

## Planning for a mass fatality – how confident can you afford to be?

**Skills 2 Share** in consultation with the Emergency Planning Society have developed a range of BTEC qualifications based on the Core Competences Framework and the achievement of professional outcomes. Our BTEC Professional Award in Emergency Planning Management has been tailored to meet the particular needs of those involved in planning for mass fatalities or excess deaths.



It is always a source of frustration for members of the planning community who are required to provide a necessary level of detail; that much of the guidance and information currently available on planning for a mass fatality event is strategic and generic. This doesn't always make the planner feel any better about the risk involved in trying to get it right.

At **Skills 2 Share** we recognise that the need to plan properly and effectively requires a methodical approach, extensive stakeholder consultation and a lot of peer support. We also know that planners are responsible for providing the level of detail that helps to determine actions and responsibilities in a structured way and it is this detail that takes time and effort.

Whilst a mass fatality event is a dreadful matter to have to contemplate, there is for many of us a prescribed responsibility to have in place robust and effective plans. Whilst planning is something that many of us have probably done for years, the level of risk and responsibility associated with this particular type of event can feel quite overwhelming and a little intimidating.

The same sorts of questions always seem to get asked and yet go unanswered:

- *What level of support is available from government and how do we access it?*
- *Who are the stakeholders to a good mass fatalities plan and what do they want?*
- *How do we ensure good mortuary provision?*
- *What level of detail is required?*
- *Who will pay and what costs are involved if the plan is ever activated?*
- *Who is accountable for the effectiveness of our planning arrangements?*

The **Skills 2 Share** programme will go beyond mere review of existing guidance, risk assessments and strategic statements. It will provide practical support to learners, encouraging them to work with their peers in a professional teaching environment as well as leading to outcomes that are directly relevant to their work. The end result will be the achievement of a national qualification that proves how learners have been able to demonstrate a level of competence and skill which will stand scrutiny.

Delivery is by qualified trainers and presenters who are practitioners in this field of work with a programme content that is underpinned by academic rigour of the highest standard. Whilst there are guided learning hours that have to be completed in order to achieve the BTEC qualification, the two assignments completed during the course will be entirely relevant to the planners role.

There will be ample opportunity to share experiences, explore good practice and ask questions of visiting speakers such as the Anatomical Pathology Technician who will help the planner to understand the requirements for establishing a mortuary and provide guidance on how to achieve compliance with the Human Tissue Authority requirements for the licensing of emergency mortuaries.

For more information on the programme please contact:

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