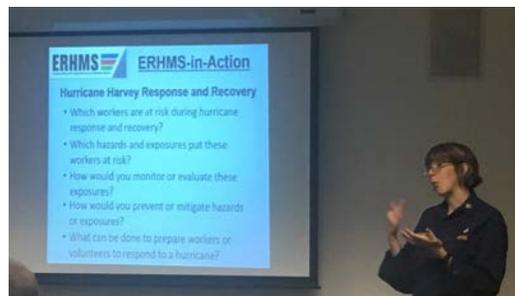


SWCOEH hosts NIOSH Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance Officials Deployed to Assist with Harvey Response

The [Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health](#) (SWCOEH) hosted the [Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance](#) (ERHMS) team from the National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) during their deployment to Texas to assist with Hurricane Harvey disaster response.

The ERHMS officials included the lead, Commander Jill Shugart, MSPH, REHS in the U.S. Public Health Service, and CDC/NIOSH epidemiologist Andrea Steege, PhD and industrial hygienist Kendra Broadwater, MPH, CIH.

“It was a great opportunity to partner with the SWCOEH, one of NIOSH’s Education and Research Centers, during the recovery phase of Hurricane Harvey to train faculty, students, volunteers and partners on ERHMS. This partnership can serve as a model on how we can ensure the health and safety of workers during the pre, during, and post phases of a disaster,” stated CDR. Shugart.



23 SWCOEH faculty, staff, and trainees met at the UTHealth School of Public Health on Friday, October 23rd for a short-course training event to review the ERHMS framework. The course included examples of how the framework can be applied to

develop disaster training programs for affected residents, volunteers, and construction workers. Additional members in attendance also included representatives from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and Fe y Justicia Worker Center.

The following week SWCOEH faculty and staff also met with ERHMS and Harris County Public Health officials to further discuss how ERHMS can best be implemented locally for future natural disaster events.

Dr. Perkison, a faculty member of SWCOEH stated that, “The frame work presented by ERHMS is a very practical approach for conceptualizing how an organization can plan for future hurricane and/or flooding events. These events will likely become increasingly more frequent and severe and we need to spend more time preparing for them.”

For Hurricane Harvey health and safety resources please visit www.SWCOEH.org/HARVEY