

Shelter-in-Place Training Program Overview

What is the Shelter-in-Place Training Program?

This is a federally funded training program that uses a grassroots approach to engage people in their own emergency preparedness by providing education on effective shelter-in-place preparation.

Why is Shelter-in-Place Important?

In every emergency event, there are two basic responses – evacuate or shelter. Historically, evacuation has received more attention due to fire drills, hurricanes and events like 9/11. The National Capital Region (NCR) recently completed a survey of public behaviors during a hypothetical dirty bomb attack on the region. The results showed a significant portion of those surveyed would shelter in place in such an event. However, very few people have planned for a multi-hour sheltering scenario.

How is this Training Program Different?

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). The grassroots approach makes people feel they can be responsible for their own preparedness.

What are the Goals of the Training Program?

1. To make everyone in the workplace aware of issues that are critical to their protection in a shelter-in-place emergency, to stimulate their thinking about solutions that would work in their environment, and to take those actions. The product is *action*; *not* a plan to put on a shelf!
2. To determine what can be done at different levels, starting from the bottom up
 - a. Issues that individual employees can address on their own
 - b. Issues that require actions at higher levels (i.e., groups of people who work together; the business as a whole; building management, including maintenance and security; building owner)
 - c. Higher level actions are informed by what lower levels can and can't do.

What is the Participant's Role in the Training?

To organize a process, suited to your workplace that is easy, enjoyable, and involves as many people as possible

- The process will enable your colleagues to use their own brainpower to address the issues that matter to them.
- Your role is *not* to be an expert or presenter or to come up with the answers. Your role is to facilitate the flow of discussion.

Contact Info

Janet Clements
janet.clements@ahcusa.org
804-332-2467

Michael Fried
mike.fried@ahcusa.org
267-738-9637