



DISASTER BEHAVIOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER

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DBH Updates—As the new fiscal year begins, you can expect it to be a busy one! DBH plans include expanded outreach to provider organizations to (1) broaden collaboration, (2) expand team membership, and (3) increase DBH involvement in exercises. Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR) will also be offered in the spring. We plan at least two DBH trainings, one follow-up IS-100 & IS-700 training, and other collaborative meetings to get the word out about Disaster Behavioral Health as a critical response in a disaster. Our team is still less than 100 registered volunteers across the entire state – not enough in a time of real disaster. Please note the dates of already scheduled activities and help get friends and colleagues interested in DBH. We plan to do an information flyer and expand our newsletter outreach, but registered volunteers are the best source of referrals!

Exercise/Retreat - Vermont has been doing some creative things in recovering from Hurricane Irene damage that swept across the state. Cathy Aikman, Project Director for SOS-VT (Starting Over Strong—Vermont) will talk about the experience from ‘behind the lines’ and how the state has moved toward recovery. This is an “up close and personal” opportunity to see and hear about a neighboring state’s recovery experience.

Resources on Website - This year we will convert each county resource manual to an electronic version! We will convert each manual and then post, by county, on the DBH website. This should make the local resource references easier to update and keep current and more accessible to volunteers if/when needed.

HAN Drill(s) - Our response numbers for previous HAN drills are still quite low (<45%). We will conduct at least one HAN drill notification prior to the annual exercise/retreat and give you advance notice of the date and time. Goal: Every DBH volunteer responding every time!

2012 DBH Exercise —

SAVE THIS DATE!!!

**Wednesday,
October 17th**

Maine Principal’s Assn, , Augusta

Scheduled DBH Trainings!

**Nov 8-9: Bangor, Hilton
Garden Inn**

**Dec 6-7: Portland, Fire-
Side Inn**

Disaster Resilience Indicators for Benchmarking Baseline Conditions

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Abstract: This paper provides a methodology and a set of indicators for measuring baseline characteristics of communities that foster resilience. By establishing baseline conditions, it becomes possible to monitor changes in resilience over time in particular places and to compare one place to another. Counties within the Southeastern United States prove the concept. The results show that spatial variations in disaster resilience exist and are especially evident in the rural/urban divide, where metropolitan areas have higher levels of resilience than rural counties. However, the individual Mexico emergency management coordinator established a group of “trusted agents drivers of the disaster resilience (or lack thereof)—social, economic, institutional, infrastructure, and community capacities—vary widely.

Social Media in Emergency Management: The Virtual Operations Support Team Concept

A New Mexico EMA coordinator established a group of “trusted agents,” to assist with the office’s social media presence. In a large-scale incident, this Virtual Operations Support Team (VOST) can manage aspects of social media operations for the office and organizations that need support. VOST was activated during several events, including Hurricane Irene, the Shadow Lake fire in Oregon, and the January 2012 pacific northwest floods.

(See: LLIS.gov for full text)