- Intruders



“Before the Storm”
“After the Storm”

www.albanycphp.org
See “From Teachers to Leaders”

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Today’s Guest:
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May 10, 2007

Integrating Community
Health Centers in
Community Response