NIEHS Training Response

to the Gulf Oil Spill

Chip Hughes

Worker Education and Training Program

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

NIOSH HSAT/HST Annual Meeting
February 8, 2011
Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) was created in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), Section 126(g).

SARA authorizes a competitive grants program for training in hazardous waste removal, containment, and emergency response to events involving toxic substances.

WETP Emergency Support Activation Plan (ESAP) is built on the protocols of the Worker Safety and Health Annex of the National Response Framework (NRF).
Hazardous waste worker training programs are the embodiment of environmental justice by providing the residents with the knowledge and training necessary for workers to meaningfully participate in addressing the environmental concerns in their community.
NIEHS Programs support environmental justice principles

- Training helps to provide for fair treatment and meaningful involvement of low-income and people of color residents in the decision-making process for cleaning up their own communities;

- Provides residents of low-income and minority communities with skills to prepare them for long-term career opportunities in environmental assessment and cleanup, emergency response, construction and other careers.

- Process provides for job creation, protection of workers on the job, and support for healthy, sustainable communities.

- NIEHS trainees have been key responders to cleaning up the World Trade Center disaster (2001), Hurricane Katrina (2005), and BP Gulf Coast Oil Spill (2010).
Immediate and sustained supplemental funding to support World Trade Center training response efforts:

- On-site training for 7,000 response workers
- Provision and fit-testing of respirators
- Worker exposure monitoring
- Responder training course
- Consultation on the site safety plan
Extending rescue extends risk for response workers.

Keeping Workers Safe During Oil Spill Response and Cleanup Operations

**Rescue**
- Chaotic
- Risk-taking
- Short
- Frenetic

**Recovery**
- Planning
- No risking lives
- Longer than rescue
- Paced

**Clean-up**
- Normal cleanup
- Risks assessed and understood
NIEHS WETP Spring 2006 Technical Workshop

Learning from Disasters: Katrina Response Safety and Health Training
MISSISSIPPI CANYON 252
SITUATION STATUS MAP - WEST
5/2/2010 1200 Hrs

Weather:
West: 23 knots from SSE
Sea: 8 ft

Sheen Depicted from Satellite image on
5/2/2010 at 0945 Hrs

Loading Edge
Lat: 29° 39' 53.594" N
Long: 88° 13' 13.845" W

Incident Site - MC 252 Well Incident
Latitude: 28° 44' 17.3" N
Longitude: 88° 21' 57.4" W
NIEHS Response in partnership with OSHA and NIOSH

- NIEHS developed oil spill response training tool on April 27, 2010 as the spill expands in the Gulf of Mexico.
- NIEHS begins work with OSHA and NIOSH as part of the Unified Command assessing worker safety issues on May 1st.
- NIEHS deployed staff, subject manner experts and awardees for instructor training and worker protection outreach.

BP, USCG, OSHA, NIEHS, and NIOSH meet to assess worker protection issues in the BP Incident Command Center in Houma, LA on Tuesday, May 3, 2010.
NIEHS, together with OSHA, BP and the Coast Guard, developed short training courses.

- Training includes: safe work practices, personal protective equipment, decontamination, heat stress, and other common hazards for cleanup work.
- As of August 29th, per BP, approximately 150,000 people had completed these courses.

Hazardous Waste Operations & Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training:

- 40-hour training for those who will likely have direct contact with oil spill products.
- More than 1,000 have completed the HAZWOPER training from NIEHS grantees.
Gulf Oil Spill – vessel decontamination operations in Venice, LA
NIEHS Oil Spill Responder Training Tool:  
Key Health and Safety Messages

- Proper training is a key component of a safe response and cleanup.
- The oil and hazardous materials associated with the cleanup can be hazardous to human health.
- The hazards and issues covered in this training tool are dynamic and require vigilance and flexibility.
- The key to a safe response is attention to the safety issues of your work environment.
147,000 responders trained in short courses

Over 35,000 guides distributed

Front-line responders, instructors, and safety officials

English, Spanish, & Vietnamese trainers deliver training
Dirty boom cleaning off the coast of Louisiana
NIEHS Oil Spill Responder Training Plan

• NIEHS mission will include:
  – Conducting a training quality assessment process to assure that cleanup workers receive proper training to prepare them for oil spill response;
  – Create additional curricula and modules and provide Hazmat trainers to cover essential health and safety hazards for oil spill cleanup workers;
  – Develop training to support personal protection equipment for oil spill responders;
  – Provide advanced Hazwoper training to subcontractor employees for specialized response activities
  – Integrate safety and health training into an overall responder protection program in conjunction with BP, USCG, OSHA, NIOSH and others.
NIEHS Field Training for Vessels of Opportunity (VOO) workers in Venice, LA
Oil Spill Response Worker Safety Concerns

- National Contingency Plan (NCP) and National Response Framework (NRF) – Clarifying worker safety and health procedures and protocols to assure protection for responders.

- Training must be carried out by including target populations in the development process with a design based on prior knowledge, literacy levels and expected job tasks.

- All oil spill response training must be based on the precautionary principle and grow out of the 1910.120 HAZWOPER training framework.

- Job hazard analyses (JHA’s), site health and safety plans (HASP), and exposure assessments must be communicated to at-risk responders in a language and format they understand.

- Quality assurance process must be built-in to assure the “right to understand” and assure that training responds as conditions on the ground change.
This Lessons Learned meeting in Mobile, Alabama will examine the training-related Deepwater Horizon Oil response activities (as seen through the eyes of the Worker Education and Training Program, WETP awardees, federal partners, community-based organizations, workers and other stakeholders) and develop consensus about the proper elements of pre-incident and deployment-phase training for support personnel performing cleanup work. In addition, policies to best ensure that workers receive that training (in a language and a literacy level they understand) before being deployed to work will be explored.
Gulf Oil Training Assessment Project

PURPOSE
Awareness and Operations level preparedness

Content
- Hazwoper
- BP Modules
- Train-The-Instructor

Delivery
- Instructor led
- Computer based

Population
- On Shore
- Off Shore
- Volunteer
- Technical specialist

Authority
- Unified Command
- OSHA
- USCG
- Employer
- Union

Focus Groups
- Community sponsored workers

One-on-One Interviews
- Utilize rosters
- Workers
- Instructors
- Employers

Determining:
- Effectiveness
- Quality
- Beneficial
- Retainability

On-line survey tools
- Instructors
- Workers
- Employers

Content analysis
- SME
- Instructors

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NIEHS Hazmat Preparedness Initiatives:

- Protecting Yourself While Helping Others
- Safety Awareness for Responders to Floods: Protecting Yourself While Helping Others
- Protecting Yourself While Responding to Wildfires
- Awareness for Radiological Dispersion Device (RDD) Preparedness

June 2008

Worker Education & Training Program

December 2007

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In remembrance of the eleven Deepwater Horizon drilling rig workers who died at MC252. May they not be forgotten.