

Module: Public Health Disaster Planning for Districts

Organization: East Africa HEALTH Alliance, 2009-2012

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Resource Title: Session 3.1: Fire

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Introduction: One of the commonest Public Health Disasters in Eastern Africa is fires. These are also a common emergency at district level. The most important aspect of fire control is prevention and mitigation. In the event of fire, it is very important that the response is prompt and orderly. In this session, we shall review the basic principles of fire control and management.

General Objective

On completion of this unit the participants should know the general principles of managing fires.

Specific Objectives

At the end of this unit the participant should be able to:

1. Define fire and explain its causes and the factors that influence them
2. Describe the consequences of fire
3. Explain the different mechanisms of fire extinguition
4. Outline the key principles of fire risk prevention
5. Outline the key principles of fire management

Teaching and learning strategies

Lecturing, Brainstorming, Group discussion, plenary discussion and role play.

Resources Required

Disaster Management manual, LCD or Overhead projector

At least two fire extinguishers with different colour codes (*Check if it is possible to obtain a fire extinguisher that can be used for physical demonstration or actual use; otherwise, if this is not possible within your resources, then only demonstrate the colour coding, contents and procedures for use*)

Issue for Brain Storming (5 to 10 Minutes)

Fires are a very common Public Health problem in Eastern Africa. In Kenya and Tanzania, several incidents of school fires have been reported. In Uganda, over 30 incidents were reported in a 3 month period in 2008. Unfortunately, a good proportion of institutional fires are started intentionally. More importantly though, the vulnerability of people and property is increased by the fact that most school buildings are ill-constructed, congested and there are no fire management procedures.

Questions for Brainstorming:

- Do you know of a recent fire incident that occurred in your country? How was it managed?

Presentation:

Let us now have a presentation on some principles of fire disaster prevention and management