




Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER) Awareness Level

Introduction and Overview





Environmental Health: Response to Alabama Tornadoes-Six Months Later

What is Environmental Health?

The protection of individuals against environmental factors that may adversely impact human health or the ecological balances essential to long-term human health and environmental quality, whether in the natural or man-made environment.



Source: National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)

Environmental Health Program Areas




- Vectors • Wells • Tattoo/Body Piercing • Hospitals • Schools • Housing
- Lodging • Day Care Centers • Solid Waste • Pools/Spas • Food/Drink
- Wastewater • Embargo • Potable Water • Milk/Dairy • Shellfish
- Radiation • Radon • Septage • Air Quality • Asbestos Remediation
- Hazardous Waste • Rest Homes • Confinement Facilities • Shelters
- EH Laboratories • Cruise Ship/Port Sanitation • Lead Abatement
- Summer Camps • Migrant Housing • Nursing Homes • EH Administration
- Epidemiology • Clandestine Meth Labs • Animal/Pest Control
- Public Bathing Facilities • Mass Gatherings • Meat Markets
- Erosion Control • Surface Waters • Environmental Crime • Pollution
- Risk Assessment • Noise Control • Accident Prevention • Public Utilities
- Landfill Management • Agricultural Operations • Occupational Health
- EH Promotion/Education • Climate Change • Built Environment
- ... and more being added all the time!

Adapted from Salvato, Joseph A. Environmental Engineering and Sanitation, Third Ed., 1982

Environmental Health Preparedness Training

- Lack of defined roles in emergency response
- Multiple skills needed
- Understanding the broader scope of EH response
- No national training program

Lack of Environmental Health Preparedness Training

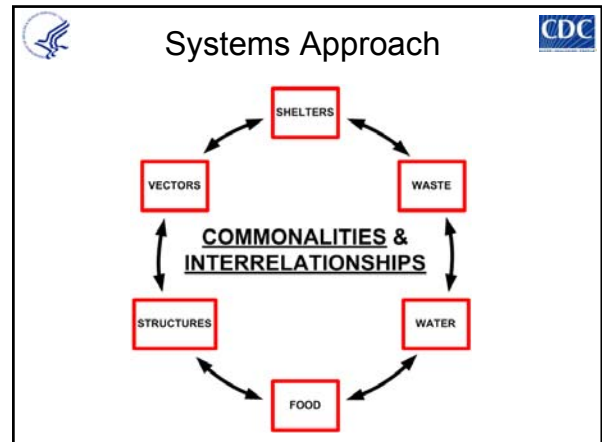
- 2004 Michigan EH Training Needs Assessment
- 2005 Centers for PH Preparedness Report
- 2005 Kansas Local Health Dept. Workforce Needs Assessment
- 2006 Ohio PH Preparedness Training Needs Survey
- 2007 North Carolina PH Workforce Assessment
- NEHA Training Needs Assessments
- Numerous peer-reviewed journal articles
- USPHS Commission Corps Environmental Health Officers



 **EHTER Development** 





- Focus on key areas of EH
 - Common tasks
 - Various skill sets
 - 360° scope
 - All-hazards









 **Purpose and Objectives** 


- Increase knowledge of
 - Roles & responsibilities of EH professionals
 - Adverse impacts caused by disasters
 - Protective actions
 - Roles, responsibilities & capacities of response partners
 - Key initiatives taking place in other jurisdictions

 **Purpose and Objectives** 



- Acquire resources to improve knowledge, skills & abilities
- Refresh/improve ability to use equipment
- Experience/share best practices & lessons learned



 **Target Audience** 



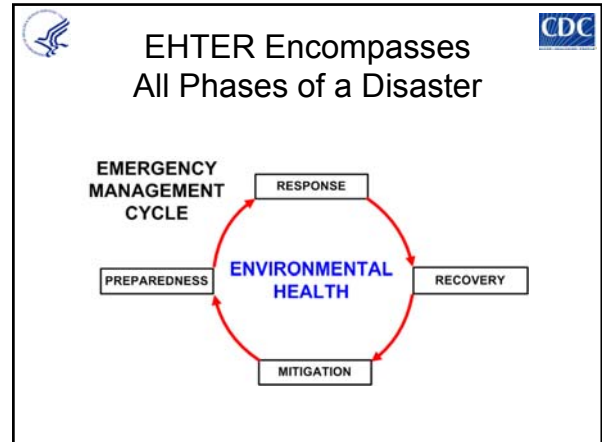
- EH Specialists/Sanitarians and Environmental Scientists
 - Federal, state, local, tribal
- Other PH decision-makers and practitioners
- Applicable to multiple agencies, departments, and organizations



 **Recommended Pre-course Education & Training** 

- ICS 100.a – Introduction to the Incident Command System
- ICS 200.a – Incident Command System for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
- IS 700.a – National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction
- IS 800.b – National Response Framework (NRF), An Introduction
- IS 808 – Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 – Public Health and Medical Services



 **EHTER Content** 

- 10 modules:
 - Disaster Management
 - Responder Safety & Health
 - Potable Water
 - Food Safety
 - Wastewater
 - Shelters
 - Vector & Pests
 - Solid Waste & Debris
 - Building Assessment
 - Radiation
- Group activities and exercises
- Demonstration components
- Re-entry and re-occupancy exercise
- Evaluation component
 - CDC March 2010 course – average increase 27%



 **Benefits** 

- Enhances understanding of how EH fits within emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation
- For both EH and non-EH professionals
- Introduces a broad spectrum of EH issues
- Creates an understanding of EH systems and how they interconnect
- Provides foundation for basic knowledge/skills
- Combined audience – various jurisdictions and partners
- Facilitates partnerships



 **EHTER is NOT...** 

- An intermediate or advanced level training
- Designed to produce subject-matter-experts
- A substitute for planning, training, educational, or exercise activities and requirements
- A replacement for existing emergency operations plans, procedures, guidelines, resources, assets, and incident management systems

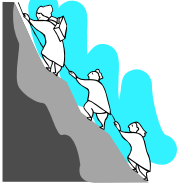
 **Responders Trained** 

- Thousands trained from all 50 states, U.S. territories, DC, Canada, Caribbean, and other countries



 **The Challenges** 

- Finding common issues that apply to all geographic locations
- Lack of cross training in EH specialties
- Fragmented EH services
- Time
- Funding





CDC & FEMA



Partnership

- Memorandum of Agreement between CDC/NCEH and DHS/FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness in March 2009



Looking to the Future



- Revision into DHS-approved format
- International EHTER courses
 - CEF-5 (June 2010)
 - Others pending
- EHTER Train-the-Trainer course
- Online modules on NEHA Web site
- Additional EHTER courses/modules
 - Awareness (Chemical, Biological)
 - Operational (Various Assessments)
 - Planning/Management
- Develop a comprehensive training program



Some things to think about as we get started...



- Information, guidance & resources in manual
 - Adapting to your jurisdiction for EH responders
- EH emergency response teams
 - Tools, resources, guidance, etc.
 - Equipment
 - Integration into existing emergency response structure



Questions?

