



Crisis Leadership and Decision Making Course



Critical Skills During Incident Response

When a hazardous materials incident occurs, many decisions will need to be made in a timely manner to be effective. These decisions will play a major role in minimizing adverse effects on the community. Making decisions during a crisis is complicated by human, temporal and technological factors. Therefore, leaders must have an understanding of these factors, how they impact decision making, and the tools and decision making models needed to successfully navigate a crisis.



FEMA

Georgia Tech Research Institute



Leadership and Decision Making Course

Course Overview

This course is designed to equip leaders for crisis decision making with emphasis on decision making models, use of pre-incident action plans, unified command, realistic training and interoperability with industry.

Course Description

The Leadership and Decision Making course reviews roles and responsibilities of a leader and discusses critical thinking, situational awareness and various decision making models. Other key course topics include incident command, psychology of a crisis, tips and tools for combatting stress, information sharing and scene size-up. Students will review different case studies from incidents involving fertilizer-grade ammonium nitrate (FGAN) and high hazard flammable trains (HHFT).

Delivery Method

Live Instructor Training: Six (6) hours

Course Objectives

- Define the spectrum of incidents as it applies to emergency, crisis, and disaster management
- Identify and discuss the roles and responsibilities of a leader
- Understand how situational awareness contributes to decision making
- Apply decision making model during practical exercise
- Construct a unified command comprised of multi-disciplines, rail operations, and industry representatives using FGAN and HHFT incidents
- Identify the psychological and physiological effects that a crisis induces on responders and leaders
- Recognize signs, symptoms and indicators that could adversely affect leadership and decision making
- Examine how pre-incident planning helps combat stress during a crisis
- Illustrate how planning products support response-to-recovery activities
- Understand how continued training and exercise will reduce stress
- Discuss the five factors that have the biggest influence on overall operations during a scene size-up
- Interpret pre-incident plans to support effective crisis decision making

Topics

- Case studies and practical exercises
- Leader roles and responsibilities
- Crisis and disaster management
- Critical thinking and decision making models
- Situational awareness
- Maintaining Command and control
- Unified command between public and private sectors
- Effects of stress
- Pre-incident action planning
- Decision making support tools
- Information sharing
- Scene size-up
- Best practices
- Emphasis on Hazmat, Fertilizer Grade Ammonium Nitrate (FGAN) and High Hazard Flammable Train (HHFT) incidents

Evaluation Methods

- Course feedback
- Post-course test

Certification

- Certificate of Completion based on passing course test

Curriculum Development and Delivery

This course is being developed under the FY16 DHS/FEMA Hazmat Continuing Training Grant by Georgia Tech Research Institute and Alliance Solutions Group, Inc. It is anticipated that the course approval and availability through the firstresponder.gov website will occur during the Summer of 2017.

