



Prompting Perspectives on Climate Change Vulnerability and Resilience for Workers

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What am I
doing
here?

Main Points

- Workers/occupational H&S has largely been ignored
- Impacts are happening – outdoors, indoors, rural and urban
- The most vulnerable workers are and will be the most impacted
 - Immigrants and others with less labor market power
 - Workers in the most hazardous occupations and industries (where employment will increase)
- Workers need special attention because their exposures are compelled by their jobs
- Policies to protect workers are weak especially for the most vulnerable workers

What is the Worker/OHS perspective?

- Vulnerability
- Resilience
- Adaptation

“Differences in vulnerability and exposure arise from non-climatic factors and from multidimensional inequalities ...These differences shape differential risks from climate change....

People who are socially, economically, culturally, politically, institutionally, or otherwise marginalized are especially vulnerable to climate change.” – IPCC 2014



Vulnerability

- The degree to which a worker population is susceptible to, and unable to cope with, climate change effects
 - Sensitivity
 - Current balance between protection and risk
 - “multidimensional inequalities”
 - Adaptive capacity
 - Available resources and power to deal with whatever comes at you

Resilience

- "the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems..to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience."
- What will help you (and others) survive and bounce back?



Adaptation Plan

Worker H&S Adaptation Plan =
Assessment of Vulnerability + Action
on Resilience
aka: ***Preparedness***

Worker Preparedness



Employer Preparedness



Regulatory/Agency Preparedness

Elements of Preparedness in the Face of Uncertainty

- What if's
- Needs assessment
- Bag of Tricks
- Communication
- Community
 - Who needs our help?
 - Who can help us?

For Discussion

- What are the most important climate change and worker safety and health research questions?
- How do we ensure that climate change and worker safety and health is included as a core component of a National and State climate change action plan?
- How do we train and prepare workers to anticipate, recognize, and respond to climate change related hazards?
- Who's the most vulnerable?
 - Sensitivity
 - Bad balance between protection and risk
 - Inequalities
 - Adaptive capacity
 - What resources are available to promote adaptation?
- What helps workers weather the storm and bounce-back? (Resilience)
- How should all employers be prepared?