



Shelter-in-Place Training Project

Challenge

The National Capital Region (NCR) completed a survey and analysis of public behaviors during a hypothetical dirty bomb attack on the region. The results showed a significant portion of those surveyed would choose to shelter in place in such a catastrophic event. While many people would choose to shelter in place, very few have plans.

Solution

The training project uses a grassroots approach to engage people in their own emergency preparedness and to provide education on effective shelter-in-place preparation. The goal of this project is to help individuals and organizations build shelter in place plans.

This project actively engages individuals in taking responsibility for their own preparedness. The process is a form of individual and group problem solving using realistic scenarios and guided discussion. It moves participants from a passive role (looking to authority for protection) to an active, empowered role (in which they make use of their own brainpower to promote their own protection).

A list of issues for consideration provides a practical framework for thinking about critical safety and readiness actions. Questions are posed stimulating people to think through what actions and resources they need to ensure they can shelter in place.

Results

The project creates a hands-on approach for effective shelter in place training in homes, workplaces and schools. The bottom up, grassroots approach makes people feel they can be responsible for their own preparedness.

The process is causing an important shift in the mental mindset. Some organizations are changing their default response to shelter in place first, while they wait for further information.

At a Glance

- **Challenge:** Many people will shelter, but few have plans
- **Solution:** Guided discussion around realistic scenarios
- **Results:** People take action to improve their readiness
- **Funding:** FEMA RCPGP

Key Questions

- Can people enter or exit the building?
- How will I communicate?
- Have I stored emergency supplies?
- Have I arranged care for my dependents?
- How do we prevent toxic substances from coming inside?

Outcomes

- Collaboration with Building Management
- Create Shelter Signs
- Develop Plans
- Establish Safe Rooms
- Obtain Walkie Talkies
- Store Medications
- Train Staff in CPR