Instructor Guide to All Hazards

1. The goal of this unit is to provide participants with general definitions, preparation, response, and recovery information for all hazards. Each category is covered in writing; however, the CERT instruction team may only cover issues that are pertinent to the immediate community or region.

2. This is the content for Unit Ten:
   - Dams: 10 minutes
   - Earthquakes: 10 minutes
   - Extreme heat: 10 minutes
   - Floods: 10 minutes
   - Hazardous materials: 10 minutes
   - Hurricanes: 10 minutes
   - Landslides and debris flow: 10 minutes
   - Nuclear emergencies: 10 minutes
   - Break: 15 minutes
   - Terrorism/Active Shooter: 10 minutes
   - Thunderstorms and lightning: 10 minutes
   - Tornadoes: 10 minutes
   - Tsunamis: 10 minutes
   - Volcanoes: 10 minutes
   - Wildland fires: 10 minutes
   - Winter storms: 10 minutes

3. Supplies needed for the introduction:
   - LCD projector
   - Computer linked to LCD projector
   - Computer disk containing the introduction unit’s power point presentation
   - Instructor Guide for the introduction
   - Participant’s Manual for CERT

4. Time allotted for this unit: The introduction is scheduled for 3 hours
   Time spent on each unit can be maneuvered by dropping content and referring to its placement in the take-home materials. This permits flexibility on the part of the instructor and encourages participants to question or discuss course matters. It also holds the instructor to the time limit for the unit without expecting participants to stay overtime or to have instructors who follow to give up their time.

5. Instructional staffing requirements:
   - The full instructional staff should be present for the introduction.
   - This is an overview for the full training to follow (whether it is the week long, month long, or other length of training).
   - Introductions of the teaching team and class take place in the next unit. This offers people who show up late a chance to be included in the introduction activity.

6. Creative Contributions
   - In the column to the right of each of the slides in this unit, there is space to take notes on teaching techniques that are fun, funky, and innovative. Use the classroom time in this train-the-trainer course to share ideas on how to reach people with different learning styles. Seal good ideas, generate some yourself, and utilize other’s ideas as a foundation to develop new training techniques that benefit all course participants!
7. This unit is scheduled for 3 hours. It can be expanded or contracted based on regional hazard needs or existing circumstances. A 15-minute break is scheduled at the discretion of the instructor. The power point slides have descriptors of visual images but the instructor may need to explain them further. The instructor(s) for this unit should know the material well and avoid reading slides.

8. Review the objectives and inform participants that a performance measure activity is formatted into this unit at the end of the materials to help them obtain the objectives.

This is the point where the instructor should indicate if all hazards will be covered in the same depth or if some regional hazards will be highlighted and other less likely to occur hazards will not be covered in depth.
9. This slide introduces the concept of mitigation for this unit. Mitigation has been covered elsewhere in the CERT curriculum.

10. These two slides review basic concepts participants should keep in mind for each of the hazards reviewed in this unit.
Dams

- Dams
- When or where can a dam break?
- What damage can occur from dam failure?
- Emergency Information

11. A dam is a barrier controlling the flow of water. It can be made of earth or concrete and built across a river or stream to obstruct or control the flow of water. There are about 80,000 dams in the United States today, the majority of which are privately owned. Other owners are state and local authorities, public utilities, and federal agencies.

Several things can cause a dam to fail: first, if they are not designed, operated and maintained properly, or when major flooding overwhelms the dam’s capacity or structural damage caused by people, earthquakes or other natural disasters.

The energy of the water stored behind even a small dam is capable of causing loss of life and great property damage due to flooding, landslides and mudslides to people, communities or property downstream of the dam.

The National Dam Safety Program is dedicated to protecting the lives of American citizens and their property from the risks associated with the development, operation, and maintenance of America’s dams.

