

Workshop Tasks

Group 1 – How would you describe Galveston, Texas in July, 1900?

Group 2 –According to Larson (2000), how did parental choices during the hurricane reflect goal directed behavior?

Group 3 –According to Larson (2000), how did the actions of Issac Cline reflect goal directed behavior?

Group 4 – According to Larson (2000), why did the Weather Bureau ban the use of the word “tornado”? How do the responses documented by Larson question the basis for this policy?

Session No. 15 Overview: Victim Responses to Disaster

1. Goal directed behavior
2. Constraints
3. Panic
4. Disaster syndrome myth
5. Death rates
6. Emotional responses
7. Lessons for emergency managers

Constraints

- Gender
- Age
- Location
- Fear Level
- Presence of Children
- Have Official Responsibility
- Ethnicity
- Preparedness Level
- Disaster Experience

Sources: Adapted from Drabek, Thomas E. 1986. *Human System Responses to Disaster*. New York: Springer-Verlag, pp. 132-199 and Goltz, James D., Lisa A. Russell and Linda B. Bourque. 1992. "Initial Behavior Response to a Rapid Onset Disaster: A Case Study of the October 1, 1987 Whittier Narrows Earthquake." *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 10:43-69.

Panic Conditions

- Pre-Crisis Definitions
- Absence of Social Ties
- Perception of Possible Entrapment
- Sense of Powerlessness
- Feeling of Social Isolation

Source: Adapted from Quarantelli, E.L. 1977. "Panic Behavior: Some Empirical Observations." Pp. 336-350 in *Human Responses to Tall Buildings*. Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania: Dowden, Hutchinson and Ross, Inc.

Myth of Disaster Syndrome

Disaster Victims Are:

- Dazed
- Stunned
- Apathetic
- Passive
- Immobile
- Aimlessly Puttering About

Research Evidence Refutes Myth

Sources: Adapted from Wallace, Anthony F.C. 1956. *Tornado In Worcester* (National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Disaster Study #3). Washington, D.C.: National Academy of Sciences as summarized in Drabek, Thomas E. 1986. *Human System Responses to Disaster*. New York: Springer-Verlag, p. 147.

Social Constraints: Differential Death Rates

- Age
- Socioeconomic Status
- High Risk Locations

Emotional Responses By Victims

- Normal Stress Symptoms
- Examples Include:
 - A. Sleep Difficulty
 - B. Irritability
 - C. Physical Symptoms, e.g., Digestive Upset
- Symptom Patterns Vary:
 - A. Intensity
 - B. Duration
- Constraints
 - A. Disaster Terror
 - B. Proximity to Dead and Injured
 - C. Pre-Event Mental Health Status
 - D. Economic Recovery Capacity

Source: Adapted from Drabek, Thomas E. 1986. *Human System Responses to Disaster*. New York: Springer-Verlag, pp. 146-151.

Lessons for Emergency Managers

- Goal Directed Behavior
- Constraints
- Panic
- Disaster Syndrome Myth
- Death Rates
- Emotional Responses
- 911 Abuse Policies