



2020 | **Annual Report**



RDPC
Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium



Our Mission.

The Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC), through its Consortium Members, will provide small, rural, and tribal responders and communities with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to enhance the safety, and quality of life for their citizens through training, technical assistance, and information sharing.

Our Vision.

Rural communities across America will have the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life for citizens.



RDPC
Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium

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“Prepare for the **worst**. Train to be the **best**.”

The Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC), led by **The Center for Rural Development**, is comprised of academic members with the expertise in developing and delivering homeland security curriculum for rural and tribal first responders. For more information, visit us at www.ruraltraining.org

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FEMA's National Training and Education Division (NTED) offers a full catalog of courses at no-cost to help build critical skills that responders need to function effectively in mass consequence events. Course subjects range from Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) terrorism, cybersecurity, and agro-terrorism to citizen preparedness and public works. NTED courses include multiple delivery methods: instructor-led (direct deliveries), virtual deliveries (instructor-led), train-the-trainers (indirect deliveries), customized (conferences and seminars) and web-based. Instructor-led courses are offered in residence (i.e. at a training facility) or through mobile programs, in which courses are brought to state and local jurisdictions that request the training. A full list of NTED courses can be found at www.firstrespondertraining.gov.



Executive Message

The COVID-19 global pandemic of 2020 has yielded unprecedented challenges within the emergency responder training community. As the virus spread rapidly, delivering an in-person preparedness curriculum was no longer an option to ensure our nation's emergency responders stayed safe and healthy. In the face of adversity, the RDPC overcame these obstacles by delivering practical, innovative training solutions to emergency responders in small, rural, and tribal jurisdictions.

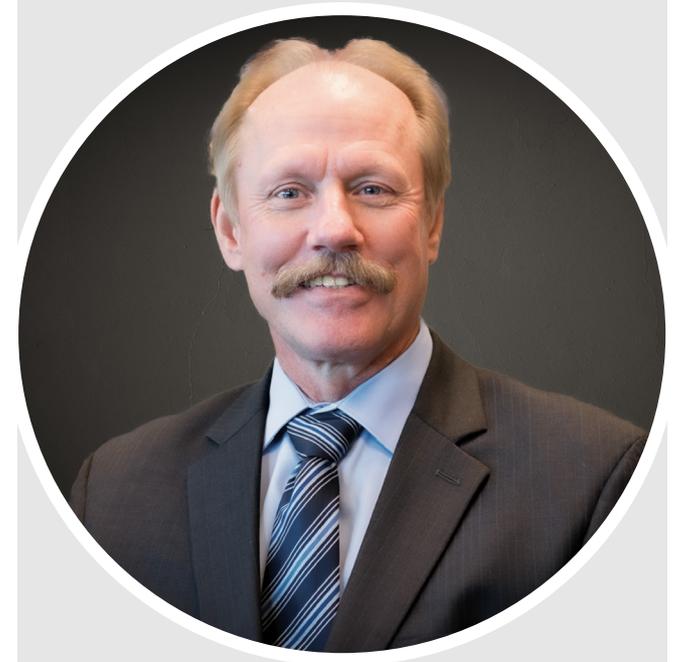
Led by The Center for Rural Development in Somerset, KY, the RDPC has trained more than 110,000 emergency responders from small, rural, and tribal communities in all 50 states and 5 U.S. territories from January 2005 through December 2020.

No matter the circumstances, the RDPC remains dedicated to the mission of delivering all-hazards training by helping our nation's first responders...

“Prepare for the **worst**. Train to be the **best**.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lonnie Lawson".

Lonnie Lawson
RDPC Principal Investigator
President & CEO
The Center for Rural Development



The RDPC works in close partnership with the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) to secure and prepare a safe and resilient nation. The Consortium consists of seven-member organizations, each having distinguished themselves nationally as experts in their field.



The Consortium Members

Led by **The Center for Rural Development**, the RDPC is comprised of 5 academic members and 1 affiliate with expertise and niche capabilities in developing and delivering training to small, rural, and tribal communities. Each institution brings a vast amount of knowledge and experience that prepares communities in the event of a disaster. We value each member, as well as their steadfast dedication to help others **“prepare for the worst and train to be the best.”**



For more information about the RDPC and it's academic members, visit us online at www.ruraltraining.org or call **877-855-RDPC (7372)**.





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**“Prepare for the *worst*.
Train to be the *best*.”**



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Much like the rural first responder community, our staff, support team, and consortium members work together to achieve the overall mission and vision of the RDPC. The team is honored to serve our nation’s first responders by delivering relevant, all hazards training to small, rural and tribal communities across America.





The Center for Rural Development

RDPC is led by The Center for Rural Development in Somerset, KY. Established in 1996 through the vision of **U.S. Congressman Harold Rogers** (KY-05), The Center for Rural Development is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization fueled by a mission to provide leadership that stimulates innovative and sustainable economic development solutions and a better way of life for the citizens we serve. The Center is also a nationally recognized model for successful rural development.

The Center has four Focus Areas: **PUBLIC SAFETY**, **ARTS & CULTURE**, **LEADERSHIP**, and **TECHNOLOGY**, serving a 45-county primary service area in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. We are committed to constantly expanding our capabilities in order to deliver a range of key services throughout Kentucky and beyond. The Center's Public Safety programs are reaching first responders and law enforcement professionals across the nation.

The Center has expertise in developing and administering training programs, including curriculum design, development, and delivery, utilizing the in-house web and video conference systems required to reach the rural homeland security community. As Executive Agent, The Center also plays a key role as a technology provider to the RDPC program. The Center is responsible for the design, development, and continued support of the RDPC web presence as well as online training registration, evaluation reporting capabilities, and learning management systems. The Center is a DHS/FEMA training provider.



