



**NIEHS**

National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences

2020

# Annual Report

for the National Clearinghouse for  
Worker Safety and Health Training

Operated by:

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
National Institutes of Health



# National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training

## 2007/2008

### Year End Report

## Introduction

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Annually, MDB, Inc. highlights its work providing an extensive range of communication and technical assistance services to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Worker Education and Training Program (NIEHS WETP) in the Clearinghouse Fiscal Year-End Report. The 2008 Fiscal Year-End Report covers NIEHS WETP Clearinghouse activities from September 16, 2007 to September 15, 2008. The 2008 fiscal year was a challenging and exciting year for the National Clearinghouse. This fiscal year was largely focused on seven activities: 1) completion of the 2008-2013 WETP Strategic Plan; 2) coordinating an Earthquake Safety and Health Training Tool Stakeholders Meeting and developing an Earthquake Responder Booklet; 3) coordinating a Joint NIEHS SBRP-WETP Technical Workshop and WETP Spring Awardee Meeting; 4) coordinating a Disaster Site Worker Course Workshop; 5) developing an NIEHS Flood Response Orientation, Safety Awareness for Responders to Floods: Protecting Yourself While Helping Others training tool; 6) developing flood resource and wildfires resource web pages; and 7) developing relationships with DOE's Office of Health Safety and Security and driving discussions about the implementation of 10 CFR 851 rule.

## Overview

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MDB, Inc. has completed its third year (under the current contract) in providing technical and research support for the NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) and ensuring the smooth operation of the NIEHS WETP National Clearinghouse.

WETP continued its emergency preparedness and response training initiatives. These activities, began in 2005 (immediately following Hurricane Katrina's devastation), and focused on developing more training tools for skilled support personnel who respond to emergencies. The framework for choosing the tools is based on the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) 15 Disaster Planning Scenarios. The 2007-2008 contract year's focus was earthquakes. A tool was designed to assist trainers in educating workers on the types of hazards and activities that may be involved in responding to an earthquake. Once the tool was drafted, the Clearinghouse coordinated an Earthquake Safety and Health Training Tool Stakeholders Meeting to generate feedback on the tool. An Earthquake Emergency Responder Booklet is also being developed.

In addition to the drafted earthquake tool, in October 2007, as a result of several wildfires in California, the Clearinghouse put together a different training tool for individuals who respond to wildfires. Other MDB-supported tasks from fiscal year 2007-08 included the coordination of a Joint NIEHS SBRP-WETP Technical Workshop and the WETP Spring Awardee Meeting; coordination of a Disaster Site Worker Course Workshop; development of an NIEHS Flood Response Orientation Safety Awareness for Responders to Floods: Protecting Yourself While Helping Others Booklet; and development of flood and wildfires resource web pages.

## 2008 Activities and Deliverables

### Prime Task One:

Establish, manage, and operate an information clearinghouse for the distribution of technical information produced by the WETP of the NIEHS.

### Monthly Summaries

Ms. Deborah Weinstock made monthly trips to Research Triangle Park, NC to meet with the Worker Education and Training Branch (WETB) staff to discuss the previous month's contract activities and upcoming activities, as well as examine remaining budget allocations. Each month, Ms. Weinstock disseminates a new report, which includes a budget spreadsheet and a summary of contract tasks to the WETB. This form of reporting maintains accountability for the project, while introducing a necessary degree of flexibility when faced with changing priorities. Other Clearinghouse team members either accompany Ms. Weinstock or join via teleconference as needed.

### Health and Safety Library (HASL) and the Curricula Catalog

The MDB, Inc. IT team, spearheaded by Manfred Stanfield, updated HASL and the Curricula Catalog for the yearly changes which include adding new date fields.

### Clearinghouse Statistics

Timeframe	Documents added to HASL	Documents downloaded from HASL	Curricula Catalog Downloads
2005/2006	113	74,067*	1220 files by 193 users
2006/2007	250	17,386	1765 files by 325 users
2007/2008	462	12,446 (through June 2008)	819 files by 159 users

\*Note the large number of HASL downloads during the 2005/2006 contract year was likely due to the Hurricane Katrina PPT and booklet downloads.

