

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# *Community Stress from Contamination*

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# Community Response to Community Stressors

## ■ Social Capital

- ◆ Social structure facilitating individual actions

  - ☞ Social Cohesion

  - ☞ Network

## ■ Collective Efficacy

- ◆ Belief that social capital can be used for common good

  - ☞ Trust

  - ☞ Shared Expectations

# Community Resilience

## High levels of social capital and collective efficacy

- Adequate economic resources
- Effective participatory government
- Active voluntary associations
- Integration through family and friendship networks
- Low crime rate
- Communal trust

## Low levels of social capital and collective efficacy

- Inadequate economic resources
- Ineffective participatory government
- Lacks voluntary associations
- Social isolation
- High crime rate
- Distrust

# Chronic Technological Disasters

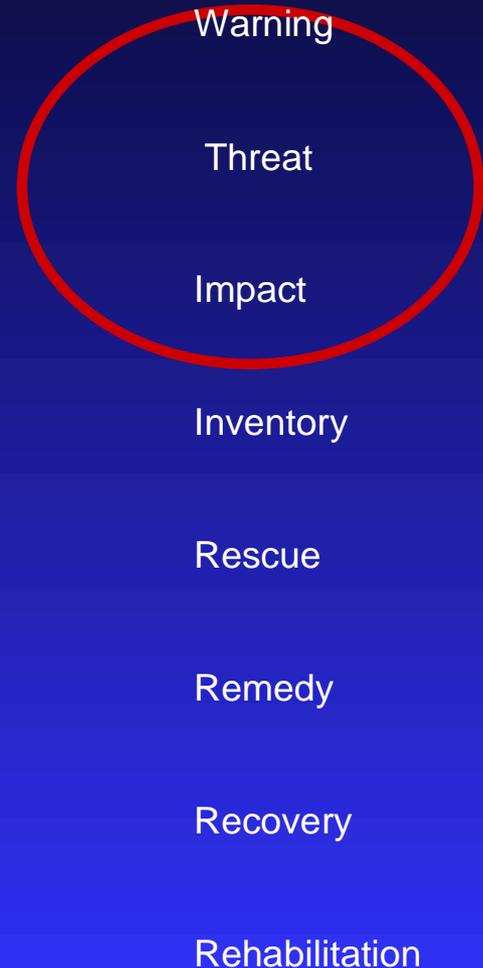
- Long-lasting
- High level of human/technological involvement

# Stage Model

## Natural Disasters



## “CTDs”



# Social Process → Community

## Stressors

- Uncertainty
- Housing and job insecurity
- Stigma
- Media siege
- Cultural pressure

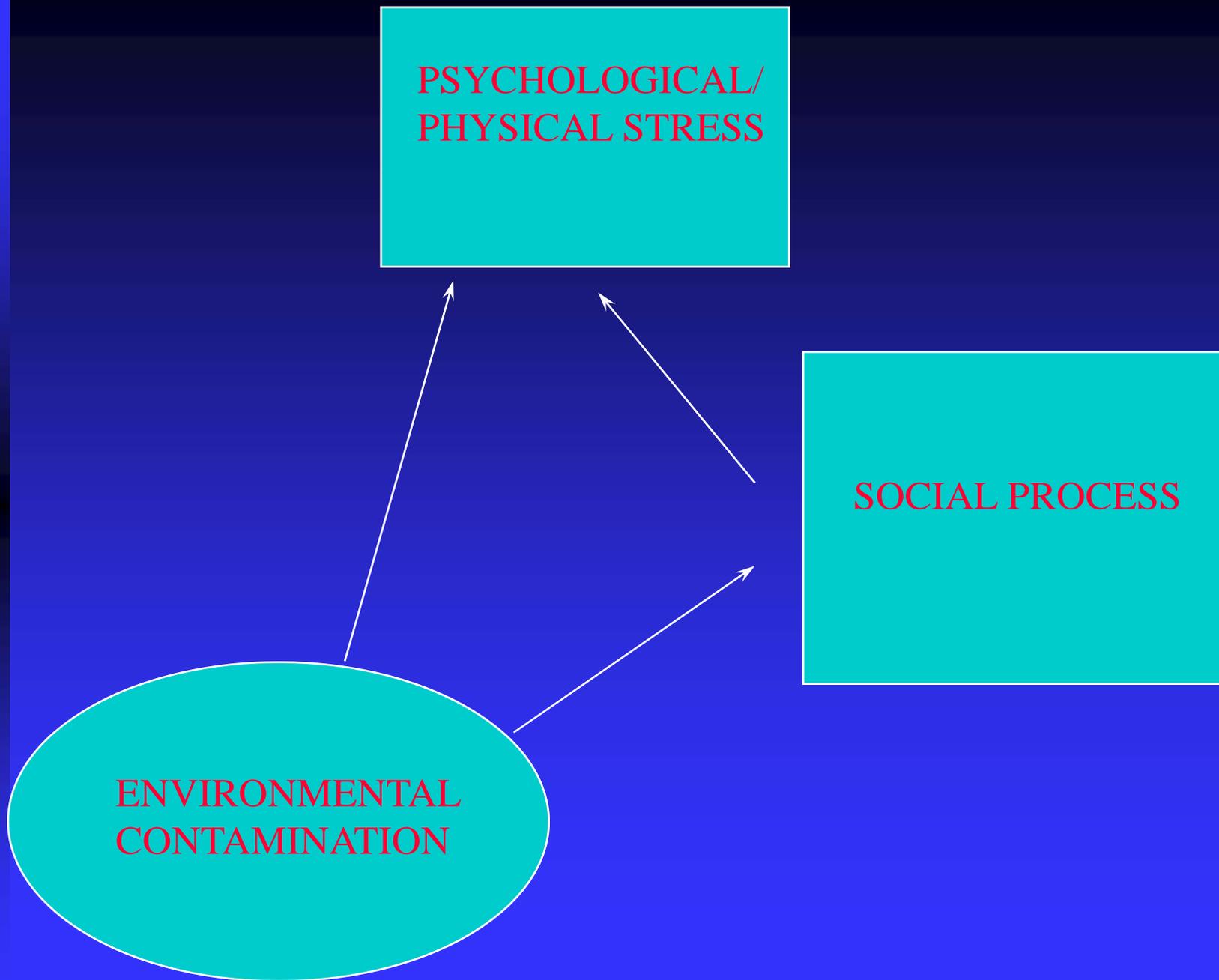
# Stressors Impact Community

## ■ Social Capital

- ◆ Local government overwhelmed
- ◆ Influx of outside agencies
- ◆ Grassroots groups
- ◆ “Institutionalized Liminality”
- ◆ Social Conflict

# Stressors Impact Community

- Collective Efficacy
  - ◆ “Culture of Distress”
    - ☞ Distrust
    - ☞ Blame
    - ☞ Alienation
    - ☞ Pervasive fear
    - ☞ Powerlessness



# Intervention as part of SOCIAL PROCESS

- Proof of the Pudding is partly in the Doing
- Involve Communities from Beginning
- Involve Communities Seriously
- Build Trust
- Social justice issues
- Social recovery?