

**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:

Workshop number and title: **Impact of COVID-19 Crisis on Training: Changes, Challenges, and "New Norms"**

Presenter (s) Name: Kim Chapital

Presenter Organization: Deep South Center for Environmental Justice

Presenter Email: kimd@dscej.org

2. Workshop Summary:

[Prior to COVID-19, educational and technical Worker Training Program (WTP) courses were provided largely in traditional face-to-face classrooms settings. The COVID-19 crisis had a significant impact on the delivery of these courses and accompanying services provided. In this atmosphere, environmental training course regulatory requirements (i.e., buddy systems, "hands-on" activities/class participation with student evaluation, and particularized "no allowance" constraints for alternative teaching platforms, etc.) coupled with the need to consider participant learning styles and proven best practices presented many challenges for instructors, program managers and directors, as well as for students and participants. The crisis was a powerful test of change, adaptation, and challenge resolution which ultimately led to implementation of some "new norms" for training programs. This session will (1) explore the shifts from typical traditional face-to-face technical training to virtual and/or a hybrid of the two platforms; (2) highlight the many challenges and potential advantages brought on by the crisis; and (3) provide suggestions for effective crisis management strategies and professional development interventions.]

3. Methods:

[A PowerPoint presentation was presented and participants through discussion and a question and answer session. Participants were asked to provide on the new policies, procedures, and/or activities they employed during and after the pandemic. Comments/suggestions on DSCEJ changes were provided.]

4. Main Points/Key Points Raised from Participants:

[Main key points included

- *Virtual training allows trainers to still conduct health and safety training and reach audiences during disasters/situations like the pandemic.*
- *Virtual training is here to stay and will continued to be used.*
- *The need to conduct virtual training caused many trainers to re-evaluate, update, and change curricula in order to adapt to the challenges presented at the time of the pandemic.]*

NATIONAL TRAINERS' EXCHANGE

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

May 2–4, 2023 / Indianapolis, Indiana



5. References:

[NA]

6. Workshop Handouts/Resources:

[NA]