The table below shows the number of items awardees uploaded to, or changed in, the curricula catalog between September 16, 2007 and September 12, 2008.

AFSCME	0
CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training	5
Dillard University	0
HMTRI/Kirkwood	10
IAFF	2
Teamsters	14
ICWUC	3
IUOE	12

UAW	2
Laborers-AGC	0
Midwest Consortium/University of Cincinnati	0
OAI, Inc.	0
SEIU Education and Support Fund	0
New England Consortium	3
New Jersey/New York Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center	1
University of Alabama Birmingham	2
United Steelworkers of America	20
Western Region Universities Consortium	0

This year saw the closing of the Clearinghouse archives. All materials are now stored in electronic format.

### *Advisory Board*

The Clearinghouse Advisory Board met on April 2, 2008 in Bethesda, MD, prior to the Joint NIEHS SBRP-WETP Technical Workshop. The meeting included a discussion of how the Strategic Plan would guide the work of the Clearinghouse and WETP. Ms. Weinstock provided an update on Clearinghouse activities from the past year, and members discussed possible topics and locations for new workshops. After a lengthy discussion on how “green” fits into our work, the board agreed that the focus of the fall workshop would be “green jobs.” Also, a large part of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the Department of Energy (DOE)/NIEHS program, and implementation of the DOE 851 Worker Safety and Health Rule.

### *National Clearinghouse Advisory Board*

<b>Membership List</b>			
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Organization:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Organization:</b>
Pat Berntsen	Kirkwood	Beverly Wright	Dillard University
LaMont Byrd	Teamsters	Tom McQuiston	USW
Don Ellenberger	CPWR	Glenn Paulson	UMDNJ
Doug Feil	Kirkwood	Paul Renner	Labor Institute/USW
Mike Gill	USW	Craig Slatin	The New England Consortium
Mike Glassic	Y-Stress	Barbara McCabe	IUOE
Gary Gustafson	Laborers-AGC	Kizetta Vaughn	CPWR
Patrick Morrison	IAFF	Ebony Turner	Dillard University

### *Strategic Planning*

After a year-long strategic planning process, the 2008-2013 WETP Strategic Plan was finalized. The planning process progressed in the following manner: 1) planning meeting with the NIEHS WETP and the Clearinghouse staffs in February 2007; 2) input from the Clearinghouse Advisory Board in March 2007, 3) involvement of trainers at the National Trainers' Exchange, 4) input from WETP champions at a meeting in September 2007; and 5) feedback on the final draft document from the awardees in October 2007.

### **Prime Task Two:**

Arrange and manage technical meetings and workshops related to scientific, administrative, and regulatory issues that are associated with training for hazardous waste workers and emergency responders.

The National Clearinghouse arranged and managed numerous technical meetings and workshops over the contract year.

#### *October 17-19, 2007*

#### *NIEHS WETP 2007 Fall Conference: The Future of Hazardous Materials Cleanup & Training Chapel Hill, NC*

The National Clearinghouse coordinated and assisted in the facilitation of the NIEHS WETP 2007 Fall Conference: The Future of Hazardous Materials Cleanup & Training from October 17-19, 2007 in Chapel Hill, NC. The conference brought together over 100 NIEHS and WETP awardee representatives to mark the 20th anniversary of the WETP program, and discuss past, current, and future program initiatives.

#### *April 2-4, 2008*

#### *Joint NIEHS SBRP-WETP Technical Workshop and WETP Spring Awardee Meeting Bethesda, MD*

The National Clearinghouse coordinated and assisted in the facilitation of the Joint NIEHS SBRP-WETP Technical Workshop and WETP Spring Awardee Meeting from April 2-4, 2008 at the Natcher Conference Center on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Campus in Bethesda, MD. The joint meeting brought together over 130 representatives from the NIEHS SBRP and WETP programs. At the meeting, the representatives discussed each Program's benefits, e.g., protecting human health from hazardous substances, and explored not just their Program's strengths, but also how the WETP and SBRP Programs could interact, while sharing a goal to enhance collaboration. (All of the workshops were jointly facilitated by WETP and SBRP awardees.)

