Disaster Health Information Outreach and Collaboration Projects

OBJECTIVE

Do collaborations between libraries and disaster organizations improve use of disaster medicine and public health information and result in closer working relationships among agencies?

METHODS

Disaster health information outreach projects were funded as partnerships between a library and an organization with disaster-related responsibilities. Seven projects each year, 2012-2013, designed programs for improving disaster medicine and public health information access for health professionals, first responders, and others involved in health-related disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

Partnerships are across the United States and in rural, urban, and suburban settings. They include:

• public, university, and hospital libraries
• health departments
• professional associations
• university disaster and emergency research centers
• hospital alliances

Funding for 2013 will be announced on the DISASTR-OUTREACH-LIB listserv. To subscribe: http://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/dimrclistserv.html

PROJECTS


2011

• American Academy of Pediatrics with Univ. of Illinois Chicago Lib. of the Health Sciences
• Health Sciences Library, University of Alabama with Institute for Rural Health Research
• Inova Fairfax Hospital Health Sciences Library with Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance
• Karolina-Charleston Health Department with WV School of Osteopathic Medicine
• Marshall County Health Department with Marshall County Public Library
• Monroe County Department of Public Health with Rochester Public Library, Arnett Branch
• University of New Mexico Health Sciences Library with Center for Disaster Medicine

2012

• Arkansas Department of Health with University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Library
• University of Miami Louis Calder Memorial Library with William Lehman Research Center
• Southeastern (NC) Regional Medical Ctr. with Reebinco Co. Dept. of Public Health & Dept. of Emergency Management, City of Lumberton, and Lumberton Emergency Management
• Western Maryland Area Health Education Center, Learning Resource Center with health departments of three counties, community organizations, and local colleges
• Managed Emergency Surge for Healthcare with Central Indiana Health Sci. Lib. Consortium
• Pacific College of Oriental Medicine with Public Health Services, County of San Diego
• Georgia Health Sciences University Medical Library with Georgia East Central Health District

OUTCOMES

Brian Burnett, Univ. of New Mexico Health Sciences librarian, working with Medical Reserve Corps at Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon held March 2012

Kimberly Loper, University of Miami librarian, teaching WISER at Miami-Dade County Emergency Management Center

University of Alabama Health Sciences Web page for “West Alabama Disaster Health Information Outreach Project”

Libraries can play a critical role in planning for emergencies:

• Knowledge of neighborhood
• Skill in connecting people with reliable information
• Are viewed as a trusted source of information
• May have meeting rooms and other resources to meet with residents
• Informatics/research/demographic studies, etc.
• Grantsmanship resources
• Willingness to partner

Source: Vickie Soue, Monroe County NY Dept. of Public Health, 2013