Role

The Public Health Role in disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery includes:

- Identifying community resources applicable to the physical, social, and psychosocial effects of a disaster
- Identifying groups most at risk from disasters (i.e., children, older adults, homeless, chronically ill, homebound, physically or mentally disabled)
- Providing disaster education both in advance of (i.e., what to expect in a disaster) and after (i.e., how to deal with the effects) event
- Taking responsibility for the health of a community following a disaster
- Using such resources as assessment, epidemiology, and data analysis to make and implement recommendations for limiting morbidity and mortality following disaster
- Cooperating and collaborating with other partners to ensure that primary health, public health, and mental health issues are adequately addressed in disaster planning
- Preventing disease by providing health advisories on injury prevention, food and water safety, and vector control
- Assuring that health services continue post impact, including acute, continuity of care, primary care and emergency care
- Communicating with government officials about the public health effects of potential disasters and provide expert assistance during and after disasters
- Developing and advocating public policies designed to reduce the public health impact of potential disasters
- Collaborating with other health and human service professionals to rigorously evaluate intervention outcome