#### *May 21-22, 2008*

#### *Disaster Site Worker Course Workshop: Ensuring Skilled and Other Support Personnel are Prepared for Disasters Beaver, WV*

On May 21-22, the National Clearinghouse facilitated a Disaster Site Worker Course Workshop: Ensuring Skilled and Other Support Personnel are Prepared for Disasters at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy (MSHA) in Beaver, WV. Sponsored by NIEHS WETP and the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration's, OSHA Training Institute, the workshop sought to provide recommendations for revising the Disaster Site Worker courses (OSHA 7600 and OSHA 5600) and developing a refresher course for the OSHA 5600; as a result, better pre-incident training would be rendered for skilled and other support personnel who may find themselves responding to a disaster. In February 2008, National Clearinghouse representatives and WETP awardees met with OSHA's Directorate of Training Institute and laid the framework for the May workshop. The workshop resulted in recommendations on 1) how to revise the OSHA 7600 and 5600 courses, and 2) the content of a refresher course for DSW trainers (now referred to as OSHA 5602).

*May 5-7, 2008  
Brownfields 2008  
Detroit, MI*

NIEHS Brownfields Minority Worker Training Program (BMWTP) participated in seven sessions at Brownfields 2008, May 5-7, Detroit Cobo Center in Detroit, MI. The conference was the largest, most comprehensive event in the U.S., which focused on cleaning up and redeveloping abandoned, underutilized, and potentially contaminated properties. Session topics included training and educating the brownfields workplace (the NIEHS model); economic and workforce development; job training and brownfields revitalization; and health and safety of brownfields. An NIEHS Brownfields/MWTP Awardee Meeting and Brownfields Environmental Justice Forum were also held in conjunction with Brownfields 2008.

*July 9, 2008  
Earthquake Safety and Health Training Tool  
Stakeholders Meeting  
Emeryville, CA*

The WETP and National Clearinghouse arranged and facilitated an Earthquake Safety and Health Training Tool Stakeholders Meeting on July 9, 2008 in Emeryville, CA. The meeting reviewed a draft earthquake training tool that addressed the health and safety hazards that support personnel may face following an earthquake. The 50-plus participants who attended this meeting included those who oversee disaster response activities; contractors who deploy workers to response; cleanup and/or recovery operations at disaster sites; NIEHS awardees interested in earthquake response training; and state and local emergency response and support personnel. These meeting participants not only reviewed the training tool, but provided feedback that has been included in the final draft of the training tool.

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### **Prime Task Three:**

Facilitate the transmission of technical information related to the development of safety and health training programs for hazardous waste workers and emergency responders.

#### *Web Site Development and Web Site Maintenance*

The following activities occurred under web site development and maintenance during the year:

- Provided technical support to Clearinghouse administrators when HTML input errors or server errors occurred.
- Troubleshoot and fixed site errors as they occurred.
- Developed the dynamic WETP Newsbriefs editor system. This allows Clearinghouse administrative personnel to easily create, edit, and publish the weekly Newsbriefs.
- Developed the Fall 2007, Spring 2008 and Fall 2008 Award Meeting registration systems with credit card purchasing ability.
- Created new administrative screens for conference registrations.
- Updated several of the administrative listing screens that did not function properly after the new NIEHS web template was launched.
- Reviewed curricula catalog existing code and database schema to determine how best to improve the ordering system.

In addition, Clearinghouse staff worked to ensure that documents on the web site were made to be “508 compliant.” In 1998, Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act to require Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities. Inaccessible technology interferes with an individual’s ability to obtain and use information quickly and easily. Section 508 was enacted to eliminate barriers in information technology, to make available new opportunities for people with disabilities, and to encourage development of technologies that will help achieve these goals. The law applies to all Federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology. Under Section 508 (29 U.S.C. ‘ 794d), agencies must give disabled employees and members of the public access to information that is comparable to the access available to others.

### *National Clearinghouse Web Statistics*

The web statistics that follow compare web traffic in calendar year 2007 to 2008. So far in 2008, the busiest month for requests has been February. In 2007, the busiest month was October.

