What is rapid environmental impact assessment (REA) in disasters?
REA is a methodology to quickly determine if a disaster or the subsequent relief operation poses threats to the environment. With an awareness of such environmental threats, humanitarian aid workers will be better able to avoid environmental damage and incorporate best practices for disaster response that anticipates opportunities to protect the environment.

Who undertakes a REA?
Primary REA users are the people directly involved in disaster response operations, with a basic knowledge of the disaster management process but no background in environmental issues. Environmental experts are not required to complete the REA. It can be used by disaster victims and non-affected communities with appropriate support.

What will you learn at the workshop?
The purpose of the workshop is for participants to learn and apply the REA Guidelines. Participants will explore the context of disasters and learn why the environment cannot be overlooked as one of the many post-disaster concerns – one that can be readily understood and accommodated. Participants will have a hands-on opportunity to practice using the REA in a simulated disaster scenario.

For More Information Go To:
http://www.american.edu/sis/peacebuilding/humanitarian/2008/REIA.htm