

CHS 258  
Cooperative Interagency Management in Disasters

Fall, 2003  
Tuesday 12-2:20 PM  
CHS 61-235

Instructor:

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:

This 4 unit graduate course will provide students with a broad overview of how different agencies involved in disaster responses work together to handle the impact of mass population emergencies. Students will be able to identify the role of local, state and federal governments, non-profit and private sector organizations, the media and health care facilities in disaster situations. The importance of interagency cooperation will be a focus.

Prerequisites:

CHS 295, Graduate Student Status, or Consent of Instructor

REQUIRED TEXT:

Emergency Management: Principles and Practice for Local Government  
Drabek and Hoetmer

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on the following parameters:

10% Classroom participation  
25% Assignment I  
25% Assignment II  
25% Assignment III  
15% In-Class Disaster Exercise

## Classroom Participation

Each student will have an opportunity to make a brief summary presentation to the class concerning an article related to disaster management. The articles may be drawn from the scientific literature (e.g. references found in the textbook readings, other journals), current events as reported in the newspapers or national news magazines, or via the internet. The purpose of this exercise is to broaden the students' thinking about the relevance of public health emergency and disaster management issues. Thus, students should be prepared to relate their chosen articles to the principles of disaster public health.

Students will sign up for specific dates for these presentations, and provide copies of the articles for their classmates.

### Assignments:

Assignment I. You will be assigned to an agency/department from the city of Burbank, CA. In a short paper (about 6-7 double spaced pages), describe your agency's emergency preparedness plans and its history in addressing disasters. Include its present goals and objectives regarding its role in disaster planning and response.

You will be provided with a contact person whom you should telephone to set up an interview appointment.

To best get a sense of the agency's day to day and disaster operations, *plan to conduct your interview in Burbank*. As an outcome of that interview, you should be able to discuss briefly the role of the person you are interviewing including his/her function in the organization before, during and after disasters. Also, ask what factors s/he perceives to be most important for the agency to address regarding the well being of large populations of people. Explore his/her definition of public health and its role in disasters, and how the role of public health may be further enhanced within that specific agency or in cooperation with other agencies. You may have to explain what you mean by "public health" in lay language.

Finally, try to develop a case study of how your agency responded to some large scale emergency in Burbank (earthquake, flood, hazardous materials discharge, brush fire, etc.). Concentration on how agency staff executed their mission and discharged their responsibilities. Did they have an emergency plan? Was it effective and well understood by agency employees? What were the successes or failures in communicating with other agencies involved in the response? Explore how these strategies potentially impacted the public's health. Did other agencies involved seem to understand the impact of the response on the well being of the population? What recommendations were made based on these experiences?

You will present your findings to the class during the fourth week of class: 5 minutes maximum, please.

Assignment II. You will be paired with another student to construct a hypothetical Memorandum of Understanding between your two respective agencies in Burbank. The MOU should address the issue of disasters and discuss the parameters of cooperation between the two agencies. The first agency will be the one you wrote about in Assignment I. The second agency will be that which your assigned partner wrote about in Assignment I. These MOUs will be discussed in class on the ninth week of class: 10 minutes per MOU, maximum, please.

Assignment III. You will be assigned to a group of students to write a report/disaster plan for the Burbank City Council about how the agencies in that community will address the issue of disasters in a cooperative fashion. Pay special attention to the areas and populations on which particular agencies will focus. Address the issues of interaction and management of multiple agencies within the local jurisdiction, as well as from the governmental, private and non-profit sectors.

Illustrate the management interplay at the local, county, state and national levels. BE SURE TO FOCUS ON THE PARAMETERS THAT IMPACT THE IDENTIFICATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH NEEDS OF THE AFFECTED POPULATION, AND STRATEGIES TO MEET THOSE NEEDS THROUGH COOPERATIVE INTERAGENCY MANAGEMENT. Limit your report to 12 double spaced pages.

CHS 258  
Schedule of Classes

Date	Topic and Readings
September 30	<p>Introduction. Phases and Theory of Disaster Management Drabek: 3-29</p> <p>Cuny. Introduction to Disaster Management: Lesson 1: The Scope of Disaster Management. PDM. 1993. V 7. 400- 408</p> <p>Cuny. Concepts and Terms in Disaster Management: PDM. 1993. V 8. 789-794</p> <p>Cuny. Tools and Methods of Disaster Management: PDM. 1993. V 8. 259-265</p>
October 7	<p><b>GUEST SPEAKER:</b> Dr. Samuel Stratton, Immediate Past Medical Director, LA County EMS Agency; Adj Professor, UCLA SPH</p> <p>Role of Local and State Governments in Disasters Drabek: 30-54; 101-111</p> <p>Role of Federal Government in Disasters Drabek: 55-77</p>
October 14	<p>Role of Non-profit Organizations and the Private Sector in Disasters: Relationship with Government</p> <p>Drabek: 77-99</p>
October 21	<p>Health Care Systems: Infrastructural Elements and effects of Disasters</p> <p>PAHO #443: 37-61</p> <p><b>Assignment I Due:</b> In class description of the agencies: their strengths and vulnerabilities in disasters</p>
October 28	<p><b>GUEST SPEAKER:</b> Dr. Samuel Stratton</p> <p>Statewide Emergency Management System (SEMS) Drabek: 263-288</p>

The Role of the Media in Disasters  
Drabek: 88-97

November 4

**SPECIAL CLASS LOCATION**

**This class will be held at the Los Angeles County  
Emergency Operations Center from 12:30-2PM.**

The Process of Interagency Cooperation  
Drabek: 201-223

Exercises in Interagency Cooperation  
Drabek: 186-200

November 11

The Role of US Agencies and Organizations in Disasters  
Overseas

Explore the content of the following two websites to identify  
the mission and relationship between these two federal relief  
agencies:

United States Agency for International Development  
[http://www.usaid.gov/about\\_usaid/](http://www.usaid.gov/about_usaid/)

Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance  
[www.infor.usaid.gov/hum\\_response/ofda](http://www.infor.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda)