PAHO Workshop:
Worker Health Issues

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Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) was created in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), Section 126(g).

SARA authorizes a competitive grants program for training in hazardous waste removal, containment, and emergency response to events involving toxic substances.
Five Primary Program Areas

Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program (HWWTP) – Provides model occupational safety and health training for workers who are or may be engaged in activities related to hazardous waste removal or containment or chemical emergency response. 17 of the primary awardee consortia are funded for this program.

Hazmat Disaster Preparedness Training Program (HDPTP) - This new program is to enhance the safety and health training of current hazardous materials workers and chemical responders, to train skilled response personnel, to create materials and deliver training to weapons of mass destruction response workers and to augment prevention and preparedness efforts in a wide variety of high risk settings.

Minority Worker Training Program (MWTP) – Focuses on delivering comprehensive training to disadvantaged urban youth in order to prepare them for employment in the construction and environmental cleanup fields. One of the primary consortia (Dillard University) is funded entirely under this program.

Department of Energy/NIEHS Nuclear Worker Training Program (DOE/NIEHS NWTP) - This program is focused on training workers engaged in environmental restoration, waste treatment and emergency response activities at sites in the Department of Energy’s nuclear weapons complex. *A separate report on this program is issued annually.*

Advanced Training Technology Program (ATT) - This program focuses on the development of Advanced Technology Training (ATT) products for health and safety training of hazardous materials workers, emergency responders, and skilled support personnel. This includes the Small Business Innovative Research program.
Strategic Planning Theme #6
Global Environmental Health and Health Disparities

- Environmental justice research in partnership with communities
- Social determinants of health and health disparities
- Studying vulnerable populations
- Environmental impact on non-communicable disease in development countries
- Impact of climate change on human health
Importance of Partnerships to NIEHS and its Mission

NIEHS has a longstanding commitment to and robust history of supporting research programs that promote partnerships.

- Breast Cancer and Environment Research Centers
- Centers for Children’s Environmental Health
- Centers for Population Health and Health Disparities
- Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR)
- Environmental Health Sciences Core Centers: Community Outreach and Education Program
- Ethical, Legal and Social Implications
- Health Disparities Program
- Obesity and the Built Environment
- K-12 Science Education Program
- Superfund Basic Research Program
- Environmental Justice: Partnerships for Communication
- Worker Education and Training Program
### EJ: Partnerships for Communication

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<th>Exposures</th>
<th>Health Outcomes</th>
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<td>Respiratory disease</td>
<td>Native American Alaska Natives</td>
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<td>Access to healthy food</td>
<td>Neurodevelopment</td>
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<td>Land Use</td>
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<td>Heavy Metals</td>
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<td>Cleaning Solutions</td>
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Contributions of Environmental Justice Projects

- Increased awareness of environmental and occupational health
- Education & Training
- Advancement of the field of Environmental Public Health
- Enhanced environmental health research
- Builds capacity for all partners
- Informs policy change for improved public health
- Involves youth in the continuum of research
- Provides training and job creation
- Fosters open and trusting partnerships
NIEHS Disaster Response to the World Trade Center

Immediate and sustained supplemental funding to support World Trade Center training response efforts:

- On-site training for 7,000 response workers
- Provision and fit-testing of respirators
- Worker exposure monitoring
- Responder training course
- Consultation on the site safety plan
Phases of Response: Impact on Safety

- Rescue
  - Chaotic
  - Risk-taking
  - Short
  - Frenetic
- Recovery
  - Planning
  - No risking lives
  - Longer than rescue
  - Paced
- Clean-up
  - Normal cleanup
  - Risks assessed and understood

Extending rescue extends risk for response workers.
Katrina Field Training of Responders in Mississippi
Learning from Disasters:
Katrina Response Safety and Health Training
Risk Amid Recovery: 
Occupational Health and Safety of Latino Day Laborers in the Aftermath of the Gulf Coast Hurricanes 
By Linda Delp, Laura Podolsky, and Tomás Aguilar

• After Katrina, the Bush administration suspended Department of Labor workplace regulations throughout the Gulf, a move consistent with their general emphasis on voluntary workplace protection programs rather than government oversight.

