Introduction and Overview
Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER) - Awareness Level

Introduction and Overview

Environmental Health: Response to Alabama Tornadoes-Six Months Later

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Environmental Health: Response to Alabama Tornadoes-Six Months Later

What is Environmental Health?

The protection of individuals against environmental factors that may adversely impact human health or the ecological balances essential to long-term human health and environmental quality, whether in the natural or man-made environment.

Source: National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)

Introduction and Overview
## Environmental Health Program Areas

- Vectors
- Wells
- Tattoo/Body Piercing
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Housing
- Lodging
- Day Care Centers
- Solid Waste
- Pools/Spas
- Food/Drink
- Wastewater
- Embargo
- Potable Water
- Milk/Dairy
- Shellfish
- Radiation
- Radon
- Septage
- Air Quality
- Asbestos Remediation
- Hazardous Waste
- Rest Homes
- Confinement Facilities
- Shelters
- EH Laboratories
- Cruise Ship/Port Sanitation
- Lead Abatement
- Summer Camps
- Migrant Housing
- Nursing Homes
- EH Administration
- Epidemiology
- Clandestine Meth Labs
- Animal/Pest Control
- Public Bathing Facilities
- Mass Gatherings
- Meat Markets
- Erosion Control
- Surface Waters
- Environmental Crime
- Pollution
- Risk Assessment
- Noise Control
- Accident Prevention
- Public Utilities
- Landfill Management
- Agricultural Operations
- Occupational Health
- EH Promotion/Education
- Climate Change
- Built Environment
- ... and more being added all the time!

Adapted from Salvato, Joseph A. Environmental Engineering and Sanitation, Third Ed., 1982

## Environmental Health Preparedness Training

- Lack of defined roles in emergency response
- Multiple skills needed
- Understanding the broader scope of EH response
- No national training program

Introduction and Overview
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Lack of Environmental Health Preparedness Training

- 2004 Michigan EH Training Needs Assessment
- 2005 Centers for PH Preparedness Report
- 2005 Kansas Local Health Dept. Workforce Needs Assessment
- 2006 Ohio PH Preparedness Training Needs Survey
- 2007 North Carolina PH Workforce Assessment
- NEHA Training Needs Assessments
- Numerous peer-reviewed journal articles
- USPHS Commission Corps Environmental Health Officers

EHTER Development

- Focus on key areas of EH
  - Common tasks
  - Various skill sets
  - 360° scope
  - All-hazards
Introduction and Overview

Purpose and Objectives

• Increase knowledge of
  – Roles & responsibilities of EH professionals
  – Adverse impacts caused by disasters
  – Protective actions
  – Roles, responsibilities & capacities of response partners
  – Key initiatives taking place in other jurisdictions
Purpose and Objectives

- Acquire resources to improve knowledge, skills & abilities
- Refresh/improve ability to use equipment
- Experience/share best practices & lessons learned

Target Audience

- EH Specialists/Sanitarians and Environmental Scientists
  - Federal, state, local, tribal
- Other PH decision-makers and practitioners
- Applicable to multiple agencies, departments, and organizations
Recommended Pre-course Education & Training

- ICS 100.a – Introduction to the Incident Command System
- ICS 200.a – Incident Command System for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- IS 700.a – National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction
- IS 800.b – National Response Framework (NRF), An Introduction
- IS 808 – Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 – Public Health and Medical Services

EHTER Content

- 10 modules:
  - Disaster Management
  - Responder Safety & Health
  - Potable Water
  - Food Safety
  - Wastewater
  - Shelters
  - Vector & Pests
  - Solid Waste & Debris
  - Building Assessment
  - Radiation
- Group activities and exercises
- Demonstration components
- Re-entry and re-occupancy exercise
- Evaluation component
  - CDC March 2010 course – average increase 27%

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EHTER Encompasses All Phases of a Disaster

Benefits

- Enhances understanding of how EH fits within emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation
- For both EH and non-EH professionals
- Introduces a broad spectrum of EH issues
- Creates an understanding of EH systems and how they interconnect
- Provides foundation for basic knowledge/skills
- Combined audience – various jurisdictions and partners
- Facilitates partnerships

Introduction and Overview
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EHTER is NOT...

- An intermediate or advanced level training
- Designed to produce subject-matter-experts
- A substitute for planning, training, educational, or exercise activities and requirements
- A replacement for existing emergency operations plans, procedures, guidelines, resources, assets, and incident management systems

Responders Trained

- Thousands trained from all 50 states, U.S. territories, DC, Canada, Caribbean, and other countries
The Challenges

- Finding common issues that apply to all geographic locations
- Lack of cross training in EH specialties
- Fragmented EH services
- Time
- Funding

CDC & FEMA Partnership

- Memorandum of Agreement between CDC/NCEH and DHS/FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness in March 2009
Looking to the Future

- Revision into DHS-approved format
- International EHTER courses
  - CEF-5 (June 2010)
  - Others pending
- EHTER Train-the-Trainer course
- Online modules on NEHA Web site
- Additional EHTER courses/modules
  - Awareness (Chemical, Biological)
  - Operational (Various Assessments)
  - Planning/Management
- Develop a comprehensive training program

Some things to think about as we get started…

- Information, guidance & resources in manual
  - Adapting to your jurisdiction for EH responders
- EH emergency response teams
  - Tools, resources, guidance, etc.
  - Equipment
  - Integration into existing emergency response structure

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Questions?

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