We change people's lives.

The Center for Rural Development • 2292 S. Hwy. 27. Somerset, KY 42501 • centertech.com • (606) 677-6000



What is Rural?

Since its inception, RDPC has worked diligently to develop and deliver training to small and rural communities throughout the United States. While Americans tend to have an idealized image of rural America, a common definition for “rural” is difficult to find and is one of the most popular questions asked of RDPC.

Consistent with guidance from the U.S. Census Bureau, RDPC defines the rural communities it serves as **“any location with a population of less than 50,000 and with a population density of less than 1,000 persons per square mile.”** In addition to the U.S. Census Bureau, most Federal agencies use a population threshold of under 50,000 to define a “rural” area.

RDPC interprets the phrase, “any location,” as applying to cities, towns, villages, parishes, communities, and counties, a flexibility that ensures areas are not excluded unduly. For example, this definition can include a rural city within an urban county. The citizens of rural communities face unique challenges when preparing for all-hazards. For example, limited population and tax bases can create difficulties for community public safety agencies in terms of staffing, equipment, and other resources.

In many cases, RDPC represents the only opportunity for emergency response service providers to obtain access to timely, effective training. Therefore, understanding rural America and working to identify its specific needs are critical tasks for RDPC.

By speaking with rural responders and researching rural needs and capability gaps, RDPC recognizes that many rural response agencies are staffed by volunteers, and backfill for training remains an issue. Yet, rural responders represent the surge capacity and increased capabilities the U.S. relies on to assist in large scale disasters.

A rural area is often the first line of defense to immediately contain an event or disaster before it escalates. It is imperative that rural responders receive the training and tools necessary to help keep the Nation safe and prepared.



Training Disciplines Reached in 2020

Level of Discipline	Students Trained
Agricultural Safety	19
Animal Emergency Services	21
Citizen / Community Volunteer	49
Emergency Management	471
Emergency Medical Services	48
Fire Service	209
Governmental Administrative	38
Hazardous Materials	2
Healthcare	66
Information Technology	5
Law Enforcement	363
Private Sector	0
Public Health	146
Public Safety Communications	22
Public Works	13
Security and Safety	18
Search and Rescue	13
Transportation Security	9
Other	532
Total Number of Students Trained	2,044

(Data reflects training disciplines reached for ILT and virtual course deliveries. Data does not reflect web-based training.)





Instructor-Led Courses

	Completions
AWR 144 Port and Vessel Security for Public Safety and Maritime Personnel	0
AWR 147 Rail Car Incident Response	133
AWR 148 Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents: Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems	276
AWR 209 Working with the Media: A Course for Rural First Responders	121
AWR 232 Mass Fatalities Planning and Response for Rural Communities	64
AWR 302 Pipeline Security for Rural Communities	0
AWR 328 All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters	94
MGT 335 Event Security Planning for Public Safety Officials	78
MGT 381 Business Continuity Planning	15
MGT 383 Emergency Operations Plans for Rural Jurisdictions	14
MGT 401 Planning and Intervention for Security Threat Groups, Hate, and Terrorist Groups in Rural Jails and Prisons	32
MGT 403 Access and Functional Needs Preparedness Planning for Rural Communities	137
MGT 405 Mobilizing Faith-Based Community Organizations in Preparing for Disasters	70
MGT 406 Community Threat Group Identification, Assessment & Information Reporting for Rural Law Enforcement Officers	0
MGT 415 Disaster Recovery in Rural Communities	41
MGT 416 Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities	19
MGT 417 Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers	30
MGT 433 Isolation and Quarantine for Rural Communities	81
MGT 448 All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, and Food Related Disasters	56
MGT 449 Community-Based Response to All Hazards Threats in Tribal Communities	19
PER 294 Testing an Emergency Operations Plan in a Rural EOC	44
PER 333 Isolation and Quarantine Response Strategies in the Event of a Biological Outbreak in Tribal Communities	0

Total Instructor-Led Course Completions in 2020

1,324



Virtual Courses

	Completions
AWR 144-V Port and Vessel Security for Public Safety and Maritime Personnel	203
AWR 147-V Rail Car Incident Response	0
AWR 148-V Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents: Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems	148
AWR 209-V Working with the Media: A Course for Rural First Responders	39
AWR 232-V Mass Fatalities Planning & Response for Rural Communities	138
MGT 381-V Business Continuity Planning	72
MGT 383-V Emergency Operations Plans for Rural Jurisdictions	25
MGT 401-V Planning and Intervention for Security Threat Groups, Hate, and Terrorist Groups in Rural Jails and Prisons	0
MGT 403-V Access and Functional Needs Preparedness Planning for Rural Communities	0
MGT 405-V Mobilizing Faith-Based Community Organizations in Preparing for Disasters	64
MGT 406-V Community Threat Group Identification, Assessment & Information Reporting for Rural Law Enforcement Officers	0
MGT 415-V Disaster Recovery in Rural Communities	0
MGT 416-V Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities	20
MGT 433-V Isolation & Quarantine for Rural Communities	11
Total Virtual Course Completions in 2020	720

Web-Based Courses

AWR 148-W Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents: Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems	135
AWR 187-W Terrorism and WMD Awareness in the Workplace	1255
AWR 209-W Working with the Media: A Course for Rural First Responders	165
MGT 335-W Event Security Planning for Public Safety Officials	196
MGT 433-W Isolation and Quarantine for Rural Communities	402
Total Web-Based Course Completions in 2020	2,153

Total number of students trained in 2020: 4,197



Training Innovation Overcomes Obstacles

RDPC delivers virtual training solutions amidst the Coronavirus crisis.

