Post 9/11 and Katrina Changes in Disaster Response

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Timeline of NIEHS WTC-Related Activities

September 2001

**Provided immediate awards to grantees**
- conduct personal exposure assessments
- collect and analyze dust and air samples
- conduct respiratory health study
- initiate epidemiology studies
- provide exposure information and fact sheets to communities
- develop a physician’s advisory regarding WTC-related clinical conditions

April 2002 & April 2003

**Congress provided NIEHS with special appropriation:**
- exposure assessment
- clinical and epidemiology studies
- community outreach
Examples of Early NIEHS WTC Activities

• Sept 2001  Collaboration between NYU, UMDNJ, EPA-NERL - Dust samples collected at over a dozen locations surrounding WTC disaster area and bulk samples of settled dust/smoke analyzed

• Sept 2001  Collaboration between Mount Sinai and NYCDH. Provided industrial hygiene and clinical expertise and developed fact sheets regarding health concerns


• Oct 2001  Collaboration between Columbia, local unions, council members and community boards. Conducted community forum for residents of Harlem, East Harlem and Washington Heights

• Nov 2001  Collaboration on NYU and EPA-NERL. Collect and analyze indoor dust samples south of Ground Zero
NIEHS Update

- WETP Program Background
- 9/11 Training Response
- NRP WSH Annex
- Katrina Training Response Activities
Safely Cleaning Up Contaminated Communities

WORKER EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM
NIEHS 9/11 Worker Response

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

- On-site training
- Provision and fit-testing of respirators
- Worker exposure monitoring
- Responder training course
- Consultation on the site safety plan

WORKER EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM
“Potentially the most dangerous workplace in America.”

John Henshaw, OSHA

NIEHS and its awardees developed an official training course at Ground Zero for 4,000 workers.
LEARNING FROM DISASTERS:
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
PREPAREDNESS THROUGH WORKER TRAINING

- Report of an Expert Workshop
- Sponsored by:
  - Worker Education and Training Program,
  - National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- Held:
  - April 25-26, 2002 • Nashville, TN
Training must be continuous

- The scientific/medical/technical aspects of disaster response are rapidly evolving.
- Training needs to be developed in such a manner that it is kept “evergreen.”
- Develop training curricula that establish a mechanism for peer review of the materials. (Currently have no standards on many key points.)
NIEHS WSH Training Annex

• Provides training assistance through FEMA-OSHA during national disasters
  – Instructional staff
  – Curriculum development experts
  – Subject matter experts
  – Training facility

• Provides technical assistance
  – Respirator fit testing
  – Distribution of PPE
Extending rescue extends risk for response workers.

Phases of Response: Impact on Safety

- **Rescue**
  - Chaotic
  - Risk-taking
  - Short
  - Frenetic

- **Recovery**
  - Planning
  - No risking lives
  - Longer than rescue
  - Paced

- **Clean-up**
  - Normal construction
  - Risks understood

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Other Protective Measures

- Follow the Incident Command System
Katrina Field Training

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Context for Disaster Response

- Plan for a chain of events scenario.
- Can not predict with high degree of confidence: When, where, how, and duration. So...

Must plan for flexibility.

- Need immediate access to protocol for response and mechanism of coordination.
Disaster Planning Flexibility

- Plan for check-points/assessment, along the way after disaster.
- Plan alternate approaches (more than one way to get the job done).
- Plan national networking along with use of local response.
- Need both generalists and access to specialists.
- Plan for Stress and Chaos!
Katrina Training Lessons Learned

• Early activation of Worker Safety & Health Annex to provide S&H resources ASAP
• Explore ways to cover state and locals and provide Worker S&H Annex services to them
• Community health issues quickly merge with worker occupational training issues
• Preparedness training prior to deployment
  – Situational awareness
• Consensus for training topics (with qualifications for disaster workers)