

Save the Children
Domestic Emergencies Unit



2007 National Conference on
Community Preparedness
June 11, 2007

Children in Disaster

Children in Disasters

- **Brief Introduction to Save the Children**
- **Save the Children's response to the unique needs in disasters**
- **Children in Emergency Operations Plans**
- **Volunteer Information**

Save the

75 Years Serving Children

Independent-Non Profit

Focus: Improving children's health and education

Disasters: Mobilizing rapid assistance to keep children safe and help them recover. U.S. disaster activity a result of Katrina.

Save the Children USA is a member of the International Save the Children Alliance, a global network of 28 independent Save the Children organizations working in more than 110 countries.



The Unique Needs of Children in

When a Disaster Strikes

Children have three unique areas of need that must be addressed to ensure their safety and well-being:

- Physical protection
- Psychosocial protection
- Cognitive protection



Sheltering - Safe Spaces

Challenge: How do we keep children safe and support their emotional recovery in shelters?

Opportunity: Establish Safe Spaces in Shelters and DRCs

National Partnership with the American Red Cross and Church of the Brethren



Shelters & Emergency Child Care



Provide child care in temporary housing sites

Doc Holiday Bar Before SC



Doc Holiday Bar After SC



Psychosocial Programs

Challenge: How do we support children's natural resilience and help them recover?

Opportunity: Partner with Schools and Mental Health Orgs to provide programs for children, teens and their adult caregivers



Save the Children®

Child Protection in Transitional Housing

Challenge: How can we create temporary housing communities that are supportive of families and children?

Opportunity: In partnership with FEMA, create community centers and empower families to identify problems & create solutions



10 Tips

1. Hug your children and tell them you will keep them safe.
2. Listen to your children carefully and give them opportunities to talk about what happened.
3. Limit TV time -- news & pictures can be frightening.
4. Watch for changes in your children's behavior.
5. Be patient and understanding -- your children might still be upset or frightened.

10 Tips

6. Give your children extra time and attention.

7. Use positive behavior and language around your children.

8. Take care of yourself and do healthy things to relax. Try to get enough rest.

9. Help your children return to school, normal activities & routines.

10. Encourage your children to volunteer and help others.

A Children's Annex/ESF for Emergency Operations

Children's EOP Annex/ESF

- Save the Children is developing an EOP Annex/ESF for children's issues.
 - Available in July
 - Provide basic and advanced issues
 - Available on the web for free
 - Updates also will be free (check the site periodically)
 - Peer reviewed (let me know if you are interested)

Children's EOP Annex/ESF

- Determine the basics that need to be covered to include:
 - Safe spaces in shelters
 - Health care
 - Mental health
 - Child oriented facility planning
 - Education
 - Legal system (attorneys and courts)
 - Temporary custody

Children's EOP Annex/ESF

- Establish a planning team made up of organizations that address those areas.
 - Schools
 - Health care communities
 - Transportation
 - Child care organizations
 - Children Services Organizations
 - Emergency responders
 - Emergency Management
 - Courts/Legal Associations

Save the Children and

VOLUNTEERS

- Save the Children does not utilize a great many volunteers
- In a catastrophic event we probably would
- We would need to draw from a pool
- Could not take spontaneous volunteers (no way to verify requirements)
- We would provide a short training session on STC and the staff roles

VOLUNTEERS

- Requirements
 - Some professional child care experience
 - Must submit to a background check (best if that could be performed at the registration center or through their employer)
 - Prefer a current affiliation with a child care provider
 - Primarily working in a shelter, DRC and/or ARC Service Center

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