



Training & Tools for Rural Responders

The nation's rural emergency responders face unique challenges when compared to their urban counterparts. In recognizing the need for consistent, quality training which addresses those challenges, Congress and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC or the Consortium) to develop and deliver relevant all-hazards training in support of rural homeland security requirements. See the attached listing for further details on each training program. All training delivered by the RDPC is certified by DHS and is offered tuition-free. To schedule training delivery in your jurisdiction, contact Amy Hughes, 859-622-6861 or email Amy.Hughes@eku.edu.

A New Approach

Led by Eastern Kentucky University, the Consortium is comprised of academic partners that possess extensive experience and unique capabilities in serving the rural emergency response community. The RDPC is composed of the following academic partners, as well as other strategic partners who support its mission:

East Tennessee State University • Johnson City, Tennessee
Eastern Kentucky University • Richmond, Kentucky
Iowa Central Community College • Ft. Dodge, Iowa
NorthWest Arkansas Community College • Bentonville, Arkansas
The University of Findlay • Findlay, Ohio

To ensure that training directly reflects the needs of rural emergency responders, the Consortium conducted numerous focus groups, convened a national rural preparedness summit and completed a national survey of rural communities. Data gathered from these activities was used to determine the type of training needs, the extent to which it is needed, and the best methods for delivering it.

The Consortium is guided by an Advisory Board comprised of public safety experts and officials appointed by the major national emergency response associations including the North American Fire Training Directors.

For more information about the Consortium contact:
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Training Courses Currently Under Development

Special Event Security Planning for Law Enforcement - Sixteen hour course designed to provide awareness level skills to officers from state and local law enforcement agencies, with the essential skills and knowledge to understand the importance and the need for planning and managing the security for special events and to identify guiding principles for special events security. Adaptation of non-certified Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) curriculum. This course will be developed by the Rural Domestic Preparedness Training Center. (40 per class)

Crisis Management in Schools - School Shooting Webcast - This 1.5-hour webcast will provide important information regarding the planning and preparedness schools should take in preparing for incidents of violence. The course will include a training exercise for the participants that will emphasize the important of staff buy-in to aid the mitigation effort and effective and adaptable response to a school shooting incident. This course will be developed by The University of Findlay. (Unlimited number of participants)

Rail Car (Freight) Incident Response - This 16-hour course is designed to increase the knowledge of first responders to better recognize and characterize the different types of rail cars, potential leaks, and courses of action to be taken based on initial site assessment. The course will increase the participant's knowledge of safety and hazardous conditions that may exist at the scene and become familiar with safe practices adapted by the railroad industry. Pilots are expected in the October 2007 timeframe. This course will be developed by The University of Findlay. (15-20 per class)

Port & Vessel Security for Public Safety Personnel - Eight hour course will examine the regulatory framework and security requirements that are currently in place at the maritime facilities located in rural communities. The role of company (facility owner) and vessel security officer will also be examined. The course also details security measures and training mandated for maritime facilities and personnel employed in those facilities. Recent developments such as the Transportation Worker Identity Credential (TWIC) program and SAFEPort Act will be discussed. Students will leave the class with a better understanding of how to respond to emergencies in rural maritime facilities. This course will be developed by The University of Findlay. (50 per class)

Disaster Management for School-based Incidents - This 8-hour course for school administrators and emergency responders will enhance the participants knowledge, skills, and abilities to more effectively apply the science, technology, planning and management practices to deal with extreme events that can harm or kill large numbers of people, do extensive damage to property, and disrupt community life. This course will allow participants to assess and advance their individual and department's level of preparedness, mitigation potential, response and recovery to school-based or school-impacted disaster sites. This course will be developed by The University of Findlay. (40 per class)

Disaster Management for Healthcare Students - Sixteen hour training program for "first receivers", who provide additional support to first responders, on how to effectively manage healthcare operations in the initial stages of a biological/chemical disaster. This course will be developed by Eastern Tennessee State University. (25 per class)

Disaster Management for Emergency Responders (Healthcare Issues) - Sixteen hour training program for emergency responders on how the healthcare considerations and issues in the initial stages of a biological/chemical disaster. This course will be developed by Eastern Tennessee State University. (25 per class)



Threat & Vulnerability Assessment & Risk Analysis Strategies - This 8-hour course will discuss the need for threat and vulnerability assessments and risk analysis, bringing to the table all community constituents from both the public and private sectors. The information drawn from a proper and all-inclusive threat and vulnerability assessment strategies will provide the essential background information necessary to design and implement an effective community-wide comprehensive emergency response plan that involves both the public and private sectors. This course will be developed by NorthWest Arkansas Community College. (30 per class)

Comprehensive Community Resource Inventory Strategies - This 8-hour course will discuss the need for community resource inventory practices and effective strategies and tools used for a community-wide resource inventory. This will involve the inventory of resources from both the public and private sectors within the community. The importance of this tool will be emphasized when considering emergency planning, cooperative agreements, and memoranda of understanding that should be in place between public and private sector entities before a crisis occurs. This course will be developed by NorthWest Arkansas Community College. (30 per class)

