

Workshop Tasks

Review assigned opinion survey items and answer these questions.

- 1 – How did your responses differ from those on the pre-test?
- 2 – What images did you have that evoked your responses this time as compared to the pre-test?
- 3 – What are the implications of the disaster mythology for emergency managers?

Group 1 – Items 1 and 2

Group 2 – Items 3 and 4

Group 3 – Items 5 and 6

Opinion Survey: Item #1

Pre-Test Results (Sample Results)

1. A major problem community officials confront when faced with a natural disaster is controlling the panic of people fleeing the danger area.

SA	A	U	D	SD
1	2	3	4	5

(Assigned Values)

10	15	5	0	0
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(Class Responses – Frequency)

Average (mean score) - $\sum X \div N$

Where X = frequency times assigned value

Class average score = 1.7 (1.666.....)

$10 \times 1 = 10$; $15 \times 2 = 30$; $5 \times 2 = 10$

$\sum X = 10 + 30 + 10$; $n = 30$

Opinion Survey: Item #2

Pre-Test Results (Sample Results)

2. Looting commonly occurs after the impact of natural disasters.

SA	A	U	D	SD
1	2	3	4	5

(Assigned Values)

15	10	4	1	0
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(Class Responses)

Class average score = 1.7

Average (mean score): $(15+20+12+4 = 51)$

$(51 \div 30 = 1.7)$

Opinion Survey: Item #3

Pre-Test Results (Sample Results)

3. Martial Law has been instituted in disaster areas in the United States.

SA	A	U	D	SD
1	2	3	4	5

(Assigned Values)

15	5	10	0	0
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(Class Responses)

Class average score = 1.8

Average (mean score): $(15+10+30 = 55)$

$(55 \div 30 = 1.8)$

Opinion Survey: Item #4

Pre-Test Results (Sample Results)

4. The crime rate of a community usually rises after it has experienced a natural disaster.

SA	A	U	D	SD
1	2	3	4	5

(Assigned Values)

15	12	3	0	0
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(Class Responses)

Class average score = 1.6

Average (mean score): $(15+24+9 = 48)$

$(48 \div 30 = 1.6)$

Opinion Survey: Item #5

Pre-Test Results (Sample Results)

5. When warned of an impending disaster, most people are quick to evacuate the threatened area.

SA	A	U	D	SD
1	2	3	4	5

(Assigned Values)

17	13	0	0	0
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(Class Responses)

Class average score = 1.4

Average (mean score): $(17+26 = 43)$

$(43 \div 30 = 1.4)$

Opinion Survey: Item #6

Pre-Test Results (Sample Results)

6. Immediately after the impact of a disaster, most victims are in a state of shock and unable to cope with the situation themselves.

SA	A	U	D	SD
1	2	3	4	5

(Assigned Values)

20	10	0	0	0
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(Class Responses)

Class average score = 1.3

Average (mean score): $(20+20 = 40)$

$(40 \div 30 = 1.3)$

Implications for Emergency Managers

- Public Expectations
- Public Behavior
- Demands on Officials
- Official Behavior
- The message: professional emergency managers must use scientific knowledge **not** myth