

Emergency Preparedness Resource for School Nutrition Professionals



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Objective

The purpose of this study was to identify research-based practices for emergency preparedness (EP) in school nutrition (SN) programs.

Method

The methodology of this project consisted of two phases:

Phase I

- ◆ Phase I involved an eight member expert panel of SN directors (n=4), state agency personnel (n=2), school emergency management personnel (n=1), and emergency management agency personnel (n=1) participating in a two-day workgroup to assist in the development of EP practice statements and goals for an EP resource.
- ◆ A guide for EP was drafted and consisted of four practice categories with 17 goals and 86 practice statements.

Phase II

- ◆ In Phase II, the draft guide was evaluated by a national review panel of SN and emergency management professionals (n=31) from six USDA regions. The review panel evaluated the practice statements, goal statements and draft resource for content clarity, accuracy, and usefulness.

Results

- ◆ The *Emergency Preparedness Resource Guide for School Nutrition Professionals* includes 87 practice statements, 17 goal statements within four EP practice areas:
 - ▶ Prevention-Mitigation
 - ▶ Preparedness
 - ▶ Response
 - ▶ Recovery
- ◆ The practice statements can be assessed using a current status scale of
 - ▶ fully addressed,
 - ▶ partially addressed, and
 - ▶ not addressed.
- ◆ The resource includes a space for school nutrition professionals to take action on statements identified as not addressed and a section to address any projects that need to be monitored.
- ◆ The guide is a user-friendly, Web-based, self-assessment tool and is available on the NFSMI Website at <http://nfsmi.org/documentlibraryfiles/PDF/20130522093042.pdf>.

Application

- ◆ The Web-based resource is designed to facilitate EP efforts within SN programs at the local level.
- ◆ Results will be useful in the development of policies and procedures for EP; the creation of training modules to provide direction to SN professionals on prevention-mitigation, emergency preparation, response, and recovery; the identification of the roles of SN personnel, school district personnel, school personnel, and community personnel; and the identification of the resources required for planning, developing, and implementing policies and procedures related to EP.

