



# NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program

April 21-23, 2004  
Washington, DC

**Training Partnerships for Prevention, Protection and Preparedness:  
A Conference to Build Stronger Partnerships On Disaster Response Training**

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## MEETING NOTES FROM BREAKOUT 7: CHEMICAL FACILITIES

### Friday, April 23

#### Breakout 7: Chemical Facilities

The purpose of this group was to help identify key Chemical Facilities emergency response resources throughout the WETP community and to give information that will help establish a protocol for making these resources available quickly and efficiently to local, state, and key federal partners.

#### *I. Should there be a single contact point within a grantee organization that the WETP should contact to activate the response plan?*

- ✦ There definitely needs to be one or more alternatives in case the prime is out of the country.
- ✦ There must be a mechanism for reaching the individuals.
- ✦ There is an emergency response team in the PACE union that responds to fatalities and emergencies.

#### *II. What types of training have been provided within your organization that could be useful in response to a WMD incident in the chemical facilities sector?*

- ✦ We should be teaching more on emergency planning. Tom
- ✦ There should be a list of trained individuals within a plant who can help with an emergency.
- ✦ There are members who work in pharmaceutical plants.
- ✦ There is a need for NIEHS grantees to do training of local incident commanders, particularly about radiation. Don't plan on high exposure levels.

#### *VIII. What issues or constraints arise?*

- ✦ There is legal liability.
- ✦ What is the residual risk? We need to assess it.
- ✦ Would it be voluntary? Scott: if it was a staff assignment, there wouldn't be a problem, but if we are reaching out to worker-trainers to do instruction, away from their normal worksite, we would need to look to NIEHS to protect them.
- ✦ For USAR teams, they have specific language about liability. We need to check the FEMA website for this language.

#### *IX. Coordination among grantees*

- ✦ Need to develop an algorithm for decision-making.
- ✦ Need to look at existing UCS, NIMS models to see how to coordinate our efforts.

#### *X. Other training programs?*

- ✦ We need to run through pilot programs to see how this training would work.
- ✦ We need to address chemicals being brought on site as terrorist attacks.
- ✦ Need to focus more on catastrophic events on sites.
- ✦ Two issues: do we need to offer other training? How do we get bodies to the sites?
- ✦ Another issue: how do we evaluate the emergency plans?
- ✦ Training at chemical plants needs to address the "worst case scenarios" for the facility.
- ✦ Need to focus on looking at probability. Hal Berkowitz from Louisiana pointed out that he worried at night about a plane hitting the largest chlorine tank, but then focused on the smaller tanks where they worked more often.

*XI. Additional matters that the WETP should consider in preparing the draft ESAP*

- We should be focused on prevention. Need to emphasize inherently safer processes.

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