• This approach left many workers in hurricane reconstruction jobs unprotected, especially Latino immigrant day laborers who, facing language barriers and legal constraints, were least able to negotiate workplace safety or other labor conditions.
Disaster Response Training: From WTC to Katrina-Five Years of Lessons Learned

September 13-15, 2006 New York, NY

The 2006 Fall Technical Workshop focused on lessons learned from events of national significance, hence the theme, “Disaster Response Training: From WTC to Katrina-Five Years of Lessons Learned.” The unique character of this conference was that it provided attendees with a combined focus on the experiences from both the World Trade Center terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina.
Final Version of the NIEHS Minimum Health and Safety Training Criteria:

Guidance for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, HAZWOPER- Supporting, and All-Hazards Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Response

Released January 2006

Major changes Include:
• Advanced training technologies application and integration;
• Requirements for additional training programs to support HAZWOPER work; and
• Post-9/11 all-hazards preparedness training.
Protecting Avian Influenza Responders
September 17-19, 2007 Bethesda, MD

This 2 ½ day meeting had more than 250 participants from a variety of federal, state and local governments as well as private industry, unions and academia.
NIEHS WETP 2008 Fall Workshop: Implications for Safety and Health Training in a Green Economy

October 15 - 17, 2008 Chapel Hill, NC

NIEHS WETP 2008 Fall Conference: “Implications for Safety and Health Training in a Green Economy” from October 15-17, 2008 in Chapel Hill, NC brought together over 100 NIEHS and WETP awardee representatives and interested parties to explore issues in the green economy, including: green jobs and industries, green remediation, green chemistry and the safety and health training each area needs.
Environmental Justice (EJ), Air Quality, Goods Movement and Green Jobs, Evolution and Innovation

January 25-27, 2010 New Orleans, LA

Environmental Justice and Hazardous Waste Worker Training Programs

15 Years of Investment in Environmental Justice

2010

Prepared by: MDB, Inc.
Prepared for: NIEHS
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
“Latino workers face the most dangerous working conditions and the fewest protections.”

-OSHA Assistant Secretary David Michaels

“Los trabajadores Latinos trabajan en las condiciones mas peligrosas y con muy pocas protecciones.”

2010 National Action Summit for Latino Worker Health and Safety

April 14-15, 2010 Houston, TX

Nearly a thousand workers, employers, labor leaders, representatives from community and faith-based organizations, consulates and government gathered for two days to seek new and effective ways to improve workers’ knowledge of their workplace rights and their ability to exercise those rights.
In remembrance of the eleven Deepwater Horizon drilling rig workers who died at MC252. May they not be forgotten.
- NIEHS developed oil spill response training tool on April 29, 2010 as the spill expands in the Gulf of Mexico.

- NIEHS Staff begin work with OSHA and NIOSH as part of the Unified Command assessing worker safety issues on May 1st.

- NIEHS deployed staff, subject manner experts and awardees for instructor training and worker protection outreach.

BP, USCG, OSHA, NIEHS, and NIOSH meet to assess worker protection issues in the BP Incident Command Center in Houma, LA on Tuesday, May 3, 2010.
• NIEHS, together with OSHA, BP and the Coast Guard, has developed short training courses.
  – Training includes: safe work practices, personal protective equipment, decontamination, heat stress, and other common hazards for cleanup work.
  – As of July 29, per BP, approximately 100,000 people had completed these courses.

• Hazardous Waste Operations & Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training:
  – 40-hour training for those who will likely have direct contact with oil spill products.
  – More than 1,000 have completed the HAZWOPER training from NIEHS grantees.
NIEHS Oil Spill Responder Training Tool: Key Health and Safety Messages

- Proper training is a key component of a safe response and cleanup.
- The oil and hazardous materials associated with the cleanup can be hazardous to human health.
- The hazards and issues covered in this training tool are dynamic and require vigilance and flexibility.
- The key to a safe response is attention to the safety issues of your work environment.
Over 35,000 guides distributed

Front-line responders, instructors, safety officials

English, Spanish, & Vietnamese
The Lessons Learned meeting in Mobile, Alabama examined the training-related Deepwater Horizon Oil response activities (as seen through the eyes of the WETP awardees, federal partners, community-based organizations, workers and other stakeholders).