The global pandemic of 2020 has posed numerous challenges to the emergency responder training community. As the Coronavirus crisis progresses, the need for all-hazards preparedness continues. Instructor-led training opportunities have diminished due to the inherent challenges associated with social distancing. To overcome these obstacles, the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC) has developed and implemented innovative, virtual, instructor-led training solutions for small, rural, and tribal jurisdictions utilizing the Zoom for Government training platform.

Training here, there, and anywhere.

This leading-edge technology offers a secure, sophisticated, encrypted environment so that emergency responders can "learn virtually anywhere." Each virtual delivery is an 8-hour course presented over two consecutive days. Each day consists of one 4-hour training session in which participants engage with a live instructor.

These virtual deliveries cover a variety of relevant all-hazards training topics to include the following:

AWR 144-V Port and Vessel Security for Public Safety and Maritime Personnel

AWR 147-V Rail Car Incident Response

AWR 148-V Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents: Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems

AWR 209-V Working with the Media: A Course for Rural First Responders

AWR 232-V Mass Fatalities Planning & Response for Rural Communities

MGT 381-V Business Continuity Planning

MGT 383-V Emergency Operations Plans for Rural Jurisdictions

MGT 401-V Planning and Intervention for Security Threat Groups, Hate, and Terrorist Groups in Rural Jails and Prisons

MGT 403-V Access and Functional Needs Preparedness Planning for Rural Communities

MGT 405-V Mobilizing Faith-Based Community Organizations in Preparing for Disasters

MGT 406-V Community Threat Group Identification, Assessment & Information Reporting for Rural Enforcement Officers

MGT 415-V Disaster Recovery in Rural Communities

MGT 416-V Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities
MGT 433-V Isolation & Quarantine for Rural Communities

After months of planning and preparation, the RDPC—along with academic member University of Findlay's All Hazards Training Center—conducted the first two Zoom deliveries during the last week of July. They delivered AWR 148-V Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents-Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems course. A total of 51 students participated in and completed the deliveries that were held in the West Plains, Missouri and Bedford, Kentucky jurisdictions.

Student engagement is key.

Students in attendance represented diverse professional backgrounds including that of law enforcement, school system administrators, fire service professionals, and emergency medical service professionals. In the virtual training environment, students engaged with instructor Scott Lowry by asking and answering questions, participating in polls, and collaborating in group chat sessions. Scott's expertise as a law enforcement professional, accompanied by a passion to educate others, provided participants with invaluable insight into school-based incident preparedness.

Interaction between the instructor and participants promoted valuable discussion regarding course content and past experiences. There were many comments on the evaluation form reflecting the benefit of virtual classroom interaction. For example, in response to the evaluation question regarding the part of the course that was most valuable, one participant commented: "Local interaction with other students, even virtually through chat." Another participant added: "Module 3 gave a lot of information and tools (about) threat assessments that I didn't know about."

During the global pandemic, participant safety is paramount in delivering all-hazards training to emergency responders. "The benefits of virtual deliveries include no travel required and allowing folks to interact safely, with no concerns of COVID exposure," said Laura Hoehne, Project Manager for the All-Hazards Training Center at The University of Findlay. "Although we look forward to the time when we can resume face-to-face deliveries, we are excited (to offer) valuable RPDC training using the Zoom platform."

Continuation of all-hazards training is paramount when ensuring our nation's emergency responders are adequately prepared. "We are dedicated to continuing training under the most difficult of circumstances," said Julie Wilson, Director of

the RDPC. When faced with the challenges of the global pandemic, the RDPC responded by providing innovative training solutions for our nation's emergency responder community.

Feedback can be fun

Countless hours of behind-the-scenes development and testing took place to ensure these virtual training deliveries would be successful. Everything had to be evaluated and examined, including course content, the registration process, and communication between the consortium and the participants. The process presented many new challenges but proved worthwhile and rewarding. There were lessons learned, as well as welcomed surprises during the virtual deliveries that will help guide future processes.

Following the virtual deliveries, the RDPC received positive, encouraging participant feedback. One participant said "This is a GREAT ZOOM class. More classes need to be held like this. Just because the pandemic is around, doesn't mean people don't have time to train. We are sitting around, and wringing our hands thinking, we are behind on training. This is the PERFECT time to be doing more and more of this. Especially since folks can't travel and have had issues traveling for a couple of years. More classes need to be done by Zoom!"

Another participant expressed gratitude to the consortium for offering unique training solutions during the pandemic. "This was my first virtual class and I really enjoyed it. It makes it easier to participate, not having to travel back and forth to physical locations. It is a busy time in the emergency management world, and this allows me to still be able to participate in classes without being removed from our EOC during an activation. I was worried about student-student interactions being lost but having the chat option actually made it easier to interact without disrupting the flow of the class. People are less reluctant to communicate through chat vs in person in front of a class. Great job!"

Overall, these virtual deliveries proved overwhelmingly successful and enjoyable. The RDPC plans to implement and deliver more Zoom-based training opportunities to small, rural, and tribal jurisdictions across the U.S. in the future.

