REDline Survey: Operation Recreation Response

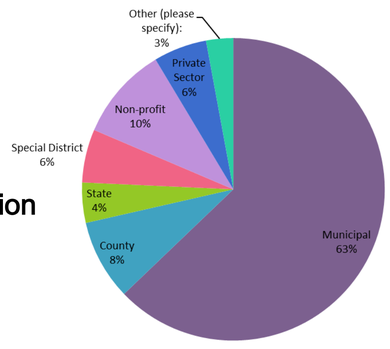
REDline Survey is a trends-oriented e-survey of practitioners around the country conducted several times a year by GP RED on topics of current interest relating to public health, recreation, and the built environment.

- **Intent was to explore the role of park and recreation agencies in disaster management, response, and recovery**
- **Sent to multiple mailing lists of recipients in parks and recreation, public health, and related fields – more than 4000 total**
- **Voluntary responses collected in the fall of 2019**

Responses

	Count	Percent
Complete	44	57.1
Partial	33	42.9
Disqualified	0	0
Totals	77	

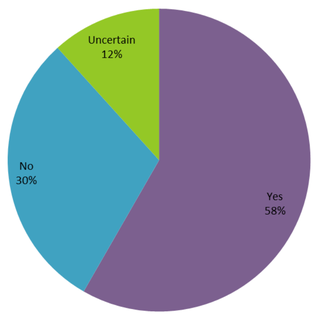
Which term best describes the professional agency/organization where you work?



Which department or area of specialization best describes your agency or organization?

Value	Percent
Parks and recreation	75.4%
Public Health	4.3%
Social Services	1.4%
Planning	7.2%
Education	5.8%
Other (please specify):	5.8%

Have you or your agency been affected by, or responded to, a major emergency or natural disaster in the past 10 years?



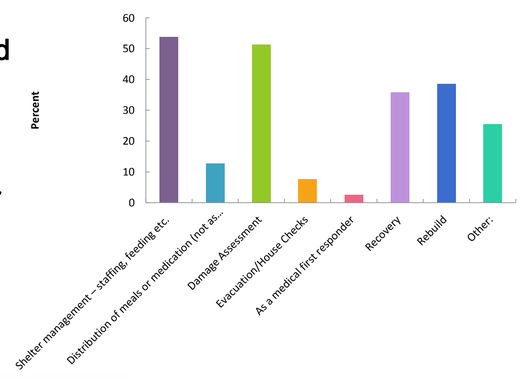
What sort of natural disasters has your local agency dealt with? And which types of events would you anticipate potentially impacting your community in the future?

	Events my agency or I have personally dealt with		Events I anticipate potential impact from in my community		Total Checks
	Checks	Row Check %	Checks	Row Check %	Checks
Wildfires	7	31.8%	15	68.2%	22
Hurricanes	17	53.1%	15	46.9%	32
Floods	25	46.3%	29	53.7%	54
Tornadoes	9	36%	16	64%	25
Blizzards/Ice Storms/snowstorm	28	45.9%	33	54.1%	61
Tsunamis	0	0%	0	0%	
Earthquakes	2	22.2%	7	77.8%	9
Other (specify in following question)	3	50%	3	50%	6
Total Checks	91		118		209
% of Total Checks	43.5%		56.5%		100%

Please describe the other type(s) of natural disaster(s) you referenced in the previous question:

Count	Response
1	Straight line windstorm, Oct 2017
1	Unknown
1	Water contamination-Gold King Mine Spill
1	Wildfires
1	gas leak/explosion

What role did your agency play in facilitating response for the events identified?



Findings:

- Local **park and recreation agencies** play a **significant role** in disaster response, recovery and management
- **Managing shelters** and **assessing damage** are the most common roles that agencies fill, but other roles are common as well
- A **majority** of the agencies represented **have been affected** by or responded to **major disasters/emergencies** within the past 10 years
- A majority of the agencies represented have **NOT received training or preparation** for an emergency or disaster in the past three years
- Disasters addressed by these agencies take a **wide variety of forms**
- **Financial concerns** and **staffing levels** are the **primary barriers** faced by agencies in providing disaster services

"Parks & Rec in this city definitely has a large roll in emergency management here (shelter, food, building assessments, clean up, volunteer management, etc.) "

"Emergencies may include health care issues, assessment of structures, and other liabilities that I do not believe should involve recreation professionals."

"During Hurricane Harvey, my staff was limited. Some were stuck in other cities and unable to get here. We struggled to find staff to work shelters. A response team is great, if it could get here. Response teams being sent out to help is a great idea, but it needs to be a group effort because daily work still needs to be accomplished in areas that aren't hit by natural disasters or other types of emergencies. "

"I have thought about something like this since seeing shelters full of people during Hurricane Katrina. It makes sense that people housed in shelters would benefit from some healthy distractions that can help them spend their time positively while awaiting what they will need to do next.".

"Whatever the plan may be it must be practiced for you to have success."

