GALVESTON COUNTY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

THE LACK OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IS BECOMING A DISASTER!

Field Experience Presentation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree: MASTER’S OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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WELCOME

MPH STUDENT
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OTHER INTRODUCTIONS
OUTLINE

• GEOGRAPHY LESSON
• HISTORY LESSON
• GALVESTON COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT
• HURRICANE GAVIOTA
• PODS
Galveston County:

- Land area: 378.36 square miles
- Total population: 300,484
- Number of natural disasters in Galveston county is higher than the national average
- 109,568 households with an average of 2.66 people/household
- 77% “white color” employees and 22% “blue collar” employees
- Crime rate is above the national average (30% higher than average)
HISTORY LESSON
Bolivar Peninsula
• 27 mile long barrier island just northeast of Galveston Island
• Includes the communities of Port Bolivar, Crystal Beach, Caplen, Gilchrist, and High Island
• Permanent home for 3,900 residents
• Tourist destination for beach and wildlife lovers

Hurricane Ike
• Began as a tropical wave off the coast of Africa around August 29, 2008
• Gained considerable strength after moving into the Gulf of Mexico
• High storm tides of 10-15 feet were common up to 24 hours before landfall
• Landfall on September 13, 2008 at 2:10 am on Bolivar Peninsula
• Winds reaching over 110 mph but labeled as a category 4 storm
• 70% larger than the average hurricane
HURRICANE IKE

BOLIVAR PENINSULA
RAVAGED!
Storm surges and wind reduced the community to rubble
Storm surge arrived much quicker than expected
Flood waters rose to at least 18 feet above normal tide
Entire homes were washed into the bay
21 million cubic yards of debris were removed from the Peninsula

GALVESTON ISLAND
By 4pm on the 12th, waves crested over the seawall
Galveston County spent $600 thousand spraying for mosquitoes right after Ike
6 feet of water in the Galveston County Courthouse

OTHER AREAS
Cincinnati, Ohio even felt winds of 61 mph from Hurricane Ike
Over 6 million homes lost power in the US resulting from Ike
Caused damage to many windows of skyscrapers in Houston
Affected states: Texas, Mississippi, Florida Keys, Louisiana, Great Lakes Region
Affected Countries: Cuba, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Canada
GALVESTON COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT ORGANIZATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

• AIR AND WATER POLLUTION
  • CONSUMER HEALTH
    • EPIDEMIOLOGY
    • ANIMAL SERVICES
  • COMMUNITY OUTREACH
• COASTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS CLINIC
• GALVESTON AREA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
  • IMMUNIZATIONS
  • PUBLIC INFORMATION
• PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
• PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
  • SENIOR HEALTH
• SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE (STD/HIV)
  • TUBERCULOSIS SERVICES
  • VITAL STATISTICS
• WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)
GALVESTON COUNTY ANIMAL RESOURCE CENTER

- Animal sheltering
- Field animal control services
- Open-intake facility where no animal is turned away
- Do not have a veterinarian on staff
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ACTIVITIES WITH EPIDEMIOLOGY

- PFGE teleconference
- Regional conference calls
- Pool gastrointestinal illness outbreak
- Regional epidemiology meeting
POOL GASTROINTESTINAL OUTBREAK

PRESENTATION:
Fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, leg pain, headache, loss of appetite, and fatigue
Most common complaint is vomiting while only about 50% report diarrhea as a symptom
Average onset is between 24 to 36 hours after swimming in the pool and duration is lasting on average 1-2 days
1/3 infectivity rate

Conclusion? Norovirus
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PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

ACTIVITIES:

- Psychological first aid
- Maps meeting
- Hurricane preparedness meeting for GCHD staff
- Galveston County Emergency Response Collaborative Meeting
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Collaborative
- Regional Allocation, Distribution, and Dispensing Full-Scale Exercise Master Scenario Events List Review Meeting
• Made agenda and participant packets
• Helped pack and distribute participant backpacks
• Led volunteers through the sign-in and orientation process
• Assisted professionals through the training
• Led the after-action report
Generic POD Layout

**KEY:**
- Medical Personnel
- Greeters/Helpers
- Site of Security
- Flow of Public

**Special Assistance:**
- Entrance
- Dispensing
- Registration
- Drop-off
- Exit

**Flow Directions:**
- Special Assistance
- Entrance
- Registration
- Dispensing
- Drop-off
- Exit

**Sections:**
1. Special Assistance
2. Entrance
3. Registration
4. Dispensing
5. Drop-off
6. Exit
# Point Of Dispensing

## BOX ORGANIZATION

12 PODs in Galveston County

Four (4) Boxes per POD:

1. Trunk
2. Refrigerator Box
3. 3-drawer box
4. Storage box

Boxes organized by use

## VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

- Rotary Club meeting
- MRC recruitment PowerPoint
- Kemah Citizen’s Police Academy
  - Lion’s Club
  - Senior Organizations
- Meeting with pastor from local church
- Meeting with Red Cross regional Executive Director
- **Volunteer involvement opportunities**

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

- Psychological first aid
- ICS trainings
- Red Cross First Aid
- POD deployment drills
- Strategic National Stockpile
- Disease 101
- POD manager certification
- Epidemiology 101

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*Image: American Red Cross logo*