Developed consensus about the proper elements of pre-incident and deployment-phase training for support personnel performing cleanup work.

And assured policies to best ensure that workers receive that training (in a language and a literacy level they understand) before being deployed to work.
WTP Highlights Continued: Special Effort to Meet the Needs of Spanish-Speaking Workers Engaged in Hazardous Waste Cleanup and Emergency Response.

• WTP training reaches thousands of Spanish-speaking workers each year

• WTP programmatic approach goes beyond simple translation and includes bi-lingual instructor development, on-going evaluations, and incorporation of cultural factors that impact adult learning for Latino workers.

• WTP will collaborate with OSHA and NIOSH next month in sponsoring a national summit on Latino worker safety and health issues.

Above: Latino Laborers waiting for work in New Orleans during Katrina response; Below: At the job site, Latino worker engaged in unsafe work during Katrina response.
Sponsored by NIOSH, NIEHS, OSHA and EPA to bring together representatives from multiple disciplines and perspectives to understand the social, cultural, and economic factors that create and perpetuate occupational health and safety disparities by:

- Examining the major research accomplishments and gaps related to the identification of social, cultural, and economic factors that create occupational health disparities, and
- Identifying and sharing promising practices for eliminating disparities through innovative intervention programs.
Research and Intervention Agenda

- Applied intervention research to better understand perceptions, knowledge, and attitudes among workers and employers regarding work organization, job insecurity, and occupational health disparities.

- Translational research to develop and disseminate evidence-based methods for psychosocial risk assessment and tailored intervention to support best practice interventions;

- Intervention development research to identify the root causes of disparities in psychosocial working conditions;

- Intervention effectiveness studies to include measurement of disparities in the impacts of intervention;

- Intervention implementation and effectiveness studies on the particular circumstances of disadvantaged work groups and contexts (e.g., workers of color, immigrant workers, the precariously employed);
Pwoteje tèt ou pandan w ap pote sekou nan tranblemanntè

Mezi sekirite ak sante pou moun k ap pote sekou nan tranblemanntè

Tranblemanntè nan San Francisco an 1906
The NIEHS Earthquake Response Training Tool: Protecting Yourself While Responding to Earthquakes is an awareness-level health and safety resource for "skilled support personnel" (SSP) who will participate in an earthquake response and cleanup.

This tool will help workers in Haiti understand at an awareness level: what an earthquake is, characteristics of an earthquake response, and how to identify and control hazards pertaining to the response and cleanup activities associated with an earthquake.

Trainers may use this tool to aid in the development of an earthquake awareness level course or other awareness level materials (fact-sheets, table-top activities, etc.).
2011年東日本大震災および津波の対応活動における危険の管理

危険な作業：バージニア州フェアファックス郡消防救助局から来たバージニア タスクフォース 1 の隊員が岩手県大船渡市で生存者を捜索。米国海軍広報官 1 等兵曹 Matthew M. Bradley の撮影による公開写真。
This training tool is an awareness-level health and safety resource for U.S. responders (including USAR, medical personnel, rad-techs and military personnel) who may participate in 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami response.

This tool will help workers understand at an awareness level: what earthquakes/tsunamis are, characteristics of an earthquake response, and how to identify and control hazards pertaining to the response and cleanup activities associated with an earthquake.

This tool also focuses on radiological hazards created by the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.
Weekly E-Newsbrief

October 15, 2011

The E-Newsbrief of the National Clearinghouse is a free weekly newsletter focusing on new developments in the world of worker health and safety. Each issue provides summaries of the latest worker health and safety news from newspapers, magazines, journals, government reports, and the Web, along with links to the original documents. Also featured each week are updates from government agencies that handle hazmat and worker safety issues such as DOE, EPA, OSHA and others. Subscribing to the National Clearinghouse Newsbrief is the best way to stay on top of the worker health and safety news.