



ALABAMA TELECOMMUNICATOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE TASKFORCE

Attachment I: MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Medical considerations are difficult issues for the TERT program, and a certain degree of common sense must be exercised by agency managers in selecting team members and by State Coordinators in making choices as to who to include in deployed teams. Some further explanation of such considerations follow:

A. Vaccinations and Immunizations

The NJTI strongly recommends that all vaccinations and core immunizations for deployment into disaster areas be obtained by all TERT team members.

Additionally, the NJTI recommends that prior to any deployment, the responding state coordinator, should make every effort to contact the affected area's appropriate health authority to determine if specific additional immunizations are needed.

If these shots are not obtained in advance, a team member's ability to respond into disaster areas (both in and out of state) will be severely compromised.

These vaccinations and immunizations simply cannot be obtained at the last minute. Please keep in mind that the Hepatitis B immunization alone requires three shots spread over an eight month period.

On the other hand, NJTI wishes to leave some flexibility to the individual state programs to identify qualified and skilled individuals who for one reason or another will not be deployed into disaster areas, but who could deploy to assist another PSAP within their own state that is simply overwhelmed but poses no adverse environmental concerns.

If a state TERT program elects to distinguish between those members fully qualified to deploy into a serious disaster environment versus those who may only respond to more pristine environments, it will be the responsibility of the State Coordinator to maintain a database of team members that clearly delineates these distinctions.

B. Medical Conditions

Similarly, it is expected that no TERT team member will possess any medical condition that would present a problem during deployment and compromise the member's ability to perform or to place a burden on the Team Leader or the requesting agency to spend time addressing such issues or that may require the team member to return home prematurely.

Here again, agency managers best know their own employees and common sense must prevail. ADA considerations are considerably different in disaster situations, since the normal work environment may dramatically change. Bonafide occupational requirements change.

Conversely, individuals with certain medical problems or disabilities may be perfectly able to work in a mutual aid situation that does not rise to the level of a disaster environment.

TERT State Coordinators are responsible for making appropriate team member selections for any given deployment.