Ray Hagen

Marketing Associate

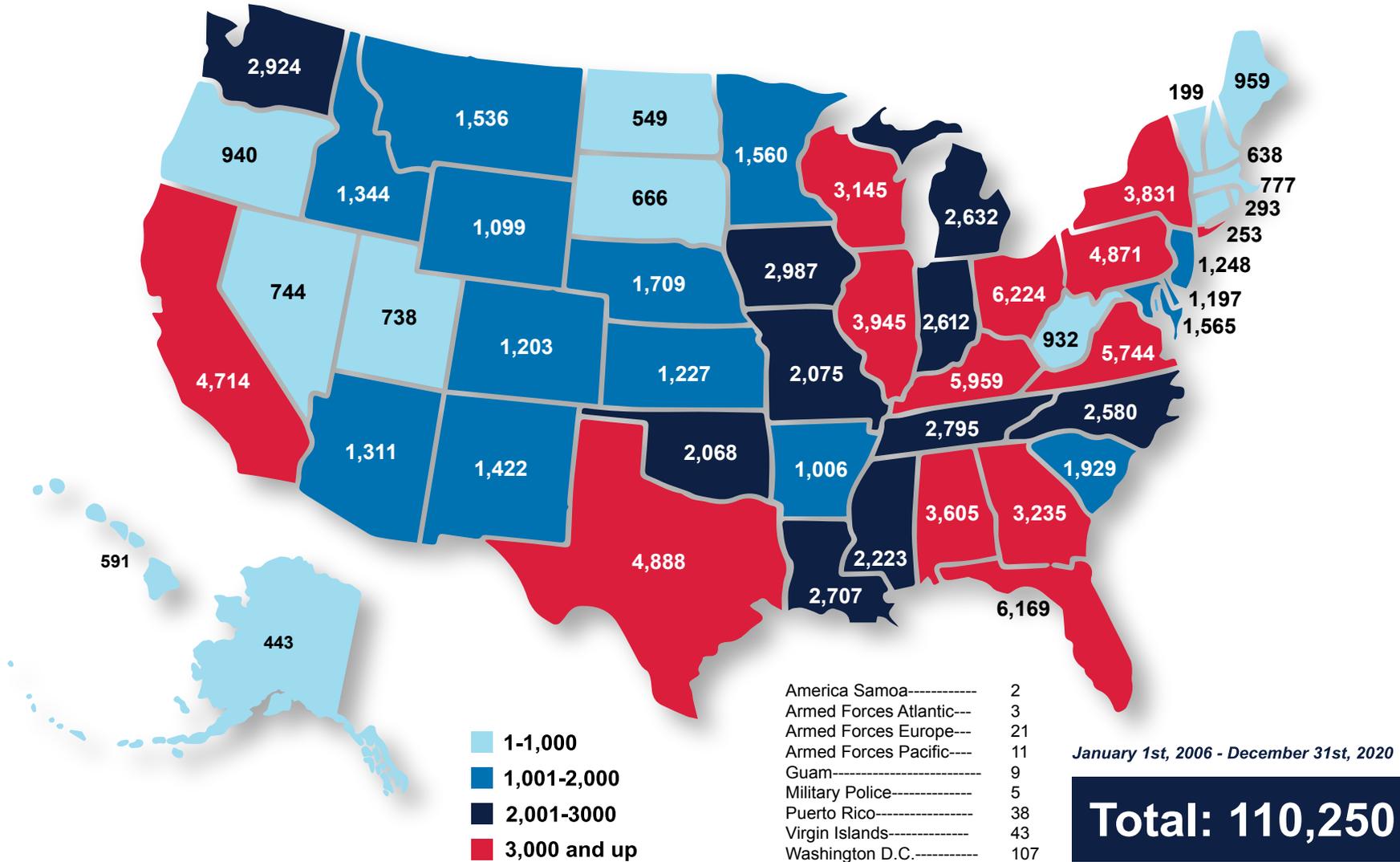
The Center for Rural Development

Article published in the TPP Times | 2020 Fall edition





Over 110,000 students trained since 2006.



January 1st, 2006 - December 31st, 2020

Total: 110,250



Training Kentucky and The Nation

Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium equips responders with needed knowledge and skill.

The following article was published in **The Bridge** | Kentucky's Connection to Rural Health Issues. **Fall edition, 2020.** Author: **Katheran Wasson.**

Greg Gould traveled to a rural town in the Pacific Northwest around the first of the year to teach a course on isolation and quarantine to first responders — something that, at the time, was just another day on the job for the longtime instructor.

A few weeks later, that course became incredibly relevant, as the first COVID-19 case in the United States was confirmed in Washington. It was an unfortunate but important reminder that, particularly when it comes to first responders, training has a real and significant impact.

Gould is an instructor with the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC), which has provided free training for rural first responders since 2005. Funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the consortium's courses are offered to jurisdictions with populations of 50,000 or less as well as to tribal communities, with the overall goal of helping first responders in those communities — which often have limited budgets — to better respond to emergencies and disasters.

The consortium serves first responders nationwide, but it has roots in Kentucky. The Center for Rural Development, based in Somerset, serves as the executive agent for the RDPC, and Eastern Kentucky University, in Richmond, is a member.

The RDPC has trained more than 100,000 students in its history, including nearly 4,000 in Kentucky — no small feat for an organization focused on providing training to emergency responders working in the country's small towns and communities. The consortium now trains more than 8,000 people a year in all 50 states and 5 U.S. territories.

Attendees include those working in health care, emergency medical services and public health, but also areas beyond health, such as law enforcement, education, public works and other branches of government. The consortium takes a “whole community approach” to its training offerings and works to understand and meet the needs of rural America.

“There is a misconception that emergency response is easier and simpler in rural areas, but that's so far from reality,” said Gould, who specializes in teaching public health and safety courses when he's not working as a first responder himself. “In rural areas, you have a limited number of providers and those providers have to be well-versed in

so many different things.”

Rural communities face unique challenges when it comes to emergency preparation and response. Limited public funding can create challenges in staffing, equipment and other resources. Plus, many rural first responders are volunteers or have other jobs.

Gould likened it to “having brain surgery as a hobby.”

“You have to have all the PPE (personal protective equipment), you have to understand it and be able to work these mechanisms — and then you still have to go to your regular job,” he said. “Responders in rural areas have to be jacks of all trades to keep their communities safe.”

How it works

Health-related training is just part of the RDPC’s range of course offerings. Other courses cover responding to mass fatalities, disaster recovery, port and vessel security, school safety, emergency operations and more. In all, there are 23 instructor-led courses and five web-based courses.

