



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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