

WORKSHOP SESSION SUMMARY

POST-CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS 2018 National Trainers' Exchange

1. Session Title and Presenter's Contact Information:

Workshop title: Disaster Rapid Response: The Experience of ICWUC, NIOSH, and Fe y Justicia in Houston TX

Presenter (s) Name: Luis Vazquez, Marianela Acuña Arreaza

Presenter Organization: ICWUC, and Fe y Justicia

Presenter Email:lvazquez@icwuc.org

2. Workshop Summary:

The Objective of this Roundtable was for participants to list at least 3 elements to rapidly conduct a bi-lingual Hurricane Response Train-the-Trainer (TTT) program shortly after a storm. As Hurricane Harvey approached the Texas coast, the International Chemical Workers Union Council (ICWUC) contacted Consortium partners at National OSHA, and affiliate organization Fe y Justicia Workers Center in Houston, offering to train workers, volunteers, and community members participating in recovery efforts. A core principle of ICWUC's program is to develop training skills of members by utilizing a TTT model, so a bi-lingual English/Spanish TTT program was proposed. Hurricane Harvey provided National OSHA an opportunity to help build organizational capacity within Fe y Justicia and helped coordinate with ICWUC on the numerous logistical elements required to conduct the TTT. Fe y Justicia recruited trainees, identified a training location and lodging, identified English/Spanish translators, and conducted a community needs assessment survey. National OSHA Instructors who had participated and lead an ICWUC Spanish language Disaster TTT program a few months prior to Hurricane Harvey were identified to deliver the TTT program. ICWUC provided the program Agenda, bi-lingual training materials, PPE, and other coordination through their National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) disaster grant. The three-day TTT prepared trainers to independently conduct training and assist in delivering the ICWUC Disaster Awareness Programs and using the Spanish and English NIEHS-produced booklets on Hurricane, Flood, and Mold response/remediation. Within days of the Houston Harvey Disaster TTT program, Fe y Justicia trainers began conducting Disaster response and Mold Awareness workshops in the Houston area. As a result of the Disaster Train the Trainer program, over 1,200 community members received Disaster Response Awareness workshops in Spanish and English.

3. Methods:

This workshop consisted of a slide presentation, but allowed ample time for participants to ask questions and provide feedback. The advantage of this slide presentation was that there were many visuals that 'told the story' of the efforts to put together the TTT, and which also illustrated the many challenges of conducting training in a Disaster Zone. The visual elements included in the presentation captures the interest of the audience.

4. Main Points/ Key Points Raised from Participants:

- Trainers from Fe y Justicia were motivated to learn quickly about hazards faced in Disaster Response and cleanup work.
- Some disasters can be prepared for in advance, do as much prep work as possible.
- Multi-lingual programs are challenging. Training materials in other languages are needed.
- Community involvement is best.
- Materials such as the 4-part series of laminated cards (more visual, less text) are portable, accessible, and can share much information in a short amount of time.

5. References:

NIEHS Booklets on Mold, Floods and Hurricanes (Spanish and English)

6. Workshop Handouts/ Resources:

- NIEHS Booklets on Mold, Floods and Hurricanes (Spanish and English)
- 4-part laminated card series on mold in Spanish and English
- A copy of the slide presentation has been forwarded to MDB.