

NASA  
Health and Safety  
Managers Meeting  
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DIANE BRAYDEN, CIH, CSP  
Director, Office of Federal Agency  
Programs, OSHA

OSHA

Emergency Preparedness  
And  
Response

# OSHA's Role

- Incidents of National significance involve workers and occur in workplaces.
- OSHA is local and is involved early.
- Under National Response Plan OSHA is the lead Federal agency for worker safety and health.

# History

- OSHA was heavily involved in response to the terrorist incidents of 2001.

# World Trade Center Recovery

- Over 1,000 DOL and OSHA staff on site:
  - Consultation Services
  - Air Sampling -- 6,000 samples
  - Monitoring and collecting safety data
  - 130,000 respirators distributed on site
  - Respirator Fit Testing:
    - 6,100 workers, including NYC FD employees

# WTC Recovery Statistics

- Lasted eight months;
  - Three million work hours;
  - Most dangerous working conditions imaginable.
- 
- No additional lives were lost;
  - Only 35 workers missed workdays due to injury.

# Anthrax Response

- OSHA was late in providing technical assistance:
  - No compliance during crisis
  - No jurisdiction over Senate employees or facilities

# Anthrax Guidance

Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment – over done vs. adequate.

- Resulted in reduced heat stress
- Provided greater protection
  - 2-layer chemical protective suit to single layer, breathable suit
  - wearing street clothes underneath, to wearing scrubs
  - showering

# Anthrax Containment

- Identified:
  - deficiencies in containment seal
  - Need for negative pressure
  - Potential contamination of other areas
  - More efficient use of negative air machines

# OSHA's National Emergency Management Plan

- Referred to as the NEMP
- In Place October, 2003
- Based on experience and lessons learned;
- Is being updated to reflect lessons learned during T3 2005 hurricane experiences.

# NEMP

- Provides agency guidance on critical issues including coordination with states;
- Oversight:
  - the development of training courses for OSHA emergency responder personnel;
  - review of the ten Regional Emergency Management Plans (REMPs) to ensure consistency and adherence to policy;
  - development of OSHA's Technical Experts list.

# NEMP Accomplishments

- Four Specialized Response Teams - selected, trained and equipped
- PPE Cache, Field Equipment and Medical clearances for OSHA Employees
- Technical Assistance for Emergencies Course
- On Site Leader Coordinator Course
- ICS 200 for all staff

# National Response Plan

- OSHA Participated in Development of the NRP.
  - Worker Safety and Health referenced in base plan
  - Provided leadership to draft Annex and assure it was included in the final plan.
- Details Federal Support to States and Localities
- All-hazards approach (natural disasters and terrorism)

# National Response Plan

- Preparation for Iraqi Freedom accelerated the pace of Plan development.
- OSHA pushed for a worker safety and health element on national preparedness.
- The definition of Responder was changed to include skilled support.
- National preparedness includes a Worker Safety and Health Element

# Worker Safety and Health Support Annex

- Only support Annex that can be activated – others are informational only.
- Established OSHA's Lead Role as Coordinator for Worker Safety and Health during Incidents of National Significance.
- Cooperating agencies in the Annex include: DHS/FEMA/USCG, DOD/USACE, HHS/CDC/NIOSH/ATSDR, EPA, DOE
- Established mechanism for Annex activation in critical Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)

# National Response Plan

- Under the Worker Safety and Health Annex, OSHA is the coordinating agency, working to ensure that federal responders and contractors are working safely.
  - Organize interagency communications and responses to requests from the field; also
    - USDA, CDC, HHS, FEMA, EPA and US Army Corps of Engineers and other DOL agencies.

# Accomplishments

- OSHA/FEMA Summit – Best Practices Document for “First Receivers”
- Disaster Site Worker Training
- National and Regional Exercise Participation:
  - TOPOFF Series (T1-T3)
    - On site and coordination center participation.

# Accomplishments

- Participation in National/Local Emergency Response, Preparedness, and WMD committees;
- Addition of Worker H&S Annex concepts into State Emergency Management planning;
- NRT Worker Safety and Health Subcommittee
  - Respiratory Protection Technical Conference

# Gulf Coast Hurricane Recovery Efforts

- In anticipation:
  - OSHA was in contact with local utility offices to offer service and support;
  - Arranged pre-deployment safety briefings.

# OSHA Response

- OSHA teams moved rapidly to consult with crews engaged in restoration of:
  - Power lines
  - Tree trimming
  - Roof repair
  - Debris removal
  - Work near roadways

- OSHA assigned 100 employees to the affected areas to provide safety and health technical assistance.
- Provided training and technical assistance to over 25,000 workers.
- Intervened in nearly 9,000 instances to remove approximately 15,000 workers from serious hazards.

# Media Assistance

- OSHA produced and released 12 Public Service Announcements for use by radio and television:
  - 7 in English
  - 5 in Spanish
  - Focused on specific hurricane-related hazards including floods, falls, mold, electricity and chainsaws.

# Internet

- OSHA created a Hurricane Response web page, updated continually, including:
  - Fact Sheets
  - Quick Cards
  - Other informational materials

# Publication Distribution

- OSHA distributed more than 30,000 fact sheets directly to employers and workers;
- Identified area home supply and construction stores from which informational materials were distributed.

# Training Grants

- OSHA awarded \$5 million for Disaster Response and Recovery Training Grants, to provide critical health and safety training for workers doing response, cleanup and rebuilding.

# NRP Activation

- Annex activated by Multi-agency request;
- Mission assignments from FEMA;
- IAGs with NIEHS, NIOSH, and FEMA

# Enforcement Role

- OSHA continues in its technical assistance role. However, we take enforcement role when:
  - investigating worker complaints
  - Investigating workplace injuries or fatalities

# Maintenance

- Annual Training, Exercises, and Equipment Maintenance for SRTs;
- Offer 3600 Training to Maintain a Core of Trained Personnel
- Institutionalize ICS Training
- Expansion of PPE Cache
- Maintenance of Field Equipment and On-going Personnel Proficiency in use.

# OSHA Resources

- [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)
- Office of Federal Agency Programs (OFAP)  
(202) 693-2122
- Regional Federal Agency Program Officer
- Area Office:
  - Compliance Assistance Specialist
  - Area Office Staff

Questions??