

# Report Back from Breakout One: Addressing Safety and Health in the Katrina Site Orientation

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**Safety awareness for responders to  
Hurricane Katrina Mississippi Operations:  
Protecting yourself while helping others**



**WORKER EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM**

# Initial Comments

- PowerPoint should have more detailed instructor notes
- Booklet should be much more pictorial
- Performance objectives, not knowledge objectives, based on the target populations should drive the process
- Materials should train workers to ask the right questions about hazards
- Critical thinking skills are essential

## **Initial comments (2)**

- **Materials should be more scenario-based and tied to HASP**
- **Workers' rights need to be more prominent in the materials, particularly the booklet**

## **Question 1: How should this be integrated into other courses being provided under the OSHA HASP?**

- **General consensus: a short, specific module like the Katrina orientation is needed for every course provided**
- **OSHA has included it in the Katrina-revision of the 7600, for instance**

# Consensus Statement

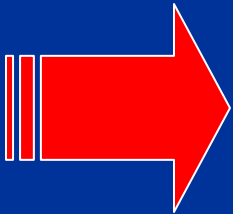
- The existing orientation is most effective when used for the emergency portion of a response.
- More detailed training should be developed for the recovery portion of a response

## **Question 2: What should be the role for awareness courses?**

- **General consensus: WETP should emphasize that awareness training must be considered in the context of the disaster timeline**
- **There must be a distinct point where awareness training is no longer sufficient**
- **Should use the DOT Guidebook approach, define the timeframe**

# WETP needs to confront extended “urgency” because it extends risk for response workers

## Rescue



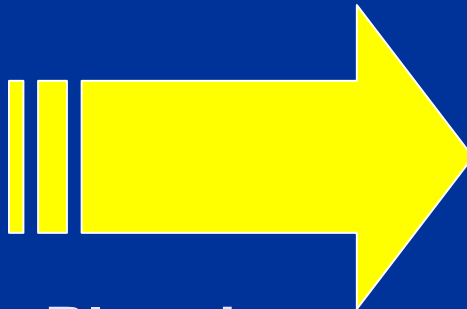
Chaotic

Risk-taking

Short

Frenetic

## Recovery



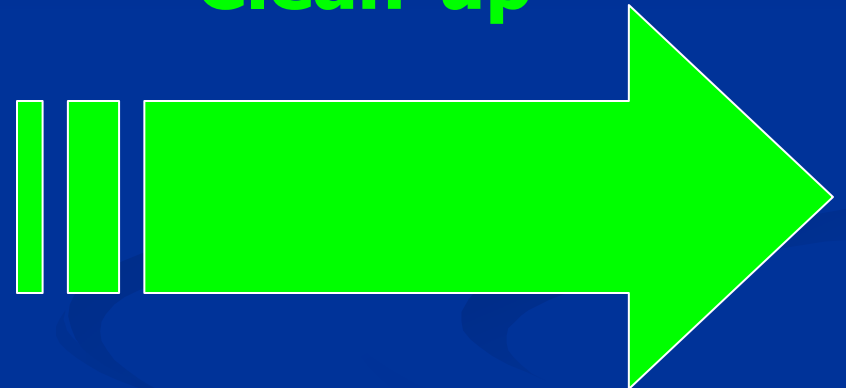
Planning

No risking lives

Longer than rescue

Paced

## Clean-up



Normal construction

Risks understood

# Consensus Statement

- The orientation needs to be field tested to determine who is using it, how it is being used, and what needs to be added or removed.



### **Question 3: Should the training always include opportunity to wear respirators?**

- **General consensus: Yes, even with awareness training, with the understanding that initially this will be difficult**
- **Materials should stress NIOSH-approved respirators**
- **Must point out what is NOT acceptable, too**

## **Question 4: What is a reasonable amount of time for this training?**

- **No consensus reached, too situational**
- **Should focus not on whether 15 minutes is possible, but what can we do to maximize training in that time**

## **Question 5: Should government attempt to standardize this training?**

- **Not discussed at length, but concern with identifying and focusing training for populations argued against it**
- **Felt OSHA needed to allow more options in the 7600**

# Consensus Statement

- Different methods of training should be implemented for day laborers or workers who don't speak English and don't read Spanish very well.

## **Question 6: What should WETP do to ensure it is able to respond quickly in the next disaster?**

- **Awardees should prepare awareness programs for their areas based on the most likely scenarios.**
  - Earthquakes in CA
  - Tornadoes in the midwest
  - White Castle food poisonings in Baltimore
- **Consider a “training team” approach similar and possibly tied to OSHA teams**

## **Question 7: How should advanced training technologies be used in future events?**

- **Consensus: It is impossible to predict what training methods will be most effective for a particular event, consequently ALL methods should be developed**
- **Need to be sure basic paper documents are available, preferably in a kit**

## Question 8: Are there any portraits of George Washington made entirely of insect parts?

■ Yes!

