

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2007 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s) Project Number

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J0314

Project Title

Ready or Not

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

The objective of the experiment was to find if disaster relief organizations were creating and distributing disaster kits that were fitting to the needs of a suburban community. The goal of the experiment was to design and distribute a disaster kit based on the results of the experiment. My hypothesis concluded that 75% of the items posted by disaster organizations would also appear on the approved items from the survey.

Methods/Materials

During the experiment, two kits were tested. The first was an organization kit in which all materials came from disaster kits sampled. The second kit was designed using the results of a survey of community members. For testing each disaster kit, a test family lived off the materials provided living in their residence with no gas, water, or electricity for three days.

Results

According to the survey, only 50.8 % of the items posted by organizations were selected as necessary by survey respondents. That means that 50.8% of the items recommended by organizations would most likely be used in a suburban fire situation. The results of the organization kit testing showed that only 57.75% of the items posted by disaster organizations were actually used by the test family. When the test family used the survey created kit over 80% of the items were used.

Conclusions/Discussion

This experimenter concluded that disaster kits distributed by FEMA and other organizations were aimed for a general audience, not for specific areas in the US. This new kit was created by community members who experienced a disaster.

Summary Statement

This project is to find if mass produced disaster kits are meeting the needs of real people that actually use them.

Help Received

No help recieved