Rostering and Credentialing of
Emergency Response and Recovery Workers

Purpose

The goal of this effort is to maintain accountability for all emergency responders.

Functions

There are four functions that should be integrated within a single database in which:

- Data is sourced and maintained by employer or volunteer organization.

- Data is updated at least annually.

- Information on responders is obtained by the response organization when they join the response.

1 Registration
Individual specific information
Aggregate all information into a central database

NIOSH responder rostering Deepwater Horizon worker
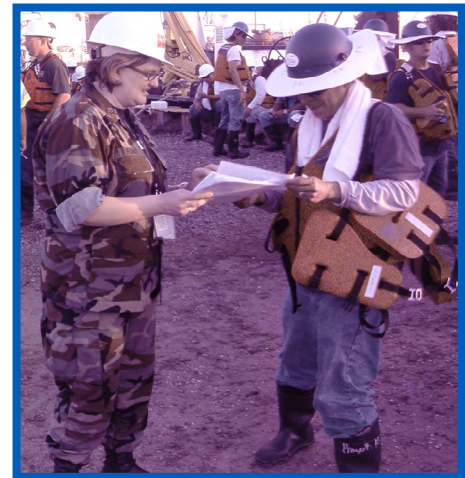
2 Emergency Credentialing
Individual's credential status and level
Done by employer or volunteer organization
Determines how to utilize the individual's services

3 Emergency Badging
Registration information most useful if portable
Critical information available through temporary ID card

4 Reverification
Employer or volunteer organization needs to confirm the information of the individual before they deploy or check in

The database should include:

- Data sourced and maintained by employer or volunteer organization.

- Data that is updated at least annually.

- Information on responders that is obtained by the response organization when they join the response.

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A basic tenet of safety in emergency response is to maintain accountability for all emergency responders under one's command. In the pre-event setting, accountability entails knowing which responders are available to be deployed and documenting that each of those members has the proper certification to perform his or her assigned job safely. A database that contains this type of information can later be utilized for accountability on scene. It could potentially serve as the basis for establishing an on-site roster of deployed responders and to help account for their whereabouts and condition throughout the response.

Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance

The Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance (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 1 and section 1T for more information on Rostering and Credentialing of Emergency Response and Recovery Workers.

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For more information on ERHMS, please visit:
erhms.nrt.org & www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/erhms