The consortium’s academic members — which include, in addition to ECU, North Carolina Central University in Durham; the University of Findlay in Findlay, Ohio; the University of California, Davis; Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville, Arkansas; and, the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, an affiliate member — develop and deliver the training on behalf of RDPC.

“It really is a collective of a number of people, a lot of people that they are in it for the right reason,” Gould said. “All of these people are just dedicated and passionate about what they do, and so it’s just not another program on campus — this has real, dramatic and applicable impact to people’s safety around the U.S.”

Each member brings its own niche to the table, according to RDPC Director Julie Wilson. For example, UC Davis has an agroterrorism food safety program, and the University of Tennessee has expertise in tribal training.

But the COVID-19 pandemic brought in-person training to a screeching halt, Wilson said. The consortium quickly began adapting its courses to virtual delivery, with instructors teaching live via webcam to first responders who remained in their home communities. What were traditionally one-day, 8-hour courses held in a conference room are now broken up into two, four-hour sessions, with most participants joining from their home computers.

Wilson said the consortium wanted to maintain the interaction present in instructor-led courses and selected this approach over self-directed online courses.

“A lot of people prefer the virtual format over the (self-directed) web based [courses], because you still get the interaction with classmates, and the instructors use polls and breakout rooms for participants,” Wilson said. “It’s a great

(continued)... tool from what we've seen so far, and we're looking to move forward to develop more."

The shift to online education is something the RDPC was already planning for, but the pandemic has accelerated those plans.

"I do think it will affect the way we do things going forward, and, if nothing else, it will give us a different modality of instruction," Wilson said.

Gould said he's adapting to teaching online, but some topics remain challenging —like teaching first responders to properly dress in PPE. During face-to-face sessions, students can actually try on the equipment to see how it feels and get assistance from instructors if needed.

Ultimately, he thinks after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, a hybrid model could offer students the greatest benefit. For example, students could complete basic pre-work online and then join together for a shorter in-person session for practical exercises.

A student's perspective

Amy Tomlinson, public health preparedness manager at the Lake Cumberland District Health Department, has taken several courses through the RDPC. In particular, she remembers a training designed for public information officers. Despite more than a decade of experience in public information, she walked away from the course with new information she uses on the job today.

"Anytime you take a course, you learn new things," she said. "The instructor was a retired Kentucky state trooper who had done public affairs, and that was a whole different perspective to hear. It was very valuable information — I use it a lot."

The course attracted a mix of experienced veterans and new professionals, which she thought was valuable to both. Additionally, it drew attendees from all over the Commonwealth — staff from fire departments, hospitals and health departments.

She appreciates the rural focus of RDPC courses and said the consortium has even worked with her health department to offer trainings outside their typical course catalog.

"I think it's always important to tailor things to the area where you're living and working," she said. "No training can be everything to everybody, but they are able to tailor them a bit more to Appalachia and rural Kentucky."

Because she's been busy helping with her community's COVID-19 response, Tomlinson hasn't had time for training in recent months, so she hasn't taken advantage of the RDPC's new online courses. But she said she may in the future and said expanded online options would be helpful to Kentucky rural responders.

“I think it’s a very valuable resource to have for our population,” she said. “The facilities and the organizations that can take advantage of these types of trainings, I think it’s a great resource and tool.”

Tomlinson said she’s optimistic for the opportunity online courses would bring to first responders who may not otherwise have access. Although RDPC trainings are free to all participants, travel and lodging costs can make it prohibitive for some. She did note the unique benefits of in-person trainings, such as networking, group projects and, particularly for her profession, public speaking practice. Like Gould, she said a hybrid approach could offer the best of both.

“I do think online trainings will be good because you don’t have the barriers of time and travel,” she said. “It’s much more budget friendly for organizations to train their staff using an online model and with budget cuts and tightening belts, it’s going to be a great option.”



Training Kentucky and the Nation

Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium equips first responders with needed knowledge, skills.

The Bridge | Kentucky’s Connection to Rural Health Issues. **Fall edition, 2020**

Author: **Katheran Wasson**





Eastern Kentucky University

College of Justice and Safety

Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) in Richmond, Kentucky is a regional comprehensive university that enrolls more than 16,000 undergraduate and graduate students. The College of Justice and Safety is EKU's first and only Program of Distinction, a special designation of the Commonwealth of Kentucky which recognizes unique academic expertise. The College offers unique undergraduate and graduate degree programs and has an international reputation for being on the frontline of learning and research in the fields of justice and safety. The College consists of the following research and training service centers and academic departments: The Justice & Safety Center (JSC), The School of Safety, Security & Emergency Management, and The School of Justice Studies.

Our Courses: (Note: AWR 209-V, MGT 383-V, and MGT 415-V, are also available **virtually** via Zoom for Government. AWR 209-W, MGT 335-W are also available as **web-based** courses.)

AWR 209 Working with the Media: A Course for Rural First Responders

MGT 335 Event Security Planning for Public Safety Professionals

MGT 383 Emergency Operations Plans for Rural Jurisdictions

MGT 415 Disaster Recovery in Rural Communities

PER 294 Testing an Emergency Operations Plan in a Rural EOC



www.eku.edu

A Positive Impact in Rural Communities.

As an academic member of the RDPC, ECU continues to make a positive impact in rural communities. For example, **PER 294 Testing an Emergency Operations Plan in a Rural EOC** engages course participants in meaningful, group-based scenarios to help strengthen their confidence in implementing and evaluating an emergency operations plan. When asked which course component is found to be the most valuable, comments such as **“Having students with different backgrounds allowed for great communication and discussion”** communicates the effectiveness of our approach. As participants collaborate, confidence increases in preparing for disasters.

