

Hoarding 1- The Basics



Sooner or later every first responder will encounter a hoarded environment. The sights and smells can be overwhelming and you may not know how to respond. Your reactions to the environment can make all the difference in how the individual reacts to you and if they will comply with your requests. We discuss what Hoarding Disorder is, what causes it and its unique dangers for public officials. This is an introductory class with stories and examples that will help you respond in the real world and achieve a better success rate with the individual.

Learning Objectives

After completion of this training:

- Attendees will be able to describe Hoarding Disorder, what causes it and what prompts the behaviors.
- Attendees will be able to explain the thought processes of a person with Hoarding Disorder and how to use that to help them succeed in decluttering.
- Attendees will be able to describe what dangers are posed by a hoarded environment, both for the resident and for those entering the home.

Meet the Trainer

Maria Spetalnik

Maria Spetalnik is a Board Certified Professional Organizer (CPO®) with over 30 years of experience helping others to control their clutter. Her company, Conquer the Clutter, uses a holistic, harm reduction approach with clients. She works with other professionals to help her clients work past the physical, mental and emotional causes of the clutter. Her goal is to teach them to be able to do this for themselves in the future.

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VIRTUAL EVENT

Date January 13, 2026

Time: 9:00 am – 10:30 am

This course will be conducted remotely through **Zoom**. A link will be sent to the participants a week before training.



REGISTRATION

Please register through your respective county's training process.

The registration due date for this training is Mon. Dec. 15, 2025



AUDIENCE

This training is intended for new and experienced Adult Protective Services line staff who interview clients and collaterals, provide risk assessments and develop service plans.

Maria has taught classes internationally about Chronic Disorganization and Hoarding to the FBI, Police Officers, Sheriffs, Adult Protective Services, Code Compliance Officers, Fire Marshals, Animal Control Officers, EMTs, Social Services Departments, Therapists, and others. She builds teams of other professionals, such as therapists, to get her clients all the help they need. Her books are all written to give their audiences the information they need to be able to understand and help those that are hoarding to be successful in changing their relationship with their things.

Virtual Training Protocol

- Download or update the most recent version of Zoom
 - Please log in 5 to 10 minutes prior to the workshop to allow for troubleshooting, if needed
 - It is highly recommended to use a headset for this workshop
 - Use "Computer Audio" for optimal experience
 - If you have access to a functioning camera, we ask that you turn it on for the full duration of the workshop as it offers a more conducive learning experience
 - If you are planning to log on to the training using two separate devices (one for audio, one for video), please be sure to mute one of the devices to prevent any audio feedback
 - Please be sure your screen name is your first and last name in Zoom. Learners who are not able to identify themselves within the first 15 minutes of training, and remain unresponsive after the moderator has attempted to make contact via chat or verbally multiple times will need to be removed from the training session
 - Please refer to the "[Virtual Learning Tips](#)" handout for additional information on how to update your Zoom screen name, etc.
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ADA

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