



**State of New Jersey**  
 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
 DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
 DISASTER AND TERRORISM BRANCH  
[www.disastermentalhealthnj.com](http://www.disastermentalhealthnj.com)  
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 Commissioner

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 Assistant Commissioner

Spring 2005	The New Jersey Division of Mental Health Disaster & Terrorism Branch
<h2>New Jersey Crisis Counselor</h2>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Calling All PFLASH/KFLASH Trainees!</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Flood Affected Communities Continue Recovery &amp; Counseling</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Building County Disaster Response Capacity</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">A Survey of First Responders Services</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">International Perspectives in Crisis Counseling</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Crisis Counselor Safety</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Dear Disaster Mental Health Professional:</b></p> <p>As many of you may have heard, these are my last weeks as Director of the Division of Mental Health Services. After 18 years in this role, I am retiring. As I look back at my time at the Division, I am proud of the work we have accomplished together in many areas, but particularly proud of New Jersey's disaster mental health services program. Together we have met the challenges of assisting our friends and neighbors after fires, floods, industrial disasters and air crashes. Our disaster mental health system has become a model for other states around the nation and we continue to set the pace in delivery of counseling services to persons impacted by disasters.</p> <p><a href="#">More from the Director</a></p>
<p>Calling All PFLASH/KFLASH Trainees!</p>	



## Flood Affected Communities Continue Recovery & Counseling



The heavy rains and flooding that occurred during the first week of April resulted in Presidential declarations of disaster in 9 New Jersey counties. The declaration process opened channels for many types of assistance including Crisis Counseling services in several counties. Many areas had experienced serious flooding over the past year, and many people were just resuming normal life when the spring storms flooded their communities once again.

[More about the Flood Recovery Programs...](#)

In coordination with the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, the New Jersey Division of Mental Health Services-Disaster and Terrorism Branch is offering a full-day, comprehensive disaster mental health training program for those professionals who have already participated in the PFLASH and/or KFLASH training programs. This high-intensity program addresses four critical areas of professional development for disaster mental health responders. These include:

- Overview of the FEMA Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) model
- The Psychosocial Consequences of Chemical, Biological, Nuclear and Radiological Terrorism
- Psychological First Aid Training
- Disaster Mental Health Logistics and Operations.

[Find out more....](#)

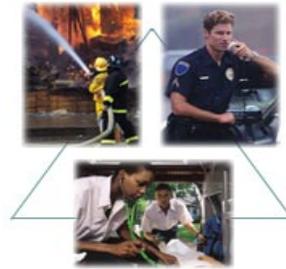
## Building County Disaster Response Capacity



Last spring, representatives from several agencies and organizations involved with New Jersey's disaster response system participated in the regional Disaster Mental Health All-Hazards Planning Conference in Boston sponsored by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration. The byproduct of that conference has been an concerted effort spearheaded by the Division of Mental Health Services-Disaster and Terrorism Branch, to assist counties in the process of "recalibrating" their existing or evolving disaster mental health plans to meet the requirements of the post-9/11 environment.

[More about Building County Capacity...](#)

## A Survey of First Responders Services



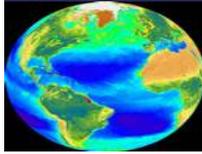
For many years New Jersey has been a leader in providing Critical Incident Stress Management services to the first responder community in New Jersey. Over time numerous teams evolved around the state to provide debriefing and other stress management services to police, fire and EMS personnel, both paid and volunteer. With the existence of so many teams serving the same community some foreseeable problems arose, such as duplication of efforts and a lack of communication and coordination between teams. Everyone shared the same goal of getting first responders the necessary psychological support as quickly as possible following a traumatic event, but the grass roots nature of this peer support program created a need for more structure.

[Learn more about NJ's first responder survey...](#)

## Quick Links...

- [New Jersey Disaster Mental Health Online](#)
- [Disaster Technical Assistance Center](#)
- [Personal and Family Preparedness](#)

### International Perspectives in Crisis Counseling



The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently published two reports on the response to the Indian Ocean tsunami and earthquakes that affected twelve countries in Southeast Asia and Western Africa.<sup>1,3</sup> Dr. Monica Indart of the Disaster & Terrorism Branch has reviewed and synthesized these reports to give New Jersey crisis counselors the international perspective on disaster trauma and emergency services. The lessons learned in this catastrophe have direct implications for disaster mental health services in New Jersey and the United States, and are critically important for all of us living and working in a global community.

[More about International Perspectives](#)

### Crisis Counselor Safety



#### Flood Survival

One of the most frequently occurring natural disasters in New Jersey is flooding. Whether resulting from heavy rains, swelling of the Delaware and smaller rivers and streams, or coastal flooding after Nor'easters and tidal surges, flooding is a foreseeable risk in our state. As such, Crisis Counselors who may be deployed on community outreach assignments should be particularly aware of some of the hazards of traveling during flood conditions.

[Learn more about flood safety...](#)

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