The Libby Dam in Montana

[Image of the Libby Dam in Montana]
12. An earthquake is a sudden, rapid shaking of the Earth caused by the breaking and shifting of rock beneath the Earth's surface. Sometimes the movement is gradual. At other times, the plates are locked together, unable to release the accumulating energy. When the accumulated energy grows strong enough, the plates break free causing the ground to shake.

Stay inside. The best protection during an earthquake is to get under heavy furniture such as a desk, table, or bench.

If outdoors: Move into the open, away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires. Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops.

If in a moving vehicle: Move to a clear area away from buildings, tree, overpasses or utility wires. Stop quickly and stay in the vehicle. Once the shaking has stopped, proceed with caution. Avoid bridges or ramps that might have been damaged by the quake.

The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, at exits, and alongside exterior walls. Ground movement during an earthquake is seldom the direct cause of death or injury. Most earthquake-related casualties result from collapsing walls, flying glass, and falling objects.
Extreme Heat

• Extreme heat?
• Where does extreme heat occur?
• What damage can occur from extreme heat?
• Emergency Information.

13. Temperatures 10 degrees or more above the average high temperature for a region and last for several weeks are defined as extreme heat. Humid or muggy conditions, which add to the discomfort of high temperatures, occur when a “dome” of high atmospheric pressure traps hazy, damp air near the ground. Excessively dry and hot conditions provoke dust storms and low visibility. Droughts occur when a long period passes without substantial rainfall.

Heat kills by pushing the human body beyond its limits. Most heat disorders occur because the victim has been overexposed to heat or has over-exercised for his or her age and physical condition.

A prolonged drought can have a serious economic impact on a community. Increased demand for water and electricity may result in shortages of resources.
14. Floods are the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. Tribal, State, and Territorial communities in the United States have experienced some kind of flooding, after spring rains, heavy thunderstorms, or winter snow thaws. Your homeowners or renters insurance does not cover flood damage.

Fill bathtubs, sinks, and jugs with clean water in case water becomes contaminated. Listen to a battery-operated radio for the latest storm information. If local authorities instruct you to do so, turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve. If told by emergency management or law enforcement personnel to evacuate your home, do so immediately!

If the waters start to rise inside your house before you have evacuated, retreat to the second floor, the attic, and if necessary, the roof. Floodwaters may carry raw sewage, chemical waste and other disease-spreading substances.

Avoid walking through floodwaters. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Do not drive through a flooded area. A car can be carried away by just 2 feet of floodwater. More people drown in their cars than anywhere. Look out for animals -- especially snakes. Animals lose their homes in floods too.
15. Hazardous materials are chemical substances, which if released or misused can pose a threat to the environment or health. These chemicals are used in industry, agriculture, medicine, research, and consumer goods. Hazardous materials come in the form of explosives, flammable and combustible substances, poisons, and radioactive materials. These substances are most often released because of transportation accidents or because of chemical accidents in plants.

Between 1982 and 1991, there was an annual average of 6,774 hazardous materials transportation incidents. In 1991, 9,069 transportation incidents resulted in 10 deaths and 436 injuries.

Varying quantities of hazardous materials are manufactured, used, or stored at an estimated 4.5 million facilities in the United States. Modes of transportation experiencing incidents involving hazardous materials included air, highway, railway, waterways and pipelines.
16. A hurricane is a tropical storm with winds that have reached a constant speed of 74 miles per hour or more. Hurricane winds blow in a large spiral around a relative calm center known as the "eye." The "eye" is generally 20 to 30 miles wide, and the storm may extend outward 400 miles. August and September are peak months during the hurricane season, which lasts from June 1 through November 30.

During a Hurricane Warning – issued when hurricane conditions are expected in 24 hours or less (e.g. winds of 74 miles per hour or greater or dangerously high water and rough seas). Listen constantly to a battery-operated radio or television for official instructions. If in a mobile home, check tie-downs and evacuate immediately.

If officials indicate evacuation is necessary: Leave as soon as possible Secure your home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and the main water valve.

