

# HSI HUMANITARIAN STUDIES INITIATIVE

## Humanitarian Response Simulation – 2012

**When: Friday April 27 – Sunday April 29**

**Where: Harold Parker State Forest, North Andover, MA**

This year over 100 participants and an army of volunteers will converge in the woods of Harold Parker State Forest to take part in the annual HSI Humanitarian Response Simulation Exercise. Students from the Harvard School of Public Health, Tufts, MIT alongside residents and other professionals from Brigham and Women's Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, McGill University, the United Nations, the ICRC, the US Armed Forces, and many other institutions from around the world will camp all weekend long (rain or shine) and work in small teams to complete a number of exercises designed to compliment the academic training that they received during the Humanitarian Studies Course (an introductory course in the history and practice of humanitarian intervention).

Participants encounter challenges designed to simulate complex field scenarios involving displaced and local populations in need of rapid assistance. Teams must perform a series of assessments on a fictional population (portrayed by signs and counting markers as well as scripted role players) and develop a service delivery plan designed to provide aid according to Sphere standards. Teams must find ways to work around numerous complicating factors such as security incidents, customs and supply issues, weather, and rapidly moving populations. Additionally, each team will be walked through a number of hands-on skill stations which are designed to offer useful real world skills such as GPS and data collaboration, constructing field latrines, field triage, basic emergency shelter construction, and interacting with the media. Ultimately, teams will be critiqued on their reactions to the many role players that bring this scenario to life and on their completed service delivery plans.

Learn more about the 2009 simulation exercise on Public Radio International's ['The World'](#)

