

## Disaster Preparedness and Response

**Date: December 13, 2012**  
**Time: 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET**

Please register at: [http://bit.ly/PEPH\\_DPR](http://bit.ly/PEPH_DPR)  
(registration required)

**Description:** Disaster response preparedness training may result in better outcomes in terms of individual and community resilience. The NIEHS's Worker Education and Training Program and its partners have responded to numerous disasters of national significance and have conducted a "lessons learned" conference following each response. Common themes include the need for proper preparedness in the form of appropriate training for the job at hand; community involvement before, during, and after a disaster; and training that empowers workers to recognize and choose the right course of action so as to avoid acute and chronic illness or injury.

**"Disaster Response: The View from a Boot on the Ground"** – David Coffey, University of Massachusetts – Lowell



Disasters — whether small or large, in rural communities or urban areas — affect citizens in similar ways. The loss of daily needs and comforts may have devastating results for families and their communities. Preparation for disaster is the key to surviving one successfully (though there are many reasons why citizens do not prepare for even "planned" disasters). All levels of government perform critical functions in disaster preparedness and response, and one of the most essential functions is the provision of timely information and effective communications.

**"Western Washington Disaster Response Training: Training Together"** – Spencer Schwegler, CPWR – Center for Construction Research and Training



Spencer Schwegler will first discuss an annual day of training in which the Seattle Fire Department and the Ironworkers, Operating Engineers, and Laborers meet to practice and share skill sets using cranes, torches, excavators, and other heavy equipment. Secondly, he will discuss the CPWR – Center for Construction Research and Training's analysis of the gap between its Disaster Response Training class for construction workers and the training of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs). One outcome was a pilot class for CERT leaders in South Snohomish County; the class discussed how to work around heavy equipment at disaster sites and covered issues like blind spots for operators, how to recognize faulty rigging, and safe working around loads.

**"Cultural Diversity and Disaster Preparedness"** – Grace Scire, Boat People SOS



Language barriers and cultural differences have a huge impact on educating diverse communities about disaster preparedness. In addition, once a potential disaster, such as a hurricane, is imminent, getting the word out regarding evacuation is also difficult. There are steps, however, that we can take to ensure the safety of vulnerable communities.



**REGISTER NOW**

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### PEPH Webinar Series

The Partnerships for Environmental Public Health (PEPH) program established the PEPH Webinar Series to promote interactions among PEPH grantees and to increase awareness of common issues and approaches. The webinars facilitate consideration of emerging issues. While the primary audience is grantees within the PEPH network, anyone interested in environmental public health is welcome to register.

If you have any questions about this webinar or future webinars, please contact Liam O'Fallon ([ofallon@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:ofallon@niehs.nih.gov), 919-541-7733).

Individuals with disabilities who need accommodation to participate in this event should contact Liam O'Fallon ([ofallon@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:ofallon@niehs.nih.gov), 919-541-7733). TTY users should contact the Federal TTY Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Requests should be made at least 5 business days in advance of the event.

### Upcoming Webinar Topics:

- Communication Research (January)

