

Dragon, Karen E. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)

From: Emergency-Responder-Health-Monitoring-and-Surveillance-Comments
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 7:59 AM
To: NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)
Cc: Chen, Jihong (Jane) (CDC/NIOSH/EID) (CTR)
Subject: 223 - Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance Comments

Name

Organization

Email

Address

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Comments

The concepts of protecting responders from injury and providing monitoring for adverse effects related to deployment to an event are unarguably valuable and humane. However, the high expectations of the deploying entity to have the resources and skills to assess physical and mental fitness of their responders may be unrealistic, particularly in the case of volunteers such as many firefighters and emergency medical technicians, Medical Reserve Corps, ESAR-VHP, and perhaps state and local health departments. Those organizations do not have the funds or staff to accommodate the screenings, medical staff to perform fitness for duty determinations, vaccinations/inoculations, and responsibility to maintain and protect medical records. Perhaps there could be some alternative for these types of volunteer entities.