

TRAINING SCENARIOS

Provide a minimum of 5 training scenarios that could be used to mobilize a mental health response team. You may want to share ideas that you have used in the past. You may want to include geographical details.

1. It is early in the morning in October and a tornado unexpectedly hits town of Wakarusa and vicinity in Elkhart County. Ten people are injured and there is significant structural damage to: commercial buildings; a mobile home manufacturer; about a dozen homes in town; and, several nearby farms. The day after the tornado hits, the Elkhart County EMA Director, asks the District 2 Disaster Mental Health Team to respond. She asks for Teams to do outreach with volunteers who are working to clear farm fields of debris and to work with the American Red Cross who has opened a shelter in the Bretheran Church near Nappanee.
2. This winter there has been a lot of snow accumulation and the roads are often very icy and treacherous. There have been numerous automobile accidents with fatalities. Yesterday, a school bus full of children on their way to school collided into an oncoming semi-truck near the intersection of U.S. 31 and U.S. 30 in Marshall County. The school bus driver had lost control of the bus and hit the truck. The school bus driver and nine children between the ages of 5 to 11 years died at the scene. Twelve children were taken to the hospital and they are in serious condition. The Plymouth Elementary School where the children attended is planning a memorial and prayer service in the School gym tomorrow afternoon. The School principal calls to find out if District 2 has crisis counselors who would be willing to attend the service and be available afterwards to parents, teachers, and students who may be having difficulty coping with the aftermath of this terrible accident.
3. January, 2010: There is an outbreak of H1N1 flu in northern Indiana.

This is the second wave of the flu and it is deadly. Several people have died and many others are ill. The Indiana Board of Animal Health (BOAH) has also found that several pigs in Fulton County have tested positive for a swine flu. BOAH plans on destroying herds of pigs where two or more pigs in the herd have tested positive. The farmers will receive some remuneration for the slaughtered animals but less than market value. The slaughtering will also take place on location to prevent spread of the disease. BOAH fears that the impacted farmers and their families will be distressed by the slaughter. The BOAH representative to District 2 asks that the District's mental health strike team set up and man an 800 number telephone crisis line specifically for these farmers.

4. An old tanker car at the Elkhart train yard was hit by an engine and began leaking chlorine gas. Three yard workers inhaled the chlorine gas and they are not expected survive. Four hours after the leak was discovered, the Elkhart County HAZMAT Team capped the tanker.

In the meantime, firefighters and law enforcement from Elkhart County as well as neighboring Counties evacuated a several mile radius around the tanker. A few evacuees have been taken to local hospitals for respiratory problems. However, the majority of evacuees are at three local shelters set up by the local American Red Cross in conjunction with local Salvation Army canteen. The evacuees will be allowed back into their homes and businesses within the next twenty-four hours. The Elkhart County EMA Director requested that the Disaster Mental Health Team assist the Fire and Police Departments in educating the evacuees regarding chlorine gas. The National Railroad Transportation Board has already done a TV press conference but the evacuees remain upset and agitated. Teams of Mental Health workers are needed to go to the shelters and pass out information and talk with the evacuees and shelter staff. Our K-9 Crisis Dog Team has also been invited to the shelters to comfort the evacuees.

5. Containers of Sarin gas were released today on several South Shore commuter rail cars near the Gary, Indiana station, a predominantly African-American area. The gas was released during rush hour when hundreds of commuters were heading home. The Grand Dragon of the Klu-Klux-Klan based in Osceola, Indiana has taken credit for the attack as a step toward racial cleansing. Andrew Klatte, IDMHA, calls out IDMHA Teams including District 2, to prepare for deployment to Gary as soon as the situation is said to be safe.