NIEHS
National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences

Moving Environmental Health Sciences Forward - Community Collaboration and Partnerships

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
National Institutes of Health

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Spring 2009 WETP Conference:
Local, State and Federal Partnerships for Chemical Preparedness and Response

Awardee Meeting
April 29, 2009

Workshop
April 30-May 1, 2009

NIEHS WETP Chemical Preparedness & Response Meeting, Cincinnati, OH

Partnerships for Chemical Response

Photo courtesy of FEMA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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We are the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

- One of the National Institutes of Health, but located in Research Triangle Park, NC
- Annual budget is approximately $762M from all sources – Appropriation, Superfund, and Economic Stimulus
- ARRA - ~$188M
- Wide variety of programs supporting our mission of environmental health:
  - Intramural laboratories
  - National Toxicology Program
  - Extramural funding programs

New Opportunities for NIEHS

- Health and Environment is a priority for the new Administration.
- Environment is a global concern.
- We need the best individual and team science to address complex diseases and complex environmental impacts.
- We need to improve integration across research disciplines.
- We need to improve our translation of basic science into human health protection.

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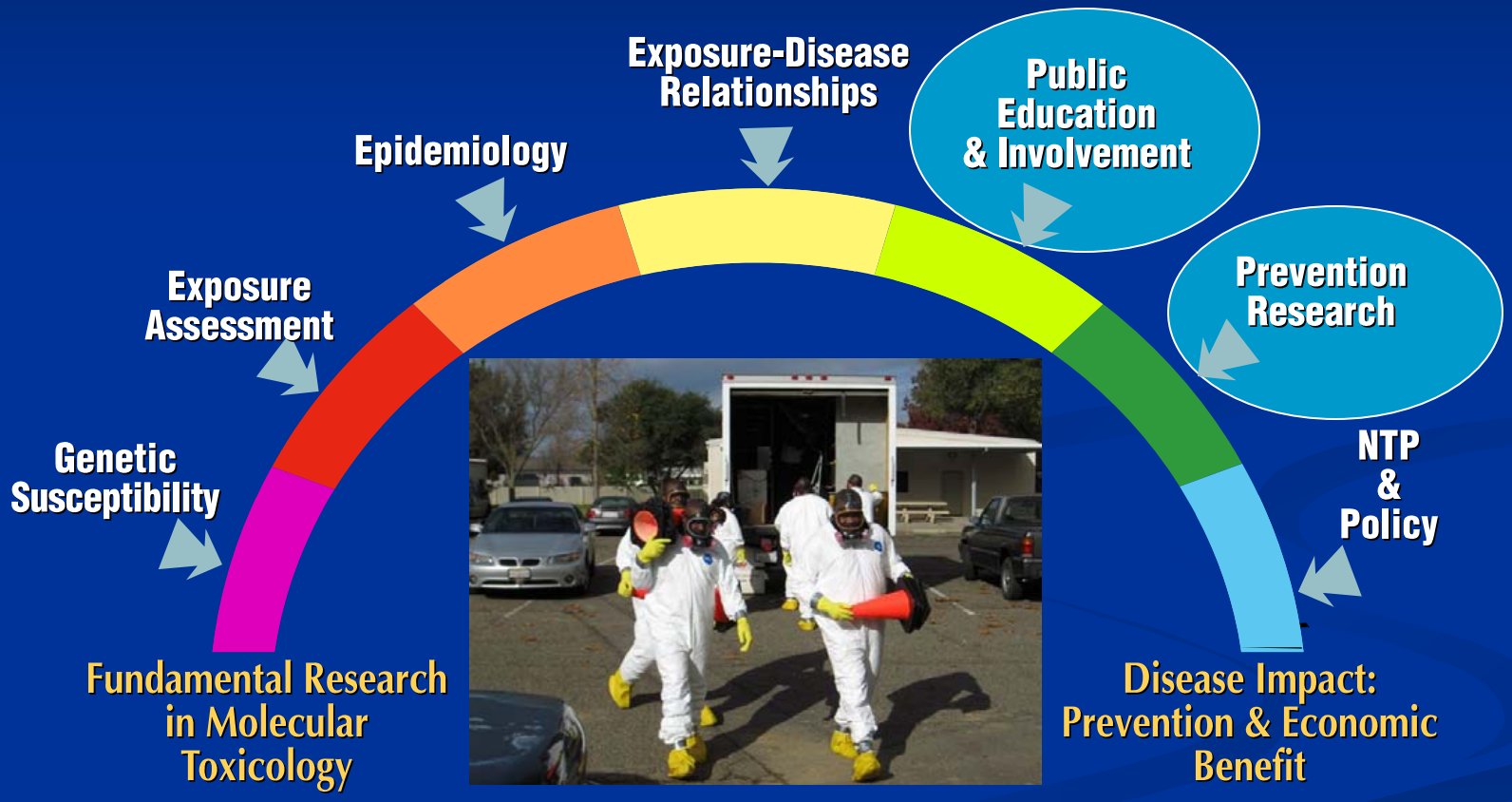

WORKER EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM

NIEHS Superfund Worker Training Program

- Created in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), Section 126(g).
- Assistance program for training and education of workers engaged in activities related to hazardous waste generation, removal, containment or emergency response and hazardous materials transportation and emergency response.
- Has trained over 2 million workers in high risk occupations such as toxic waste cleanup and chemical emergency response.
- Multiple components of training – Hazardous waste, hazmat disaster, minority worker and e-learning
- Training has occurred in all US states and across US Provinces and Territories from Guam to Puerto Rico.

Training and Educating the Response and Cleanup Workforce -the NIEHS Model

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- NIEHS Technical Workshops
- Development and use of the Minimum Criteria for Health and Safety Training
- Gold Standard of Training
- Peer Worker Trainers
- Real Life Training Scenarios
- New Areas of Training – Hazmat Disaster, Avian Flu, Green Jobs, etc.

- Consortium Approach to Training
- Formalized training curriculum and tools (Hurricane, Earthquake, Avian Flu)
- National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety & Health Training
- Interagency Working Groups and Local Partnership
- Over 20 Years of Experience

WORKER EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

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NIEHS Hazmat Preparedness Initiatives:

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"Potentially the most dangerous workplace in America."

John Henshaw, OSHA

NIEHS and its awardees developed the official training course at Ground Zero for 4,000 workers

NIEHS World Trade Center Response

Immediate **supplemental funding to support:**

- **site training**
- **provision of respirators**
- **worker exposure monitoring**
- **consultation on the development of a site safety plan**

NIEHS Katrina Training Team in Baton Rouge, LA Feb. 2006

To be prepared against surprise is to be trained;

To be prepared for surprise is to be educated.

Not Forgetting Katrina – Reaching the under served populations

- Boot- strap program – Safe Way Home
- Partnership with Dillard HBCU Consortium, United Steelworkers and others.
- Dillard's HBCU Consortium and the other Brownfields and MWTP awardees
- Recruited, trained and helped to employment thousands of minority workers
- Through both programs, 7,400 students were trained and approximately 68% of those students are employed

NIEHS WETP Training: From the Arctic to the Caribbean to the far Pacific

Improving Chemical Response and Preparedness

- Partnerships are key to successful chemical response interventions
- Emergency management and public health need to work together for successful responses
- Science and research-based knowledge are key to successful interventions in field responses
- New partnerships and alliances need to be formed that cut across the public and private sectors at national, state, and local levels.
- We need to develop interagency public/private partnership activities to promote emergency response training.

We Can't Do It Without YOU!