Another example of rural training success is **MGT 415 Disaster Recovery in Rural Communities**. This course educates rural community leaders and emergency managers on how to develop a plan to expedite recovery efforts and facilitate the long-term economic revitalization of their communities following a disaster. Comments such as **“the group discussions with practical application in this local area were helpful to understand concepts in power point”** demonstrate course effectiveness and approach. Participants enjoyed **“real world examples”** as they gained practical knowledge in **“developing RSF’s (Recovery Support Functions).”**

Our Instructors: Ty Davisson, Bobby Day, Jim Garrett, Susan Green, John James, Ryan Nicholls, Patrick O’Brien, David Pichette, Jason Sirney, Jay Tillerson, Brendan Tomaino, Branch Walton, and Jerry Wells.





North Carolina Central University

North Carolina Central University (NCCU) is a top-ranked historically black university and regional university in the south by U.S. News & World Report. The university serves as a hub for intellectual dialogue and discourse and a source of academic distinction and game-changing innovation for North Carolina, the United States, and the world. Founded in 1910, NCCU is the oldest publicly funded liberal arts college founded for African Americans in the nation. Located in the state's Research Triangle, NCCU has an enrollment of more than 8,000 students from continents including North America, South America, and Europe.

The university offers bachelor's degrees in 100 disciplines, master's degrees in more than 40 areas, and a Ph.D. in Integrated Biosciences. NCCU's signature graduate and undergraduate degrees are housed in seven colleges and schools: College of Arts and Sciences; College of Behavioral and Social Sciences; School of Business; School of Education; School of Graduate Studies; School of Law; and School of Library and Information Sciences.

Our Courses: (Note: MGT 401-V, MGT 405-V, and MGT 406-V, are also available **virtually** via Zoom for Government.)

MGT 401 Planning & Intervention for Security Threat Groups, Hate, & Terrorist Groups in Rural Jails and Prisons

MGT 405 Mobilizing Faith-Based Community Organizations in Preparing for Disasters

MGT 406 Community Threat Group Identification, Assessment & Information Reporting for Rural Law Enforcement Officers



www.nccu.edu

A Positive Impact through Rural Training

As an academic member of the RDPC, NCCU continues to make a strong, positive impact in small, rural communities. For example, **MGT 401 Planning and Intervention for Security Threat Groups, Hate, and Terrorist Groups in Rural Jails and Prisons** engages participants while examining the processes by which recruitment and radicalization occur and proposes methods for strengthening the information gathering and sharing process. Post-course participant feedback indicates that “**the explanation of identifying radical inmates**” and “**the knowledge gained from the instructors' experience**” was found to be one of the most valuable aspects of this course.

Another example of rural training success is found in **MGT 405 Mobilizing Faith-Based Community Organizations in Preparing for Disasters**. This course emphasizes grassroots mobilization and coordination efforts as a means of engaging all faith communities, thereby reaching those marginalized communities most vulnerable to disaster, most frequently excluded from the planning process, and ultimately, most difficult to aid in recovery. Post-course participation feedback indicates that the “**networking knowledge of the instructor's experience**” and the “**table top, event problem solving**” exercise were found to be among the most valuable take-aways from this course.

Our Instructors: Robert Fountain, M. Chris Herring, Johnny Holloway, Princess Ousley, and Gregg Varner.





NorthWest Arkansas Community College

Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) was founded in August 1990 with 1,200 students. Today, NWACC serves more than 15,000 students in college credit and non-credit courses in Benton and Washington counties. NWACC is a comprehensive, public two-year college that serves to empower lives, inspire learning, and strengthen communities through accessible, affordable, quality education. The commitment of NWACC to life-long learning can be seen in the quality of instruction it offers, and the variety of programs it has designed to move students into the job market in a minimum amount of time, enrich people's lives, and prepare them to further their education.

Established in 2005, the Institute for Corporate and Public Safety (ICPS) is part of the Workforce and Economic Development division at NWACC. During its tenure, ICPS developed and maintains 8 active instructor-led and online courses that to date have been delivered throughout the United States and territories, training more than 16,000 people in more than 500 communities.

Our Courses: (Note: Courses listed below are also available **virtually** via Zoom for Government. MGT 433 is also available as a **web-based** course.)

AWR 232 Mass Fatalities Planning and Response for Rural Communities

MGT 381 Business Continuity Planning

MGT 403 Access and Functional Needs Preparedness Planning for Rural Communities

MGT 416 Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities

MGT 433 Isolation and Quarantine for Rural Communities



www.nwacc.edu

Making an Impact in Rural Communities

As an academic member of the RDPC, NWACC continues to make a positive impact in small, rural communities. **MGT 433 Isolation and Quarantine for Rural Communities** is an excellent example of how the RDPC is making an impact in rural communities. This course is designed to provide the knowledge necessary to begin planning for situations requiring the isolation and quarantine (I&Q) of a large portion of a local, rural population. In the midst of the pandemic, NWACC deployed this course in a virtual training format using Zoom for Government. Following a virtual delivery of MGT 433, one participant said that **“ethical considerations added amazing information for me to put into practice. I sometimes get so wrapped up in the response that I don't take the time to consider but absolutely need to!”**

Deploying virtual training during a global pandemic is challenging, yet rewarding. Virtual training gives participants a safe alternative to training in a traditional setting. After a virtual delivery of MGT 433, one participant said that it was a **“very good course...glad I participated. I like the 4 hour chunks of time. It's so much easier to make time that way than 8 full hours plus travel. Thank you!”**

Our Instructors: Glenda Adkisson, Jane Cash, DeeEll Fifield, Arbie Goings, Gregory Klimetz, and Emily Kies.





