

What does it mean to be a disaster service worker at the Public Health Department?

How will I be contacted in a disaster?

1. What does it mean to be a disaster service worker?

All public employees are disaster service workers and must report to work as requested during disasters. You could be asked to perform your regular duty or any other duty you are qualified for during a disaster.

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2. How will public health employees be contacted to report to work in an emergency or disaster?

• CAHAN

- a. You will be contacted via your cell, home, or work phone using CAHAN (California Health Alert Network), an electronic alerting system.
- b. Be sure to keep your contact information up to date in CAHAN and know your password and phone security code.
- c. Messages sent via CAHAN may direct you to evacuate your work building, report to a different work location, or alert you to hazardous conditions.
- d. You may be asked to call in to report your availability to work.

• PHen

- a. PHen call trees will be used if communication systems are not functioning.
- b. Staff must keep current contact information in PHen.
- c. PHen allows us to assign staff to disaster work based on their qualifications and home location.

3. Where and when should I report when I am called?

- a. You may be asked to report to the nearest PHD facility, or to a specific facility.
- b. You may be asked to report and work in the Department Operations Center (DOC) in the PHD auditorium on San Antonio Road.
- c. Report as soon as you can secure the safety of your family.
- d. Inform the PHD if you are unable to report.

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- 4. What if there is a disaster, such as an earthquake, and my phone is not working?**
 - a. If you can, listen to the radio or television for updates on where to report. Car radios can be used to listen for news when electricity is out.
 - b. If you cannot receive any news, report to the nearest PHD facility as soon as your family is secure.

- 5. How can I prepare my family for my role as a disaster service worker?**
 - a. Make sure your family knows that you may be required to report to work in an emergency or disaster.
 - b. Have a household emergency plan and stock up on supplies such as food, water, and medicines so that you know your family will have what they need.

- 6. How can PHD employees prepare to respond effectively?**
 - a. Be familiar with the emergency plan for your facility or clinic. This includes evacuation of your building, assistance to patients, and other responsibilities.
 - b. Keep a personal disaster kit in your car or office.
 - c. Keep a copy of your program or facility call tree so that you can contact your supervisor with your status as necessary.
 - d. Learn the incident command system (ICS) by taking the basic IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) online training.
 - e. Take the online ICS 100 and 200 courses as requested.
 - f. Participate in disaster drills and exercises.
 - g. Maintain up to date contact information in CAHAN and PHen.

***Thanks to all the public health staff!
Together we help our county prepare and respond to disasters.***