

Indiana

▲ Issue

In November 2005, high winds and tornadoes struck Indiana, killing 24 people and destroying or damaging hundreds of homes.

▲ Extension's Involvement

Purdue Extension helped responders by having a prearranged Memorandum of Agreement to use the county-fair grounds near the worst damage as a staging area to remove debris. In addition, thousands of people accessed Purdue Extension information on tornado and flood recovery. During a statewide, post-disaster conference the founder of the Crisis Hope Response Network recommended people use the information provided by Purdue Extension during the recovery efforts. By using the provided information, Indiana community members will be on the right path to long-term recovery.

Louisiana

▲ Issue

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita left 200,000 homes uninhabitable, crippled the fishing and off-shore oil industries, and severely damaged the state's economic engine. The LSU AgCenter suffered \$20 Million in damages to its own facilities.

▲ Extension's Involvement

As Hurricanes Katrina and Rita unfolded, the LSU AgCenter opened its facilities as shelters, warehouses, and offices for recovery personnel. It contributed to early recovery by updating its publications, deploying staff to interagency recovery operations, retooling its Web site, and repurposing many of its standard programs (wetlands, farming, family financial assistance, parenting, and housing) and turning them all into hurricane recovery programs. Following the hurricanes, as a service to OHSEP, the LSU AgCenter used its distance education facilities and its Web cast capability to host the initial statewide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program applicant briefing.

Michigan

▲ Issue

Michigan counties were in need of a comprehensive animal response plan and one did not exist.

▲ Extension's Involvement

While Michigan counties had animals included in their county emergency plan, a comprehensive plan did not exist. Through EDEN, Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) obtained a copy of a comprehensive response plan from a county in New York. The plan was adapted by MSUE and is being reviewed by the Michigan State Veterinarian, Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Medical Association, and State Police Emergency Management & Homeland Security Division as an approved template. A number of county emergency management offices have asked for a copy. MSUE also has been asked to present on this issue at the Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference in May 2006.

Montana

▲ Issue

Wildfires in Montana are a yearly occurrence. Due to drought over the last several years, fires have become more than an inconvenience. They are threatening homes, pasture land, forests, natural resources, the economy, and sometimes even lives.

▲ Extension's Involvement

Specifically for mitigation and preparedness, Montana Extension developed a resource program guide called *Will Your Home Survive?* for agents to utilize in educating the public. The program addresses fire resistant landscaping, defensible space concepts and measures to protect homes in the event of a wildfire. During the fires of 2000, 4-H youth assisted residents who had to evacuate by taking care of their animals,

horses and livestock at the county fair grounds. Extension agents lined up hay assistance programs to deliver feed for the livestock. After fires impact a county, Extension agents assist ranchers with guidelines on when they can begin using the grazing land again and how to prevent noxious weed infestations.

New York

▲ Issue

In 2004, it was determined that none of the 57 Cornell Cooperative Extension county office associations had an Emergency Preparedness Plan.

▲ Extension's Involvement

NY EDEN staff conducted eight regional trainings to educate 117 Extension Executive Directors and key staff members on developing an Emergency Preparedness Plan which involved understanding the importance of having a plan and providing a template to use as a guide for plan development. To date, 28 county associations have created comprehensive emergency preparedness plans. NY EDEN continues to assist additional county associations in emergency plan development.

North Dakota

▲ Issue

The Red River of the North and surrounding farmland flood many years when snow melts too quickly in the spring.

▲ Extension's Involvement

In March and April 2006, the NDSU Extension Service updated a Web page with information on correctly building a sandbag dike, steps to reduce flood or water damage in homes, and questions about sump pumps. The media used this information in the flood fight by interviewing specialists on radio and linking to this Web site. County agents also distributed information at sandbag filling and distribution sites.

Pennsylvania

▲ Issue

With the added threat of terrorist attacks against farms, the food system and water supplies, Penn State Cooperative Extension felt the need to enhance emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

▲ Extension's Involvement

With a network of educators around the state and a communications system—including a statewide computer network and satellite downlink facilities in nearly every county—Extension has the capacity to send and receive information very quickly. As a result, emergency response contacts have been named in all sixty-seven county Extension offices and in each of Extension's six regions. A task force of Penn State faculty and Extension specialists also has been assembled to lend expertise in response to a wide variety of potential emergencies.

Virginia

▲ Issue

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) determined there was a need to determine VCE's role in assisting local governments in dealing with emergency preparedness issues in the aftermath of a manmade disaster as a result of terrorist activity.

▲ Extension's Involvement

As a result of five community forums held across the state, a Web site was established to provide materials to agents and local emergency response groups to review the possible targets and threats and develop an understanding of the gaps and strengths of the community. A community action plan and implementation strategies is the primary driver for this site. The site will also contain resources and ideas to study and test as the community acts. The Extension agent will be viewed as one of the potential facilitators of these local action and development plans, pulling resources and expertise from the community and helping to identify potential overlaps of missions and potential gaps in responding and preparing for man-made disasters.