

**WORKSHOP SESSION SUMMARY**  
**POST-CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**  
**2018 National Trainers' Exchange**

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

Workshop title: Effective safety and health training for workers and communities involved in storm recovery

Presenter (s) Name: Mitchel Rosen and Jonathan Rosen

Presenter Organization: Rutgers University and the National Clearinghouse for Occupational Safety & Health Training

Presenter Email: [mrosen@rutgers.edu](mailto:mrosen@rutgers.edu) and [jrosen396@gmail.com](mailto:jrosen396@gmail.com)

**2. Workshop Summary:**

It is important for the NIEHS WTP community to build on its experience in responding to Irene, Katrina, Sandy, Harvey, Maria, and other flooding events. Protecting workers, volunteers, and community members from injury and illness related to gutting, mucking, and mold removal is a crucial task. Some of the challenges include: 1) lack of national standards, 2) access to the people doing the work, and 3) ability to deliver effective training to large numbers of workers, homeowners, and volunteers.

Exposures may include unsafe buildings, live electricity, gas, and oil spills, hazardous materials such as carbon monoxide, asbestos, lead, black water, and mold. Safety hazards may include trips, slips, and falls, injury from misuse of tools and equipment, struck by vehicles, and others. Some volunteers work for only one day which makes providing proper training especially difficult. In this workshop we will review strategies used by the New Jersey/New York Consortium to provide real time training with support from the Clearinghouse. Participants will have an opportunity to share their own experiences and ideas on how to confront these challenges in their communities and also learn about the existing resources from the Clearinghouse and NIEHS grantees.

**3. Methods:**

The polleverywhere app was used to get visual responses to questions to orient the workshop to the participants experience and needs. Other methods included large group discussions with PPT, small group activity (SGA), and a review of exercises and activities. The SGA method rendered greater participation, but we were limited in using it due to the 1.5 hours designated for workshops.

**4. Main Points/ Key Points Raised from Participants:**

Key points covered by presenters included reviewing training activities conducted by presenters and others in previous disasters, training materials available, populations trained, different types of training that have been offered, outreach, training needs assessment, tailoring training to population needs, and just in time training. We also reviewed the exercises available in the Rutgers, NIEHS, NYCOSH, and ICWUC training delivered during Sandy and Harvey and discussed recommendations for future response training.

Participants talked about their experiences in delivering training during disasters and highlighted the importance of establishing strong relationships with impacted communities. A focus was on the difficulty in getting information to people who have been evacuated from their homes. Lisa Orloff spoke about the experience of World Cares Center in partnering with Rutgers and providing training to 22,000 people who cleaned up 1,400 homes during Sandy. Lisa described the volunteer management process. Discussion about Puerto Rico addressed the logistics issues of where to house trainers, lack of internet and services, and other difficulties. AFSCME described providing 300 sets of PPE and one hour training programs in Puerto Rico. Recommendations from participants included make sure all training materials are in Spanish and other languages of affected populations, develop advanced skills training leading to hands on training, and continue to build relationships and train trainers so training can be available at the time of the disaster event.

**5. References:**

<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2472> NIEHS Disaster website

<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/booklets/index.cfm> NIEHS booklets

**6. Workshop Handouts/ Resources:**

Workshop agenda

NIEHS Flood and Mold booklets

NIEHS Mold Guideline