Tell someone outside the storm area where you are going.
If time permits, and you live in an identified surge zone, elevate furniture to protect it from flooding or better yet, move it to a higher floor. Take pre-assembled emergency supplies, warm protective clothing, blankets and sleeping bags to shelter.
Landslides and Mudslides

- Landslides and mudslides.
- When and where do landslides and mudslides occur?
- What damage can occur from landslides and mudslides?
- Emergency Information.

17. Landslides are typically associated with periods of heavy rainfall or rapid snow melt and tend to worsen the effects of flooding that often accompanies these events. Mudflows (or debris flows) are rivers of rock, earth, and other debris saturated with water.

If inside a building: stay inside and take cover under a desk, table, or other piece of sturdy furniture.

Try and get out of the path of the landslide or mudflow.

Move quickly to the nearest high ground in a direction away from the path.

If rocks and other debris are approaching, run for the nearest shelter such as a group of trees or a building.

If escape is not possible, curl into a tight ball and protect your head.
Landslides and Mudslides

Landslide at Peers Creek, NC
Photographer – Lief Skogfors

Mudslide, Southern CA
Photographer – Laura Lee

Nuclear Energy Emergency

• What is a nuclear energy emergency?
• When and where do nuclear energy emergencies occur?
• What damage can occur from a nuclear energy emergency?
• Emergency Information.

17. This section deals with what happens if a release occurs at a nuclear plant, or when material destined for a storage facility is in an accident. If participants raise issues about ‘dirty bombs’ (bombs that have radioactive elements as a part of the makeup) suggest that you will address that issue in the terrorism section that is coming up.

These two slides represent nuclear energy emergencies that have happened in recent history. The Three Mile Island emergency happened in the late 1970’s and the community still deals with clean up issues. The Los Alamos National Lab never had a leak, but is used as an example of how disasters can piggyback each other based on what humans have constructed in the geographic area of the disasters path. That near miss happened in the early 2000’s.

Teaching tip:
In this unit it is a good idea for the instructor to be aware that some participants may want to politicize the conversation and direct it toward their political party preference. It is a good idea to redirect that type of
conversation to break time or personal time. This unit should prepare CERT trained individuals to deal with the emergency needs of the community. Although all things have political value, getting into blame-game conversations can cause defensiveness and difficulty in the classroom climate. Good Luck with this!

18. This slide shows the Oklahoma City bombings, which followed with the conviction of an American citizen for the crime. Emphasis on this tragedy can direct the conversation toward how terrorism is difficult to predict and is not simply an issue between nations but can be about
internal disagreements as well. Such is the nature of terror, the unpredictability makes it unique compared say to flooding. While it can’t be predicted, the time line can be narrowed and mitigation can be addressed by the public. Mitigation of terrorism is a public policy issue of greater complication.

Thunderstorms and Lightning

• Thunderstorms and lightning.
• When and where do thunderstorms and lightning occur?
• What damage can occur from thunderstorms and lightning?
• Emergency Information.

19. A thunderstorm is formed from a combination of moisture, rapidly rising warm air and a force capable of lifting air such as a warm and cold front, a sea breeze or a mountain. All thunderstorms contain lightning.

Lightning is an electrical discharge that results from the buildup of positive and negative charges within a thunderstorm. When the buildup becomes strong enough, lightning appears as a "bolt."

While thunderstorms and lightning can be found throughout the United States, they are most likely to occur in the central and southern states. The state with the highest number of thunderstorm days is Florida.

‘Just good to know’ information; yes, lightning can and does strike multiple times in the same location. People rarely survive one strike, let alone more!
20. A tornado is a violent windstorm characterized by a twisting, funnel-shaped cloud. It is spawned by a thunderstorm (or sometimes as a result of a hurricane) and produced when cool air overrides a layer of warm air, forcing the warm air to rise rapidly.

Tornado season is generally March through August, although tornadoes can occur at any time of year. They tend to occur in the afternoons and evenings: over 80 percent of all tornadoes strike between noon and midnight.

