A Concept Map to Promote Learning and Knowledge Capture from the U.S. East Coast Earthquake
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Concept Maps
- originally developed by Dr. Joseph Novak and his colleagues
- have been used in a range of learning settings
- “a schematic device for representing a set of concept meanings embedded in a framework of propositions”

Application to Preparedness and Response Learning
- concept map prepared to illustrate how the U.S. East Coast earthquake of August 23, 2011 could be viewed as an opportunity for learning in organizations
- placed on the National Center for Disaster Medicine & Public Health (NCDMPH) website 48 hours after the event
- accompanied by examples of lessons the NCDMPH staff learned from the earthquake event

Learning Recommendations Communicated through this Concept Map
- promote informal learning through conversations with basic questions such as: “What did you know that helped?”, “What did you need to know but didn’t know?”, and “How can this learning be shared and used for the future?” soon after the event
- emphasize that such learning be captured, shared with others, and used for continuous improvement in plans, drills, and communication strategies

Using a Concept Map to Communicate a Learning Message
- this concept map references a specific earthquake event, but the learning message can be applied to other disasters
- consider how you might use a concept map as an enabling tool to present information for preparedness and response in your own settings

References

The NCDMPH serves as the Nation’s academic center of excellence for education, training, and educational research in disaster medicine and public health preparedness. For more information: ncdmph.usuhs.edu

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