

Project**HELP**

Haiti Emergency Lifesavers Program

A relief program of
International **Fire**fighters Assistance, Inc.

Project Report

Emergency Lifesavers Training

Canape-Vert, Haiti



DATE: July 15th, 2010

This report is an assessment of the Emergency Lifesavers Training provided to the **Scouts of Haiti** by **ProjectHELP** - Haiti Emergency Lifesavers Program, a relief program of **International Firefighters Assistance, Inc. (IFA)**. **ProjectHELP** was designed to assist communities in taking care of their families and neighbors in the aftermath of major disasters as well as personal emergencies. Because of Haiti's lack of professional emergency responders, civilians who are trained in emergency preparedness increases the chance of survival in emergencies and disasters. With approximately 30,000 members, the Scouts of Haiti have played an essential role in the aftermath of many disasters, including the recent earthquake that ravaged Haiti on January 12th 2010. These courageous young men and women assisted local emergency workers in rescuing many trapped victims from the rubble. Despite their extraordinary will and strong desire to help, the scouts lack the necessary skills and tools needed to become effective emergency responders. Over a three day period, scout leaders from different regions of the country were taught valuable skills and techniques to save lives and prevent catastrophic loss of property in the event of an emergency. The course was held in Canapé Vert, Haiti from June 21-24, 2010 and given by several IFA instructors: Nate Lasseur, Gayl Nye, Kenci Saintil, Edrace Petit-Jeune, Antoinier Thimote, William Swindell, and Renaud Felix. Videographer Ben Clerveaux also volunteered his service for this project. The training included: lecture, skill stations, hands on practice and a live fire scenario. It was delivered in a "Train-the-Trainer" format so the scouts can pass on the new skills to their colleagues, family and friends. Participants were evenly divided into three groups (*Teams I, II & III*). Each team rotated through three (3) training classes which consisted of the following modules: **Medical Disaster Operations, Fire Safety & Fire Extinguisher Operation and Disaster Preparedness & Response.**



Over 100 scout leaders received *Certificates of Training* at the completion of this workshop. The scouts were also given "BoGoLight" solar-powered flashlights which were donated by *Haiti Lumiere de Demain*. All attending members will later be awarded **Emergency Lifesavers Merit Badges**, to be worn on their uniforms. (*The badges were not available at the time of training*)

This training was an initiative of the **Voila Foundation** in collaboration with the **Scouts of Haiti** and **IFA**.

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Medical Operations: *Basic first aid emergencies, Rapid Assessment & Triage*



Instructors Gayl Nye, of Florida Heart CPR in Vero Beach Florida and Renaud Felix, a firefighter/paramedic with Palm Beach County Fire Rescue delivered a presentation on basic medical operations. The training was intended to teach the students to prioritize what to do in an emergency. Topics included recognizing emergencies, introducing themselves as rescuers that could help, and learning the basics of medical and injury emergencies. Many thoughtful questions were answered and we felt the scouts were actively engaged in this training.

The most beneficial part was learning to perform rapid assessment and triage of large number of victims during mass casualty incidents.

While CPR was not a main component of the training, especially in disaster situations, the class reviewed the steps of CPR for adults and children, and choking for all age groups. Some scouts did not have any previous first aid or CPR training, we will continue to touch on these important lessons in the future.

Fire safety and Extinguisher operation



Instructors Edrace Petit-Jeune, a Haitian-American EMS Lieutenant with Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue and fire engineer/paramedic Bill Swindell from West Palm Beach Fire Rescue did a presentation on fire extinguishers which included a power point lecture with extensive examples of common fire hazards. Most of the scouts were not familiar with extinguishers and how easy they are to

use. Students were familiarized with situations that increased the risk of fires, the classes of fire, fire hazards, and obstructions to fire safety and means of egress (escape). The students asked pertinent questions relating to their environment. The class then moved to an outside location to actually extinguish live fires. The students seemed pleased with this portion of the training and said they felt much more comfortable with using the extinguishers after the training.

Disaster Preparedness & Response

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This component of the training, which was presented by instructors Kenci Saintil, a lieutenant with Davie Fire Rescue and firefighter/paramedic Antoine Thimote from Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, was an in-depth lecture of hurricanes, earthquakes and other major disasters and how to respond to them. Many students stated that they do not have many available resources, so they were prompted to think of tools and resources they may find in their neighborhoods that would be helpful during an emergency. Furthermore, the scouts were taught how to perform effective scene size-up as well as how to assist professional rescue personnel during emergency operations. They were also given instructions & techniques to perform light search & rescue, safe removal of trapped victims by using basic resources and delivery of injured victims to triage & treatment area. Instructors Saintil and Thimote are both of Haitian decent and speak fluent Creole.



Summary

After talking to some of the scouts from the individual groups, many were from varied backgrounds and regions of Haiti; they all felt that the training was successful, relevant and badly needed. As trainers, we were prepared for the expected number of participants. Our subject matter exceeded the expectations of the scouts and the hands-on training was exceptionally well suited to their needs. At the completion on this course, all scouts were giving printed copies of the Project**HELP** training modules which are translated in Haitian Creole.

Other comments:

- The students approached us individually and repeatedly told us how relevant this training would be for their families and in the event of a disaster.
- While we only trained a portion of the Scouts, many approached us and expressed interest in future training as well as becoming trainers for their region.
- As a result of staff evaluations, the instructors identified different areas of training that could be beneficial in addition to the current subject matter. As this was our first training for the Scouts, it provided valuable insight to structure trainings for future sessions.



From the staff at IFA, we thank Voila Foundation and the Scouts of Haiti for allowing us the opportunity to train this invaluable group of individuals. There is no doubt the scouts will take their newfound skills and make a significant difference in their communities. This unified commitment to empower Haitians to help themselves in a disaster will strengthen community response substantially.

Nate Lasseur
IFA Founder & President

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