

## Preparedness in the Southwest Course

### Module 11: Shelter & Evacuation

In the event of a disaster, local government has the primary responsibility for the safety, health and welfare of its citizens during and after the incident. This can include the evacuation, mass care and sheltering of an affected population throughout the response and recovery periods.

In many jurisdictions, local public health officials assist with the planning, response and recovery aspects of evacuation, mass care and sheltering. The purpose of this module is to help local public health personnel identify their roles in assisting with the development and implementation of plans for successful evacuation, mass care and sheltering in the event of a disaster in their community.

#### Learning Objectives:

1. List the community assessments necessary for evacuation, mass care and shelter planning.
2. Explain the importance of communication and education for successful evacuation, mass care and sheltering.
3. Describe why it is important to establish working partnerships with other agencies and jurisdictions prior to a disaster incident.
4. List several reasons for evacuation success and failure.
5. Explain the role of public health personnel in managing the evacuation, mass care and sheltering requirements of special needs populations.
6. Describe the roles of public health nurses, epidemiologists, environmental health specialists and sanitarians in ensuring the health and safety of shelter residents.
7. Describe the role of public health in providing long-term mass care assistance to disaster victims.

#### Core competencies addressed:

Competency 1: Describe the public health role in emergency response in a range of emergencies that might arise.

Competency 2: Describe the chain of command in emergency response.

Competency 3: Identify and locate the agency emergency response plan (or the pertinent portion of the plan).

Competency 4: Describe his/her functional role(s) in emergency response and demonstrate his/her role(s) in regular drills.

Competency 6: Describe communication role(s) in emergency response:

- within the agency using established communication systems.
- with the media
- with the general public
- personal (with family, neighbors)

#### Target Capabilities:

Citizen Protection: Evacuation and/or In-Place Protection

Mass Care (Sheltering, Feeding, and Related Services)

Emergency Public Information and Warning