University of California, Davis

Western Institute for Food Safety & Security

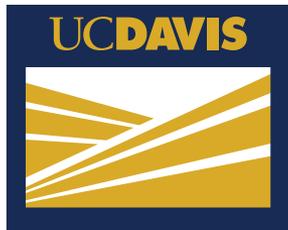
The Western Institute for Food Safety and Security (WIFSS) is a University of California, Davis program of the School of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Our mission is to serve the global community by conducting research, developing training, and providing outreach programs that will enhance the health and security of people, animals, and the environment.

We serve as a valuable resource for state and federal agencies, academic institutions, the veterinary profession, interest groups, and the public on all matters related to food safety. Our extension and education programs apply a One Health approach in developing the means of identifying, and more specifically preventing future food-borne outbreaks. We focus on reducing the risk factors leading to contamination of raw agricultural products and reducing the pathogens associated with animal products.

Our Courses:

AWR 328 All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters

MGT 448 All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, and Food Related Disasters



WIFSS

Western Institute for
Food Safety & Security

www.wifss.ucdavis.edu

Excellence in Food Safety and Security.

As an academic member of the RDPC, WIFSS continues to make a positive impact in rural communities by delivering relevant, all-hazards training regarding animal, agricultural, and food-related disasters. **AWR 328 All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters** provides livestock producers, emergency managers, veterinarians, extension agents, veterinary technicians, rural community leaders, public and human health personnel, fire and law enforcement with tools to protect, respond to, and recover from the consequences of disasters involving animals in rural communities. Post-course participant comments indicated that **“group exercises allowed students to practice topics covered in lectures.”** Participants felt that the course fostered a **“good learning environment that encouraged participation by all.”**

MGT 448 All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, and Food Related Disasters also positively impacts participants and their rural communities in which they serve. Collaboration is key during the tabletop exercises. This can be an eye opening experience for participants as one individual said **“I will certainly reach out to my county practices when I get back to build those relationships!”** When asked which component of the course was most valuable, one participant said **“the team activities & discussions. It gets you to think about things from another perspective. The interaction between instructors & class was excellent.”**

Our Instructors: David Goldenberg, Art Johnstone, Michael Payne, Tracey Stevens, Michael Turner, and Brian Whipple.





The University of Findlay

All-Hazards Training Center

The University of Findlay (UF), located in Findlay, OH, is an RDPC member. It is a private liberal arts college founded in 1882. It is home to over 5,000 students. The University of Findlay's All Hazards Training Center (Findlay All Hazards) provides customized education, training, and information transfer programs focusing on environmental, safety, and health (ESH) issues as well as security management and emergency/disaster preparedness for both industry and emergency responders across the U.S.

Findlay All Hazards strives to keep the customer training needs paramount by the fact that 90% of training occurs on site at client locations. Since inception in 1986, the training center has trained over 250,000 people coast-to-coast. UF annually trains, on average, more than 11,000 people in over 600 classes, over 40 states, across the U.S. and Canada. UF is one of a few institutions nationwide that integrates ESH, Emergency/Disaster Preparedness training, and the opportunity to earn ESH undergraduate & graduate degree programs.

Our Courses: (Note: AWR 144-V, AWR 147-V, and AWR 148-V are also available **virtually** via Zoom for Government. AWR 148-W is also available as a **web-based** course.)

AWR 144 Port and Vessel Security for Public Safety and Maritime Personnel

AWR 147 Rail Car Incident Response

AWR 148 Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents: Partnering Rural

Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems

AWR 302 Pipeline Security for Rural Communities

AWR 311 Small Vessel Security for Rural Communities

MGT 417 Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents

www.findlayallhazards.com



ALL HAZARDS

A University of Findlay
Training Center

Delivering Rural Training Excellence.

As an academic member of the RDPC, The University of Findlay's All Hazards Training Center continues to make a positive impact in small, rural communities through rural training initiatives. One example of rural training excellence is found in the delivery of **AWR 144 Port and Vessel Security for Public Safety and Maritime Personnel**. This course provides participants with the basic competencies associated with port and vessel security, as well as a working knowledge of maritime security appropriate to public safety responders in rural jurisdictions.

In the midst of the pandemic, this course was deployed in a virtual training format using Zoom for Government. Following a virtual delivery of AWR 144, we discovered that the **“discussion of the MARSEC Levels and the large amount of waterways and goods that are moved by water”** were found to be valuable course take aways. Another course participant said that the course was **“all impressive.”**

Deploying virtual training during a global pandemic is challenging, yet rewarding. Virtual training gives participants a safe alternative to training in a traditional setting. Hearing feedback such as **“I loved the Zoom meeting aspect! You knocked it out of the park”** is an encouraging reminder that the courses are impacting small and rural communities.

Our Instructors: Dave Bowman, Steven Browning, Kevin Durbin, Tim Hill, Jeffrey Hilty, Rick Hoffman, Duane Jones, Scott Lowry, Tim Maloney, Rodger Norcross, Tyler Pendleton, Tom Rinebolt, Laurie Thomas, Branch Walton, and Mike Webber.





The Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA)

The RDPC continues to work with the Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness (CAFSP) at the University of Tennessee, Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) to develop courses specifically for Tribal nations. Instructors from CAFSP work with Tribal nations to determine the needs of the community prior to each training. CAFSP currently has two courses tailored to meet the needs of the Tribal communities (see course titles below). MGT 449 addresses the distinctive challenges that Tribal nations face in effectively detecting, responding to, managing and mitigating all-hazard threats that include disease outbreaks and the occurrence of environmental health threats, using a whole community approach. Additionally, PER 333 addresses the unique challenges that Tribal nations face in responding to a biological disease outbreak.

