**Topic Collection: Preparedness-Training/Education and Exercise**

The following resources highlight select courses and competencies that can help medical and healthcare practitioners learn more about caring for patients in response to all hazards through trainings and exercises.

*This ASPR TRACIE Topic Collection is in the process of being developed and comprehensively reviewed. If you have resources to recommend for inclusion in this Topic Collection, specifically illustrative examples, plans, tools or templates, please email your recommendations to askasprtracie@hhs.gov.*


The authors developed an all-hazards hospital disaster preparedness course for hospital employees called Hospital Disaster Life Support. The course focused on four types of events: biological, conventional, radiological, and chemical mass-casualty. Participants demonstrated an increase in knowledge and favorably rated the course.


The authors reviewed articles on existing "core competencies" for disaster preparedness educational programs and found that the terminology was inconsistent throughout. They conclude by suggesting the development of a more refined framework upon which to evaluate these programs.


This 15-hour course is geared towards physicians, nurses, physicians’ assistants, emergency medical technicians, and others in similar fields. It includes a manual and interactive lectures on: Disasters and Public Health Emergencies, Triage in Disasters and Public Health Emergencies, Health System Surge Capacity for Disasters and Public Health Emergencies, Community Health Emergency Operations and Response, and Legal and Ethical Issues in Disaster.


This course can prepare healthcare professionals and first responders for mass casualty events. The basic course is 7.5 hours long and builds upon the Core Disaster Life Support course.

The authors identify a set of core competencies and performance objectives based on the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required by disaster medical professionals to ensure they can treat disaster survivors.


The authors describe a set of training standards/core competencies that can be used to ensure the disaster medical workforce is prepared to work in disaster situations.