

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Emergency Preparedness and Response Office (EPRO) prepares for and responds to chemical, biological, radiological, and natural events. The program integrates occupational safety and health into responses to protect response and recovery workers with the help of partners from industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, academia, and other federal agencies.

What do we do?

- Manage policy, science, and program activities associated with worker safety and health during emergency responses and for emergency preparedness activities.
- Support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) emergency response efforts:
 - Contribute to the development of intra- and inter-agency response plans,
 - Staff the Worker Safety and Health Team within the CDC's Emergency Operations Center, and
 - Participate in emergency preparedness and response training activities and exercises.
- Support the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) during a disaster to protect worker safety and health under the National Response Framework.
- Participate in response planning at the local, state, national, and international levels to ensure the timely identification of health hazards associated with emergency responses and implementation of adequate protection measures.
- Use the [Disaster Science Responder Research \(DSRR\) Program](#) to identify research needs to protect response and recovery workers while identifying solutions to rapidly support research during emergencies.

What have we accomplished?

- Created an occupational health-specific [Hurricane Key Messages](#) document, published a website with [guidance for emergency responders traveling to U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico](#), and updated existing hurricane-related webpages.
- Released [ERHMS Info Manager™](#) software to allow organizations to more easily implement [Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance™](#) (ERHMS™), the U.S. National Response Team's (NRT's) responder health and safety framework.
- Provided ERHMS™ training to over 300 professionals to introduce NRT's responder health and safety framework, including academics; federal, state, and local public health staff; and industrial hygienists.
- Published a [manuscript](#) assessing the potential for aerosol transmission among emergency response workers caring for cats infected with avian influenza (H7N2).
- Published updated NIOSH [guidance on protecting emergency responders from exposures to fentanyl](#) and [healthcare personnel in hospital and clinic settings](#).
- Completed an HHS Ignite Accelerator project to identify practical, rapid methods for providing just-in-time fit-testing to healthcare workers and response and recovery workers during a disaster.

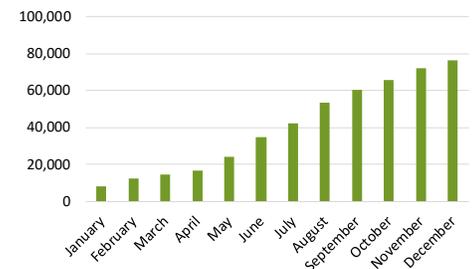
What's next?

- Coordinate the creation of a mechanism for non-healthcare worker absenteeism surveillance to increase CDC's capacity to assess the workplace impact of pandemic influenza.
- Develop an updated version of ERHMS Info Manager™ adding new functionality.
- Finalize a rapid research protocol and the process for rapid research determination and review of disaster science protocols.
- Begin a new project to develop chemical exposure assessment plans covering the first 72 hours following a disaster.
- Publish a manuscript on modeling radiation exposure of response workers in shelters following a nuclear detonation.

At-A-Glance

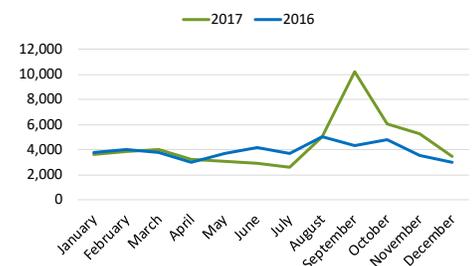
The Emergency Preparedness and Response Office integrates occupational safety and health into emergency responses and during planning to protect response and recovery workers. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Cumulative visits to NIOSH fentanyl topic pages, 2017



Source: NIOSH Program Files

Visits to NIOSH hurricane-related topic pages



Source: NIOSH Program Files

Timeline of Select EPRO Responses

2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria • Opioid Epidemic • Parkersburg, WV Warehouse Fire
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zika • Flint Water Contamination • Radiation Exposure at a Scrap Metal Facility
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ebola • Nontransplant Anatomical Donation Center Investigation • CDC Laboratory Anthrax Response
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ebola • Nontransplant Anatomical Donation Center Investigation • CDC Laboratory Anthrax Response
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paulsboro Train Derailment and Chemical Release • Ricin Letters • Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus

To learn more, visit

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/epr/>

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