



**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**

**Phone: 800-452-0662**

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**Email:**

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**Evaluation**

**[www.UAlbanyCPHP.org/evals](http://www.UAlbanyCPHP.org/evals)**

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

**Duty to Shelter and Protect**

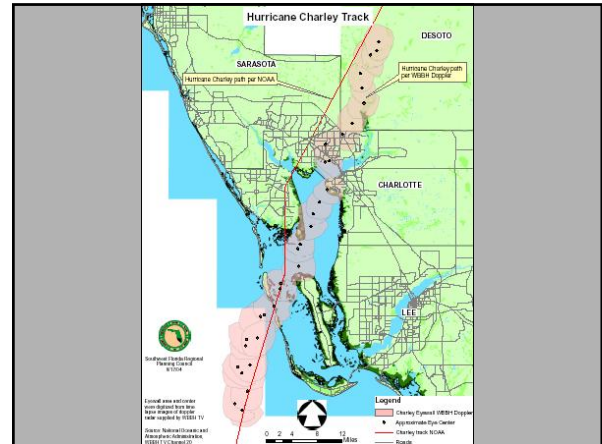
- School children
- Staff
  - Teachers
  - Aides
  - Bus Drivers
  - Food staff, etc.
- Community Members



## Threats to Schools



- **Natural Disasters**
  - Earthquakes
  - Tornados
  - Hurricanes
- **Disease Outbreaks**
  - Pertussis
  - Influenza
- **Terrorism**
  - September 11<sup>th</sup>
  - 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](http://www.albanycphp.org)**

See “From Teachers to Leaders”

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**Today’s Guest:  
[Roseann\\_Samson@ccps.k12.fl.us](mailto:Roseann_Samson@ccps.k12.fl.us)**

**May 10, 2007**

**Integrating Community  
Health Centers in  
Community Response**