

**Looking Back and Moving Forward: 20 years of Worker Education and Training  
NIEHS National Trainers' Exchange – March 2007**

**POST-CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS  
WORKSHOP SESSION SUMMARY**

**1. Session Title and Presenter's Contact Information:**

*DRT Opportunities and Challenges*

Chris Trahan, CIH, OSHA and Disaster Response Training Director  
CPWR

8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 1000

Silver Spring, MD 20910

301 578 8500

[ctrahan@cpwr.com](mailto:ctrahan@cpwr.com)

Spencer Schwegler, CPWR Disaster Response Training Field Coordinator  
(206) 816-2671

sschwegler@verizon.net

**2. Workshop Summary**

The objectives of this workshop were to describe approaches and opportunities for conducting preparedness Disaster Response Construction Worker Training, identify the challenges and barriers to accomplishing this training, and facilitate a discussion to explore potential solutions to barriers. CPWR designed the workshop as an interactive forum to discuss and identify a series of approaches to accomplish Disaster Response Training in a pre-disaster mode by soliciting discussion from participating peer trainers in the workshop.

**3. Methods**

CPWR presented information to the group on the background, accomplishments, and approaches to conducting disaster response training for construction workers in advance of a disaster. The genesis and development of the program was described, including the stakeholder involvement in the process. The delivery method and numbers of trainers reached was explained.

The discussion focused on methods used to stimulate construction worker training prior to a disaster occurring. CPWR shared successes in training workers and described some barriers to conducting pre-disaster training programs for construction workers.

**4. Main Points**

**Key lessons**

CPWR designed the session to be a forum for exchange of information between peer trainers versus a demonstration of a lesson or lesson plan. The key points raised by CPWR presenters included:

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- Origin of training program,
- Development of training program,
- Key public and private partners,
- Training approach,
- Barriers to pre-disaster training, and
- Suggested solutions.

Key points raised by workshop participants included:

- One participant commented that a certification should be required for workers that want to work at Disaster Response sites, this way the training would be an asset for employment.
- One construction industry representative described successes in key areas to getting pre-disaster training accomplished by working with state Urban Search and Rescue teams.
- Other suggestions included:
  - To work with local union presidents,
  - Facilitate getting workers release time for training,
  - Working with volunteer organizations, religious organizations activated for action, VOADs,
  - Get OSHA and FEMA to require training prior to dispatch, and
  - Getting the OSHA 10 general industry as a substitute for construction 10-hour accepted.

### **5. References**

CPWR Disaster Response Training Safety and Health Training for Construction Workers program.

### **6. Workshop Handouts/ Resources**

PowerPoint presentation: 2007 NIEHS TXC.ppt