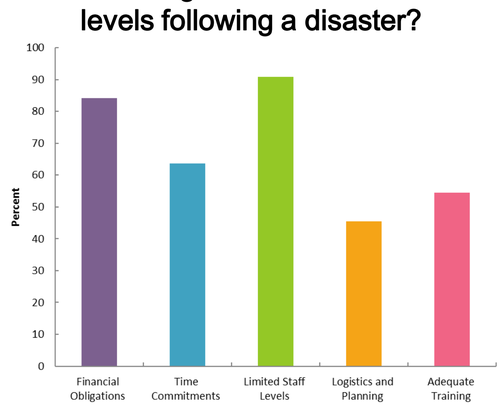
"We feel the police and fire depts are in place and trained to handle emergencies. We don't believe our small staff can contribute or add to their abilities."

"I think the program is a wonderful idea and really hope it can reach its goal to be implemented. Every department / organization is different and every community is different and I would imagine that it would have a national / international component as well as regional and even state."

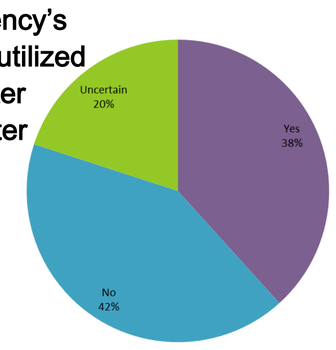
"Since we have nothing in place, I feel we would need to start from the ground up in preparing to be involved in this process."

"Specific attention to the factors that are associated with mass shootings. Of particular concern are youth sport programs where "winning at all costs" seems to be the norm. "

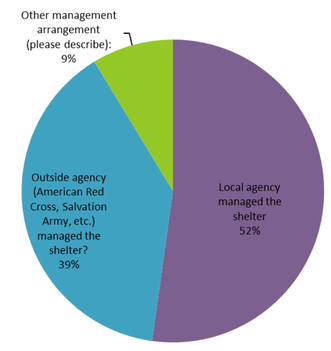
Can you identify barriers that you feel exist to developing a professional deployment program to assist park and recreation agencies restore service levels following a disaster?



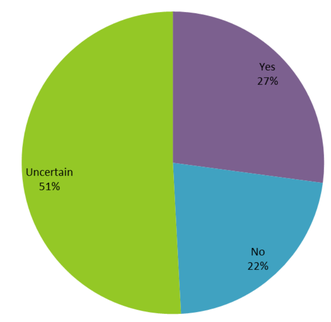
Have your agency's facilities been utilized for public shelter during a disaster event?



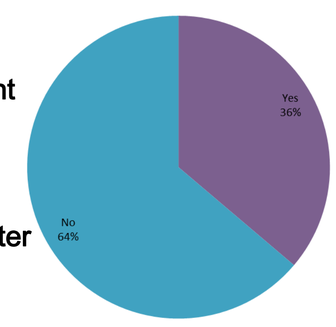
Did your community manage the shelter or did an outside agency such as American Red Cross, Salvation Army etc. manage the shelter?



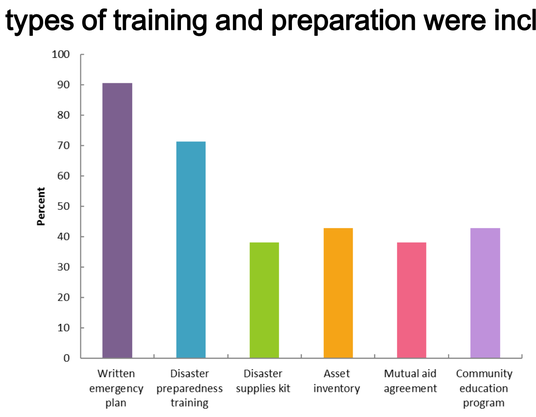
Does your local agency have a Memo of Agreement (MOA's) or Memo of Understanding (MOU's) with any of the outside agencies such as those mentioned above?



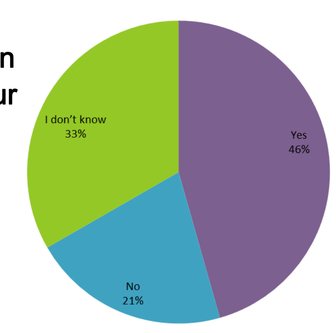
Has your department or agency received training and preparation for an emergency or disaster in the past three years?



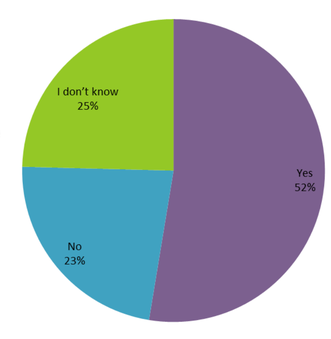
What types of training and preparation were included?



Is your parks and recreation agency represented on your Community's Emergency Management Team?



Does your agency have a specific Parks and Recreation Emergency Management Plan?



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