Emergency Management Training Requirements for Cooperative Extension Personnel
Traci L. Naile, Amy M. Dronberger, & Patrick R. Allen
Oklahoma State University

What We Already Know
- Hurricanes in Florida demonstrated need for Extension to assess the personal and professional requirements of its employees to maximize the impacts of Extension during disasters
- Extension’s roles in disaster management are based on Extension’s science-based communication, education, and facilitation roles in enabling communities to respond to disasters
- Most important aspect of Extension’s roles is the increased social capital Extension provides, such as communicating through media outlets, managing people, and coordinating among agencies
- Extension is viewed as unbiased with a history of public trust and intrinsic distribution of personnel

What We Wanted to Know
- Online questionnaire sent to EDEN points of contact and delegates
- Asked about emergency management training requirements for Extension personnel in their states

What We Learned
- Training in ICS (66.2%), NIMS (69.1%), emergency response beyond ICS and NIMS (79.4%), and specific incidents (57.4%) is not required for Extension personnel in respondents’ states
- Training important for Extension personnel included public disaster communications (82.3%), emergency communications (80.6%), service to disaster victims (79.0%), integrated preparedness (75.8%), hazard mitigation (72.6%), continuity programs (66.1%), disaster logistics (65.6%), operational planning (62.9%), and incident management (61.3%)
- Suggested FEMA courses included ICS-100, -200, -700, and -800

What We Learned
- Extension personnel are not competent in disaster logistics (44.1%), integrated preparedness (39.0%), incident management (37.3%), operational planning (37.3%), emergency communications (30.5%), and continuity programs (30.5%)
- Extension personnel are competent in service to disaster victims (47.5%) and public disaster communications (33.9%)
- About one-quarter of respondents indicated Extension personnel are competent (25.4%) and are not competent (28.8%) in hazard mitigation

What We Learned
- Emergency management/response training methods currently used included face-to-face instruction, with workshops separate from other events (52.9%); face-to-face instruction, with workshops incorporated into other events (51.0%); online instruction (49.0%); and blended instruction (41.2%)
- Incorporate minimum training requirements into plans of work for Extension personnel involved in disaster management or who could be called on to assist during a disaster
What We Learned

- Training should capitalize on strengths in communications, education, and facilitation
- Extension personnel involved in disaster management activities would benefit from formal, broad-based training in ICS, NIMS, and incident-specific management

What We Still Want to Know

- What disaster-related training does your state currently recommend or require for Extension personnel?
- What disaster-related topics or classes are important for Extension personnel to have?
- How should disaster-related training be delivered to Extension personnel?
- What are barriers to implementing disaster-related training for Extension personnel in your state?