A tornado watch is issued by the National Weather Service when tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms. This is time to remind family members where the safest places within your home are located, and listen to the radio or television for further developments. A tornado warning is issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.

This slide is an excellent example of mitigation. The couple from Battlefield MO survived even though their home was destroyed. There
is information about the structural requirements of a safe room and directions for building one on the FEMA.gov web site.

Tsunami

• Tsunamis.

• When and where do tsunamis occur?

• What damage can occur from a tsunami?

• Emergency Information.

21. A tsunami (pronounced “soo-nahm’ee”) is a series of waves generated by an undersea disturbance such as an earthquake. From the area of the disturbance, the waves will travel outward in all directions, much like the ripples caused by throwing a rock into a pond. The time between wave crests may be from 5 to 90 minutes, and the wave speed in the open ocean will average 450 miles per hour.

The major Tsunami that stuck Indonesia in the early 2000’s brought this force of nature to worldwide attention. Many communities on shorelines took advantage of the public’s attention to the issue and conducted community training drills.

This slide highlights the tsunami that struck Hawaii in the 1960’s. An earthquake in Chile generated it.
22. **This slide is animated.** Instructors should be aware it will come up in four phases, the photo left first, then, a red circle on the left photo. Then the right photo followed by the red circle on the right photo.

It shows how the shoreline changed by using a grove of trees (circled in red) as a vantage point. The slide shows how 11 and-a-half feet of shore was reclaimed by the ocean as a result.
23. A volcano is a mountain that opens downward to a reservoir of molten rock below the surface of the earth. When pressure from gases and the molten rock becomes strong enough to cause an explosion, eruptions occur. Gases and rock shoot up through the opening and spill over, or fill the air with lava fragments.

In the United States, volcanic eruptions are most likely in the Pacific Rim states of Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California. The chance of eruptions that could damage populated areas is the greatest for the active volcanoes of Hawaii and Alaska.
Volcano

Mt. St. Helens, WA. Phreatic eruption begins, Spring 1980
Photograph – United States Geological Survey.

Volcano

Mt. St. Helens, WA. Debris flow, Spring 1980
Photograph – United States Geological Survey.

Volcano

Mt. St. Helens – Post eruption, 1980
Photograph – United States Geological Survey.
Winter Storms

• Severe winter storms.
• When and where do winter storms occur?
• What damage can occur from winter storms?
• Emergency Information.

24. Three fundamental elements of a winter storm include: **watches and warnings**, wind chill factors and blizzard conditions.

**Winter Storm Watches and Warnings** – A winter storm watch indicates that severe winter weather may affect your area. A winter storm warning indicates that severe winter weather conditions are definitely on the way.

**Wind chill** is a calculation of how cold it feels outside when the effects of temperature and wind speed are combined.

A **blizzard** is a storm with considerable falling or blowing snow and winds in excess of 35 mph and visibilities of less than 1/4 mile for at least 3 hours.
'Just good to know information’ a cold winter storm can freeze soap bubbles so fast that as they are blown from a bubble wand they crash to the ground. Hey, you need to keep entertained during a winter storm somehow!

### Winter Storms

Severe ice damage to trees during a winter storm in Missouri, 2002. Photographer – David Stonner

### Performance Measure

**All Hazards**

- At each table – Identify two hazards this region of the country may be at risk to encounter.
- Describe actions to take before these hazards.
- Describe actions to take during these disasters.
- Describe actions to take post disaster.
- Present this information to the whole class.
- Time – 5 minutes to prepare, 3 minutes to present.

25. It is good to focus on the geographic region of the class. It can be overwhelming for participants to prepare for all hazards.

Always ask if there are questions at the end of each unit, but remember as an instructor, to ask that as you go along. Often questions are best asked and addressed in the body of your presentation when they are more topical and easy to relate to information at hand.

Identify if there is a break before the next session, how long it is, and where toilet facilities, snacks and rest areas are located.
END
CERT All Hazards Unit