The University of Tennessee, through its colleges, research and education centers, and county extension offices, serves the people of Tennessee and beyond through the discovery, communication, and application of knowledge. UTIA working with the University of Tennessee - Knoxville, is committed to providing undergraduate, graduate, and professional education programs in a diverse learning environment that prepares students to be leaders in a global society. The Institute's delivery of education, discovery, and outreach contributes to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of all Tennesseans and focuses on contemporary problems faced by Tennessee, the nation, and the world.

Our Courses:

PER 333 Isolation & Quarantine Response Strategies in the Event of a Biological Disease Outbreak in Tribal Nations

MGT 449 Community Based Response to All-Hazards Threats in Tribal Communities

www.vet.utk.edu/cafsp



Training Excellence in Tribal Nations

As an affiliate of the RDPC, The Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness (CAFSP) at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) continues to deliver invaluable training opportunities in Tribal nations across America. Both MGT 449 and PER 333 offer unparalleled insight regarding all-hazards threats and disasters specific to Tribal communities. For some, **MGT 449 Community Based Response to All Hazards Threats in Tribal Communities** is a new training experience. When asked which course component was found to be most helpful, one student replied **“I find it all very valuable, due to not knowing much about how things worked.”** For others, MGT 449 serves as a continued refresher of core competencies. Comments such as **“I think the most valuable was the activities or the group activities and being able to use what you learn in the activity with what you already know, with others”** serves as a strong indicator that group-based learning scenarios an effective way of reinforcing foundational training principles.

The RDPC and CAFSP remain committed to delivering training excellence in Tribal nations. For more information about these courses, visit us online at www.ruraltraining.org.

Our Instructors: Glenda Adkisson, Ray Burden, Jennifer Chatfield, Greg Gould, Kelly Hamilton, Heidi Kassenborg, Mark Miller, Julie Schlegel, Robert Silver, and Matthew Welborn.





Tribal Nations Training.

Positive impact through training excellence.

The RDPC remains dedicated to delivering relevant all-hazards training in Tribal nations. Collaboration is key in developing and delivering unique courses that are specific to the needs of Tribal nations. As an affiliate of the RDPC, The Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness (CAFSP) at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) delivers the following courses in Tribal nations:

PER 333 Isolation and Quarantine Response Strategies in the Event of a Biological Disease Outbreak in Tribal Nations

MGT 449 Community Based Response to All-Hazards Threats in Tribal Communities

On March 11th, 2020, the RDPC delivered MGT 449 in White River, Arizona. Course instructors often gain valuable insight into course effectiveness and share their comments. Ray Burden, the instructor for this delivery of MGT 449 had this to say:

“The MGT 449 Community Based Planning for All-Hazards in Tribal Communities we delivered in White Mountain Tribe provided the community with a process for developing effective plans to address a

variety of threats based on their local assessments. Within a few weeks, the White Mountain Tribe was faced with responding to the COVID-19 outbreak within their own tribal community. At the end of the course, participants responded that the course had provided useful information that would assist the Tribal community in preparing for a wide variety of potential threats.”

Participant feedback helps the RDPC gain valuable insight into the effectiveness of each course. Below are some of the comments received, highlighting the positive impact the RDPC is making in Tribal nations through relevant all-hazards training.

“The group activities helped me to have a better Idea of how the knowledge gained is to be applied in real world scenarios.” - MGT 449 participant

“I found the emergency response module to be most valuable, because I have been part of an emergency response team, but never really understood my role.” - MGT 449 participant

Obtaining feedback after each course helps the RDPC deliver consistent course content, delivering a sustained, positive impact in Tribal nations, as well as small, rural communities across the country. To learn more about the RDPC, visit us online at www.ruraltraining.org.



Director's Message

Hello friends and colleagues. I hope this message finds you and your families well. What unprecedented times we have found ourselves to be living. 2020 has challenged us at every turn. The year began uneventfully, then changed dramatically in mid-March with the onset of the Novel Coronavirus; which continues to surge through our Nation and the world. One thing became evident early on: disasters do not stop in the wake of a pandemic.

This year, our country has experienced hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, tornadoes, rain with flooding, and drought. All of these events continue to magnify the need for building and maintaining resilient infrastructure and communities. Nothing could be more true for rural and tribal communities in America; therefore, making RDPC training more essential than ever.

To ensure that timely and effective training did not end abruptly during the pandemic, the RDPC quickly began working with our Consortium Members to convert in-person, instructor-led training to a virtual, instructor-led modality. This method may not be ideal, but it has made relevant training possible during this time. To date, we have fourteen instructor-led courses available via the Zoom for Government platform.

As an organization, we are hopeful that during the coming weeks and months, we will look back at this difficult time, and when we do, it will be with pride in how we collectively responded. In the meantime, please take care, stay informed, and...

"Prepare for the **worst**. Train to be the **best**."



Julie Wilson

Julie Wilson
RDPC Director



The Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium (RDPC) works in close partnership with the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC). The NDPC consists of seven nationally-recognized organizations whose membership addresses the urgent need for counter-terrorism preparedness within our nation's emergency responder community. The NDPC effectively delivers all-hazards training within the context of chemical, biological, radiological, and explosive weapons of mass destruction (WMD) hazards.

National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC) Members

Center for
Domestic
Preparedness



FEMA

Tony Russell, Principal Investigator | <https://cdp.dhs.gov/>



Dr. Van Romero, Principal Investigator | <http://www.emrtc.nmt.edu/training/>



Jeff Mayne, NDPC Chair | <https://www.ncbrt.lsu.edu/>



Al Davis, Principal Investigator | <https://teex.org/homeland-security>



Lee Sykes, Principal Investigator | <http://www.ctosnsa.org/>



Dr. Karl Kim, Principal Investigator | <https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/>



Forrest Wieder, Principal Investigator | <https://sertc.org/>

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Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium