

**Enterprise High School:
March 1, 2007 An
Unimaginable Disaster**

**2011 Volunteer Symposium
Responders and Disaster Affected
Individuals: Bridging Gaps of
Understanding and Misunderstanding
June 16, 2011**

Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division

Faculty

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Injuries

- **Enterprise High School**
 - **Totally destroyed**
 - **132 students and staff were injured**
 - **Walking wounded were sent to Hillcrest Baptist Church for treatment and parental pick up**

Injuries

- **Remaining wounded were treated on site and transported by helicopter and ambulance to area hospitals**

Types of Injuries

- Injuries varied
 - Lacerations
 - Ranging from superficial to deep lacerations involving tendons and ligaments

Types of Injuries

- Fractures – from simple to open fractures
 - Legs
 - Pelvis
 - Arms
 - Ribs
 - Backs

Types of Injuries

- Internal injuries
 - Punctured lungs
 - Punctured livers
 - Contused organs
- Head Injuries
 - Closed head injuries

Types of Injuries

- Chronic Illnesses
 - Exacerbation of asthma due to dust and debris

On-site Treatment

- Triage
 - Initial site set up outside of the nursing station
 - Secondary and permanent site set up at the Church and football practice field – behind the school
 - This is where the helicopters were setting down, loading and transporting

On-site Treatment

- In addition to our crisis bags, the following were used to provide care:
 - Rulers and front/back of books were used as splints
 - Tables were used as back boards
 - Shirts became dressings
 - Anything possibly be utilized for treatment was put to use

Community Assistance

- Over 23 communities and agencies were there to provide aid for the injured, families and other victims
 - Rescue squads
 - Physicians from local offices and from surrounding communities
 - Nurses from local offices and hospitals

Community Assistance

- Fort Rucker Emergency Response Team
- Flatirons (Helicopters) from Fort Rucker
- Police and Fire Departments, including the Heavy Rescue Unit from Dothan, Alabama

Role of Crisis Team

- You are on the front line when the emergency occurs
- Ability to assess other potential risks
 - Falling debris
 - Broken pipes
 - Gas and water leaks

Role of Crisis Team

- Once emergency personnel arrive, update them on what has been done, then assist rescue personnel as needed
- Ability to recognize when rescue changes to recovery

Role of Crisis Team in Peripheral Areas of Disaster Site

- Set up triage area and assign duties to faculty and other staff members
 - Parental pick up
 - Phone center
 - Information area

Role of Crisis Team in Peripheral Areas of Disaster Site

- Triage
 - Students have already been “triaged” at site
 - Students need to be triaged according to nature and severity of injury

Role of Crisis Team in Peripheral Areas of Disaster Site

- **First Aid**
 - Both psychological and physical
 - Reassurance

Role of Crisis Team

- Assist with first aid at site and at peripheral sites
- Be trained in CPR and First Aid

Role of Crisis Team

- Members are assigned various roles
 - Incident Command – Principal
 - Medical
 - Search/rescue/recovery
 - Information
 - Liaison
 - Morgue

Crisis Team

- EHS has a 20 member crisis team that follows the crisis plan
- Each carries a crisis bag during all drills
 - Crisis bag includes shake flashlights and all basic treatment needs

Crisis Team

- Team meets periodically to review issues that may arise
- Team stays in response mode at all times

Media: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

- Information was out to the communities, nation and foreign countries within minutes of the disaster
 - CNN was on location at Fort Rucker for a story on flight simulators

Media: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

- Information was timely, but often incorrect
 - Unfortunately, in these times media sees the need for immediacy rather than accuracy
 - Many bystanders want to be on TV, resulting in inaccurate information given to reporters



Immediate Emotional Impact

- Time stands still
- Chronology of events is skewed
- Shock and disbelief
- Fear of death
- "Is this the end of the world?"

Days After Tornado

- Administration, faculty, and staff visited with the injured students
- At least 142 students were displaced due to total loss or severe damage to homes
- Funerals for the eight students and 1 resident

Days After Tornado

- Plans to resume the school year were set in motion to start March 14:
 - Enterprise High School resumed operation at Enterprise-Ozark Community College
 - Schedule: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Mon.-Th.) and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Fri.)

Days After Tornado

- Hillcrest Elementary shared schools with Holly Hill Elementary, each going half days
- They became HollyCrest Elementary

Long Term

- There is a difference between a crisis and a disaster
- There is no timetable for recovery
- Issues:
 - Emotional
 - Logistical
 - Legal

Long Term

- The event cannot be forgotten or erased



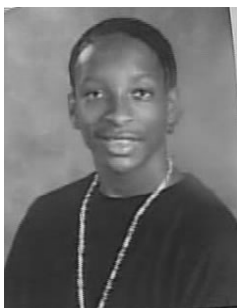
Jamie Vidensek
Class of 2007



Mikey Thompkins
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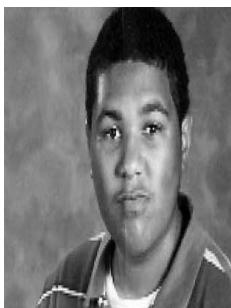
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***Have the Right People
in the Right Place
at the Right Time***