

**EMERGING WORKPLACE HAZARDS: Creating Adaptable
and Innovative Safety and Health Training**

May 2–4, 2023 / Indianapolis, Indiana



WORKSHOP SESSION SUMMARY

POST-CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

1. Session Title and Presenter's Contact Information:

39: Roundtable: Disaster Preparedness and Response: Addressing Climate Change in Health and Safety Training

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2. Workshop Summary:

Climate change is a global public health issue that will affect workers in all industries, if it already hasn't. Hazards that workers may face due to climate change include, but are not limited to, heat illness, respiratory illness, physical and mental health effects, insect- and tick-related diseases, and more. During this training, we will discuss how to effectively incorporate climate change and related topics into health and safety trainings while acknowledging that this topic may be controversial to some training participants. We will discuss current environmental issues that workers are facing today, environmental issues that workers are expected to face in the future, as well as what we as trainers can do now to spread awareness. Trainers are encouraged to attend and be ready to share thoughts and ideas on incorporating this topic into current trainings. At the end of the session, participants will leave with a deeper understanding of how climate change will impact worker health and safety, tips for incorporating this topic into health and safety trainings, and a list of credible resources to reference when looking for information on climate change to include in trainings.

3. Methods:

This workshop was a roundtable discussion designed to inform participants of methods that the USW Tony Mazzocchi Center uses to address climate change through their health and safety trainings, as well as hear ideas from participants. During the roundtable discussion, other related topics or challenges may be brought up as well.

4. Main Points/Key Points Raised from Participants:

Main points raised during this session include:

- Ensuring that training participants are aware of how climate change may negatively impact their communities (if it already hasn't) is an essential part of effective health and safety training on the topic.
- Focusing on prevention rather than response to a disaster is more effective than only conducting training prior to a disaster.

NATIONAL TRAINERS' EXCHANGE

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- Trainers should ensure that resources and hand-outs are provided in all applicable languages.
- Working with other organizations within the community is a great tool when conducting trainings on disaster preparedness or trainings facilitated during a disaster site clean-up.
- Using reliable resources to develop and facilitate a training related to climate change is essential to effective training.

5. References:

None.

6. Workshop Handouts/Resources:

USW Disaster Preparedness and Response Resource Guides.