

Welcome Speaking Points
For We're Ready! Workshop

9:15-9:30

Purpose of the welcome (15 min):

-Introduce organizers, the context of the workshop, build common understanding about the rationale (the why!), purpose, goals and deliverables of the workshop, housekeeping items (e.g. media release, washrooms, etc.)

Speaking points:

- I WELCOME you on behalf of the Faculty. Thank you for time out of your busy schedule today to participate in the first ever We're Ready! Community Disaster Preparedness Workshop at the U of A.
- I would like to first state that ***"The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community"***
- Finish introductions (who else is presenting/facilitating?)
- In the registration form many of you said you want to learn how to be best prepared in an emergency as individuals, as a family/household. And to understand and participate in community level readiness and to help your community.
- That is what we are going to do here today.

- UofA context of emergencies that have occurred and/or could occur in the future, and emergency hazards (nuclear, radicalization (and SiP), riverbank slump, chlorine spill from YMCA fitness centre, other types of contamination spill, industrial or transportation accident, major traffic accident, and office floods, data security, ice storm and fire) and how colleagues become an adhoc disaster responding community. (Point to this list on the whiteboard which will be used for Activity 4). Interestingly, there was a power outage at the Faculty in the winter of 2018 which lasted for several hours and not everyone knew what to do.
- Distinguish between risk, hazard, vulnerability, emergency, crisis, and disaster (point out definitions sheet on their tables) (Disasters are characterized as such because they are larger scale than crises or emergencies)
- (Explain where the bathrooms and emergency exits are located in the building?)

- It is important to note - because we are talking about emergency preparedness - that it is important to think about emergency and disaster preparedness in light of climate change,

because there are certain risks and impacts that are expected because of climate change, which will impact Alberta.

- Someone from the City of Edmonton is here with us today and is going to share with us a bit about what we can expect from climate change in Edmonton based on recent assessments done in preparation of Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, which was presented to City Council in November 2018.
- Thanks for sharing and if anyone has any questions about expectations or what the City is doing in this regard - feel free to ask her questions during breaks!

- Based on research on the 2013 flooding disaster in the Town of High River, I was conducting interviews in 2015 and what I heard repeatedly was that just because High River went through a major disaster where 70% of homes were moderately to severely damaged, residents were not necessarily better prepared for future flooding or other potential disasters. This is concerning because if High River residents are not better prepared, then who will be?
 - Studies found that 85% of Canadians agree that preparing an emergency plan and emergency kit are important in ensuring their family's safety, yet on only 40% have prepared them
 - With all the increasing demands for services and infrastructure placed on municipal governments, there are fewer and fewer resources to deal with major emergencies
 - Provincial and municipal governments have communicated that households and communities must be prepared to be on their own for the first 72 hours of an emergency.

- So, in 2016, the We're Ready! Workshop was developed with other academics and volunteers from High River. We implemented 2 pilot workshops. It was very well received and participants expressed they wanted more such events.
- What makes We're Ready! Community Disaster Preparedness Workshop slightly different from other emergency preparedness programs is that:
 - Community-based (not household)
 - Participants design their own plans
 - Interactive and fun activities
 - Based on principles of adult education
 - Facilitated (not led)
 - Emphasis on building of social networks/capital (b/c often the first person responding to you in an emergency is not a trained first responder, but rather your neighbour or colleague)

- The interest for the We're Ready! Workshop continued to grow and here we are in 2019 piloting it at the U of A for a community of colleagues. Based on what we learn from this and previous workshops, we will design a two-day course for community leaders planned for Sep. 12 & 13 through this Faculty. It will be a train-the-trainer type of course that will provide the tools for community leaders to run their own workshops.

- The overall purpose of the We're Ready! Project is to facilitate communities in designing and implementing their own disaster preparedness plans through engaging and effective approaches.
- The goal is for communities (which can be social or geographical communities) are collectively prepared for emergencies and respond in ways that reduce confusion and distress, prevent injury and save lives, and minimize or avoid damages. The goal of the workshops is for community members to get connected and plan for how they can respond collectively to make sure everyone is safe and to offer assistance if needed,
- You will design your own disaster plan for your community through fun activities, including hazard and evacuation maps; communication plan; and a community capacity inventory (these are the deliverables).
- By self-organizing as a community and neighbourhood, you are also supporting your larger municipal emergency plan.

Outline workshop schedule

- I'll just walk everyone through the schedule...
- As you can see from the "schedule" on the wall (point to it), there are 9 activities for the day. We will walk you through them as the day goes on. Feel free to ask us **questions** or for assistance at any time - that's much of the reason why we are here!
- **ACTIVITY 1: PRE-WORKSHOP SURVEY** which we will tell you about in a moment
- **ACTIVITY 2: COMMUNITY BINGO** to get to know each other and find out about who has what resources and skills in case of an emergency
- **ACTIVITY 3: SHARING PREVIOUS DISASTER Experiences/LESSONS** briefly chat about personal experiences and lessons learned with different types of disasters
- **BREAK (10:30 - 10:45. 15 minutes)**
- **ACTIVITY 4: MAP EVACUATION ROUTES/SAFE MEETING POINTS** figure out safe places to go in case of an emergency
- **ACTIVITY 5: COMMUNITY PLAN** we will create a plan for a specific disaster scenario
- **LUNCH** - we will take a lunch break around 12 for about 30 minutes
- **ACTIVITY 6: OFFSITE MOCK DISASTER GAME** then do an offsite mock disaster game
- **BREAK (2:00-2:15. 15 minutes)**
- **ACTIVITY 7: DEBRIEF EXERCISE/IDENTIFY COMMUNITY PLANS REVISIONS** talk about what worked, what we learned, and what could be improved
- **ACTIVITY 8: BUILDING MOMENTUM** figure out next steps of how to work together after the workshop to finalize and keep alive the Community Disaster Plan in your community/ neighbourhood
- **ACTIVITY 9: POST-WORKSHOP EVALUATION** do a quick survey before heading home
- **WRAP UP** around 3:30
- **TIME WILL BE TIGHT FOR TWO REASONS: 1. TO TRY TO FINISH BY 3:30; 2. TO SIMULATE A BIT OF DURESS/STRESS FOR THE WORKSHOP TO BE MORE REALISTIC**

- DON'T FORGET TO GIVE US THE **LANYARDS** BACK AS THEY DON'T BELONG TO US.

MENTION recycle bins/compost bins

There are recycling and compost bins in this room and just outside this room to the right - PLEASE use these bins to make sure we are being as sustainable as possible during this event.

-We have actually applied for Green Certification for this event and received gold status! That means we are trying to be as sustainable and generating as little waste as possible. If you have any questions about Green Certification - please ask - happy to share!

1. Media and handout release forms (should have gotten this info while registering but in case did not). Again, this is voluntary. Please return completed form to end of this table and if do not want to sign release, put a ribbon, located at registration table) on your lanyard. There are signs in this room and Enterprise Square to notify people that photos or videos may be taken (most likely only photos)
2. Please fill out your phone number on notepad so we can send you updates during the mock disaster exercise.
3. Apples and onions exercise of what worked well (apples) and what could work better (onions) throughout the day at your own pace. Please write what Activity you are referring to on each post-it note which are located at your tables.