Public Information Officer Basics for the Rural Responder - This 4-hour course will provide rural first responders with skills needed to communicate with the public through the media. The roles of the media and the rural first responder/public information officer are examined. Participants are given instruction on how to give print and electronic media interviews; write news releases; provide information at the scene of an emergency, and how they fit into the joint information system. Participants will also cover applicable laws, including scene access by the media. Participants will be exposed to exercises to practically reinforce these lessons. This course will be developed by Iowa Central Community College. (30 per class)

NIMS/ICS Rural Scenario Adjuncts - This goal of this activity is to create Scenario-Based Adjuncts to increase the efficacy of the ICS-series training specific to rural responders. To increase the effectiveness of platform ICS training to rural responders, illustrative scenarios with rural-focus will be developed. These scenarios would draw from the core (terminal) learning objectives of the ICS-100 through -400 to best deliver the ICS tenets in a manner that increases overall adherence to doctrine. The scenarios will center on a school emergency; starting with a basic scenario for IS-100 and expanding the same scenario through the spectrum of supplemental Incident Command training including IS-200, IS-300 and IS-400. These adjuncts will be developed by Iowa Central Community College.

Rescue of Large Animals - Special Operations in Disaster - This 16-hour course will provide rural first responders with skills and knowledge needed to plan for and respond to animal emergencies. The hands-on course is intended to serve as a primer for more advanced technical training on large animal rescue operations. This course will be developed by Eastern Kentucky University. (40 per class)

Training Courses Currently Available for Delivery

AWR 186: Emergency Responders and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community – Eight-hour course designed to provide deaf and hard of hearing individuals and emergency responders with the information and skills needed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergency situations involving people with hearing loss. The developer of this course is Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network. (40 per class) *Through cooperative agreement with the Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network.*



AWR 151: Understanding the Dangers of Agroterrorism - The course goal is to increase awareness among local and regional emergency response teams about the potential targets and impacts of agroterrorism. By creating a new alliance among traditional first responders and the agricultural industry communities can begin develop plans to mitigate acts of agroterrorism. The course raises awareness about the need to identify and defend against pathogens, chemical and biological contaminants, and other hazards that affect the safety of the foods we eat. The course stresses the importance of responding to incidents of intentional contamination as well as natural disasters using the “all hazards” approach. *Through cooperative agreement with the University of California-Davis.*

AWR 152: Principles of Preparedness for Agroterrorism and Food Systems’ Disasters - The course goal is to prepare participants with the skills and knowledge to recognize agroterrorism vulnerabilities. Topics include identifying targets, developing prevention, protection and mitigation strategies, employing the principles of building multi-disciplinary response teams, and identifying the roles of the local, state and federal agencies prior to and during an agricultural or food system disaster. *Through cooperative agreement with the University of California-Davis.*

AWR 153: Principles of Detection and Diagnosis—Strategies and Technologies - The course goal is to inform members of frontline response teams about the importance of early detection and diagnosis, proper sample collection and the steps involved in an agroterrorism-related outbreak investigation. The course includes strategies to improve and increase detection and diagnosis efficiency as well as the epidemiological and criminal investigation process. *Through cooperative agreement with the University of California-Davis.*

AWR 154: Principles of National Incident Management System (NIMS), Team Building and Risk Communication - The course goal is to describe the operational features of NIMS, understand how NIMS is essential for community preparedness, outline the logistics of the Incident Command System (ICS), understand methods of team building and explain principles of risk communication. This course is designed to educate members of frontline response teams on how to best use the NIMS, team building and principles of risk communication when responding to an intentional or unintentional attack on a segment of agriculture or the food system. This course meets all of the NIMS/ICS training requirements for FEMA IS-700 NIMS. *Through cooperative agreement with the University of California-Davis.*

AWR 155: Principles of Frontline Response to Agroterrorism and Food Systems’ Disasters - The goal of this course is to demonstrate how an effective frontline emergency response can reduce or mitigate the effects of an agricultural emergency, an act of agroterrorism or other food systems disaster. In so doing, frontline agricultural and public safety response teams including personnel from the county, regional, state and federal agencies will be provided with a comprehensive program formed around the principles of the Incident Command System (ICS) and the concept of Unified Command. This course includes a plan that can use as an “all hazards” approach against a wide variety of potential problems and occurrences within the agricultural community. Individuals who complete this course will be motivated to form and maintain appropriate community frontline response teams. *Through cooperative agreement with the University of California-Davis.*

AWR 156: Principles of Planning and Implementing Recovery - The goal of this course is to provide the fundamental framework for orchestrating the recovery from an incident of agroterrorism. The course will cover the four critical factors for success in a community recovery effort and be able to apply them in a hypothetical crisis. Identification of the components of a recovery plan targeted at minimizing the economic impact to the community and its citizens; and the identification of community resources and assets available for building partnerships and teams will be covered. *Through cooperative agreement with the University of California-Davis.*



PER 281: Homeland Security Terrorism Prevention Certificate for Law Enforcement Professionals - Interactive, web-based course designed in conjunction with the Naval Postgraduate School to teach law enforcement professionals the strategies vital for securing their communities. Course participants explore terrorism prevention concepts through a variety of interactive activities and apply them in decision-based exercises. The developer of this course is the Institute for Preventive Strategies at The Center for Rural Development. (Unlimited number of participants)

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