

INITIAL INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT TOOL

PRESENTED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this presentation is to educate and inform attendees about the Initial Intake and Assessment Tool developed jointly by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the American Red Cross (ARC). This tool is designed to facilitate triage for functional support at ARC shelters and HHS Federal Medical Stations (FMS) during an Incident of National Significance or public health emergency response in which HHS and the ARC are engaged in supporting State, Local, or Tribal authorities.

2. BACKGROUND

Under the National Response Framework (NRF) the Secretary of HHS, principally through the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), is responsible for coordinating all Federal Public Health and Medical Services assistance to supplement State, Local, and Tribal resources in response to public health and medical care needs for potential or actual Incidents of National Significance. Executive Order (EO) 13347 calls for the Federal Government to appropriately support safety and security for at-risk individuals in all types of emergency situations through a coordinated effort among Federal agencies.

The NRF also identifies the American Red Cross as having a supporting role for the Mass Care section of Emergency Support Function (ESF) # 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services. In this role, the American Red Cross coordinates Federal mass care assistance in support of State and Local mass care efforts. The American Red Cross is also a designated Support Agency to HHS under ESF # 8 Public Health and Medical Services. Additionally, the American Red Cross is recognized as the major mass care service provider for the nation.

During Hurricane Katrina the general population, including those with special needs, and shelter staff had difficulty with identifying the most appropriate shelter setting. As a result, the Initial Intake and Assessment Tool was developed to streamline the process for agencies to identify appropriate shelters for individuals. The tool was piloted in real-world emergencies and continues to undergo revisions based on lessons learned.

3. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- How and why this tool was developed.
- How to use this tool effectively during emergencies and disasters.
- How to identify the functional needs and behavioral health issues during the screening process.

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