

# Climate Activities

Midwest Consortium

# Approach

- Exercises build capacity
  - Gather information
  - Identify and plan actions
  - Useful in many programs
- What's happening in My Zip Code?
- Using Toxics Release Inventory
- Green-building resources
- Fracking-find info and id gaps

# Two Tools in Use

- Community preparedness
  - Demonstration project to characterize needs
  - Detroit communities
- Build a Climate Kit
  - Demonstration project in rural area
  - Useful across all sectors
  - First version is for work outdoors

# Preparedness

- Assessing Preparedness:
  - natural and intended emergencies in the community
- Queries
  - yes, no, don't know
  - one point for each 'yes'
  - scale for total

# examples

- Do community members
  - know who to contact if oil slick is seen?
  - have a home emergency evacuation plan?
- Do you know what to do
  - in case of a poor air quality day?

# Exercise

## Overview

With an ever-changing workplace environment, incidents of severe weather are happening more frequently. Additionally, new hazards are present in the workplace that we all need to be attentive to in order to maintain a safe workplace.

## Objectives

1. Recognize new workplace hazards due to an ever changing climate
2. Identify protective measures you can use to reduce exposure to climate hazards

# Background

The earth, and therefore our workplace, is undergoing changes. The average ambient temperature continues to be on the rise. The most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that heat waves, heavy precipitation events, and other weather extremes have become more frequent and intense in recent decades. Additionally, the IPCC has identified some evidence of actual human health effects directly affected by climate (e.g., heat stress, death, or injury in floods and storms) and indirectly through changes in the ranges of disease-carrying organisms (mosquitos, ticks). How is your health and safety being influenced by our climate?

- Ambient Temperatures
- Air Pollution
- UV Radiation
- Extreme Weather
- Vector-borne disease, Expanded Habitat

## Increased Vector-Borne Diseases and Expanded Habitat

Changing temperatures can affect vector (mosquito, flea, tick), pathogen, and host habitats. Shifting temperature and rainfall patterns increase the potential of infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. Outdoor workers are at great risk of biological hazards (e.g. venomous wildlife, insects, and poisonous plants) and vector-borne diseases (e.g. malaria and Lyme disease) transmitted by the bite of an infected insect.

Increased ambient temperature may favor the growth of various pathogens including plants such as poison ivy/oak. Additionally, elevated temperatures have affected the reproduction rates of ticks and mosquitoes. Outdoor workers may be exposed to these plants and insects at a greater prevalence due to an enlarging habitat. Mosquito borne illnesses such as: West Nile Virus, St. Louis encephalitis, Eastern Equine encephalitis, Western Equine Encephalitis, and Dengue, Malaria, and La Crosse encephalitis are all very capable of killing unsuspecting humans.

Workers can protect themselves by,

## Exercise

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### Facilitator Information

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Time Requirement: 0.5 hours

Number of Instructors: 1

Small group activity

#### Resources

- Participant manual
- White board, black board, and/or easel pad
  - Resources listed in Preparation Section
- Locally developed useful handout (to be prepared by the facilitator prior to the session) showing regional hazards/ trends and/or additional protective measures/ hot topics.

# Two Worksheets

- Use individually or Small Group
  - How are you affected by each climate stress?
  - What can you do to decrease impact?

- Report back
- 30 minutes minimum
- No formal follow back on implementation
- Assemble report backs for distributon

# Your Turn

- Create a Climate Kit
  - You
  - A job you select
- Describe how affected
- Actions to decrease impact