Introduction to Hurricane Hazards

Hurricanes can Devastate the Infrastructure

Graves were left open to the elements after Katrina

FEMA provided this trailer for a family to set up next to their demolished home.

Hurricanes have left the Gulf Coast Region in ruins.

Careful Planning and Coordination Between Different Agencies is Very Important

Volunteer Orientation

Occupational health hazards are a potential threat to all those deployed to areas for assistance and/or clean up following a hurricane.

You May Need Immunizations Prior to Your Assignment

Downed Power Lines can be Extremely Dangerous

Heavy Equipment Operators need to Exercise Extreme Caution Around Damaged Power Lines

If You are Involved in Rescue Efforts it Could Require the Proper Use of Fall Protection

In a Crisis we are Sometimes asked to perform tasks we don't normally do. Make sure you get specific and adequate training

Be Alert to Pressurized Vessels that show signs of damage

FOOD GRADE ONLY
13 12:28PM

Standing Water can Contain and Transport all Sorts of Things that can harm us

Navigating Rescue Operations in Floodwater is Treacherous (Treetops, fire hydrants etc.)

Make sure all Fork Lift Operators are properly trained and Use Proper Lifting Technique

Decontamination of Vehicles and People is a Real Challenge

When a vehicle with a gas tank is wedged between a power line and a high pressure fire hydrant it must be approached with caution

Proper Foot Protection must be worn when walking through debris

Extreme Caution must be employed when heavy equipment is moving debris while workers are on the ground in the same area.

Hazards and Control Measures

If you are being deployed to assist in recovery efforts you need to protect yourself. If you are injured or become ill you will not be able to accomplish your objective to assist others.

The following list represents potential hazards of working in the damaged area. We will focus only on those you are most likely to encounter.

Heat stress and/or heat stroke

Sunburn

Working in piles of unstable debris

High noise levels

Confined spaces

Potential chemical exposures

Standing water

Downed overhead power lines

Carbon monoxide from generators

Burning hurricane debris

Operating chain saws

Dangers of working around heavy equipment like cranes and bucket trucks

Mold

Trench Foot

Blood-borne disease
Food-borne disease

Water-borne disease

Insect-borne disease

Animal-borne disease

Snakes

Stress

The booklet developed by the WETB will be used for each specific hazard that needs to be addressed.

Personal Protective Equipment

Control Methods

The first option is always to eliminate the hazard requiring the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Typical items of PPE are:

- **Respirators**
- **Gloves**
- **Boots**
- **Safety glasses**
- **Hard hat**
- **Etc.**

Whenever PPE is required the selection must be made by someone with knowledge in selection and must be based on a hazard assessment

Toxicology and Health Effects

During disaster relief efforts there are lots of opportunities to be overexposed to a variety of substances that are toxic and could have an adverse effect on our health.

An introductory class like this cannot cover in detail the vast number of possibilities. You need to be aware that the potential is very real and request air monitoring whenever you suspect the presence of anything toxic.

Do not rely solely on your sense of smell to detect the presence of toxic substances. Be aware of your surroundings and recognize signs of potential high levels of toxic substances such as:

Dead birds and animals
Damaged chemical containers
Discoloring of water
Discoloring of drywall
Etc.

Chemicals can enter the body in three ways:

1. **INHALATION:** through the lungs
2. **INGESTION:** through the mouth
3. **ABSORPTION**: through the skin

Acute exposures are one-time or infrequent exposures to large amounts of a chemical.

Chronic exposures occur repeatedly but usually involve much smaller amounts of a chemical.

Workers Rights/Action Planning

The Occupational Safety and Health Act requires employers to provide a safe and healthful workplace free of recognized hazards and to follow OSHA standards. Employer's responsibilities also include providing training, medical examinations and recordkeeping.

For more information about OSHA, go to www.osha.gov or call 1-800-321-6742.