

Health and Safety Training

Purpose

Health and safety training is critical for the preparedness of emergency responders. The responders are required to be fully certified to perform duty-specific tasks, which may have federal, state or local training requirements. The Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS) system could capture what training arriving responders have when reporting to the disaster and document its effectiveness to the response and afterward.

Principles of Health and Safety Training

- The pre-deployment training that responders need largely depends on their previous training and experience as well as the nature of the work they will be doing.
- The site-specific training that many responders will require involves more extensive training based on the nature of their anticipated work and any individual risk factors identified in the core screening process.

Health and Safety Training Data: [Action Items](#)

- Responder training data should be collected at all phases of an incident.
- The authority who has jurisdiction for the responder should have documentation of certification and refresher training per local, state, and federal requirements.
- Training data should be collected and maintained through a designated office and be available to other components of the Incident Command System during the rostering process.
- Data collected should include all training completed to support certification.
- An out-processing assessment should be performed to ensure that identified training gaps are resolved prior to the next deployment.



Proper training and documentation strengthens responder readiness and safety. Below is an example of a table used to record trainings.

Responder Training Documentation form		
Category	Topic	Training Received?
SAFETY AWARENESS	Driving Hazard Awareness	
	Environmental Conditions	
	Personal Protective Equipment	
	Disaster Zone Safety	
COMMUNICATIONS	Hazard Communications	
	Incident Action Plan	
	Health and Safety Plan	
	Standard Operating Guide/Procedure	
	Situation Reports	
	Mobile Communications	
SELF CARE/BUDDY CARE	Physical	
	Emotional	
	Medical	
	Work schedule	
ORGANIZATION	Incident Command System	
	National Incident Management System	
DECONTAMINATION	Chemical/Biological decontamination	
	Gross decontamination	
	Equipment decontamination	
SITE OPERATIONS	Site Control	
	Credentialing	
	Accountability	
DISASTER CHARACTERIZATION	Specific Disaster Types	

Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance

The ERHMS system is a health monitoring and surveillance framework that includes recommendations and tools specific to protect emergency responders during the pre-deployment, deployment, and post-deployment phases of a disaster. The intent of ERHMS is to identify exposures and/or signs and symptoms early in the course of an emergency response in order to prevent or mitigate adverse physical and psychological outcomes and ensure workers maintain their ability to respond effectively and are not harmed in the course of this response work. Data will also help to identify during the post-deployment phase which responders would benefit from medical referral and possible enrollment in a long-term health surveillance program. Please refer to Chapter 3 and section 3T for more information on Health and Safety Training.

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) ERHMS Contact:

- ▶ CDR Renée Funk, Coordinator, ERHMS at rfunk@cdc.gov or 404-498-1376

For more information on ERHMS, please visit:

erhms.nrt.org & www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/erhms