#### *2007 vs 2008 Requests by Month*

<b>Month</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
January	10,307	10,431
February	10,633	18,457
March	8,704	11,865
April	8,128	10,967
May	8,515	8,795
June	8,954	10,221
July	9,576	9,781
August	11,283	8,320
September	15,677	N/A
October	21,820	N/A
November	15,762	N/A
December	12,266	N/A

For the 2007-2008 contract year, Friday was once again the busiest day for the Clearinghouse web page. Friday is when the Newsbrief is published and subscribers receive an e-mail indicating that it is available. This e-mail directs the user to click on the site.

Among the top twenty organizations by the number of requests in the 2007-2008 contract year were osha.gov and uml.edu. The top three organizations were Comcast.net, speakeasy.net and Verizon.net. Among the top 50 were louisville.edu, uc.edu, epa.gov, iaff.org, hanford.gov, army.mil and uc.edu.

As in the previous contract year, the WETP home page is the most requested page on the WETP site. This is followed by the HazMat Safety & Training page, Health and Safety Library (HASL) and current issue of the Newsbrief.

Among the top 50 referring sites were: <http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/>, <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/>, <http://www.google.com/>, <http://search.yahoo.com/>, <http://search.niehs.nih.gov/> <http://www.cdc.gov/>, <http://www.osha.gov/>, <http://www.hmtri.org/>, and <http://grants.nih.gov/>.

The top ten list of queries people used in search engines to find the site were: wetp, niehs wetp, hazmat training, worker(s) training, www.safety.com, dillard university, center to protect workers rights, safety training, worker safety and areas of training.

Internet Explorer is still by far the most used browser to access the site, followed by Firefox, Netscape and Safari.

### *Weekly Digital Newsbrief*

Since its inception, the National Clearinghouse *Weekly Newsbrief* has served as a unique resource for keeping abreast on issues surrounding worker safety, health, and training. The *Newsbrief* features current news articles, research studies, government reports, upcoming events, and employment opportunities within the realm of emergency preparedness and response, homeland security, environmental cleanup, and chemical safety, as it relates to worker training and safety. The National Clearinghouse weekly *Newsbrief* is unique for two reasons: 1) it is the only newsletter distributed by a federal government agency solely devoted to worker training, and 2) it is the only newsletter to specifically target safety items that are not normally front page news item, i.e., items that might not be feature headliners. The *Newsbrief* is electronically delivered to over 1000 recipients each Friday.

### *Disaster Resource Pages*

The National Clearinghouse created two resource pages designed in response to the October 2007 San Diego, CA wildfires and the June 2008 Iowa floods. Both pages provide documents and resources that address government and public emergency preparedness in wildfire and flood situations. The flood page contains information on Iowa state, other state, federal, and other flood resources. The wildfires page contains federal, state, and local wildfire information. Later in the year, a combined Hurricane and Floods web page was created.

### *NIEHS WETP National Clearinghouse Compendium*

Resources were reallocated to accommodate other priorities.

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## **Prime Task Four:**

Develop, analyze, and compile program research products to support new training initiatives and the continuation of program efficacy measures.

Major initiatives that took place under Task 4:

- Development and production of an NIEHS Wildfire training tool. When the wildfires hit California in October 2007, the National Clearinghouse quickly developed a training tool that could be used to make workers aware of the hazards they face when responding wildfires. A companion wildfire resource page was also created on the Clearinghouse web site.
- Development and production of an NIEHS Flood Response Orientation, Safety Awareness for Responders to Floods: Protecting Yourself While Helping Others booklet. When the Iowa floods struck in June 2008, the National Clearinghouse quickly assembled WETP awardees and interested stakeholders to develop a flood response orientation safety awareness booklet. The booklet was developed, produced, and distributed to emergency responders in Iowa in less than one month following the floods.

- Prepared comments on OSHA's Request for Information on Emergency Response and Preparedness
- Provided comments on the draft National Response Framework.
- A continued initiative to reach out to the DOE community utilized a training tool on DOE's Safety and Health Program Rule, 10 CFR 851, and was undertaken this contract year. In order to share the training tool with DOE staff and contractors, NIEHS WETP awardees and their training staffs met with the DOE on August 26, 2008 in Idaho Falls. The meeting was held in conjunction with the DOE Integrated Safety Management Conference, August 27-28.
- Coordination of an Earthquake Safety and Health Training Tool Stakeholders Meeting and developing an Earthquake Emergency Responder Booklet (ongoing).

### *Partnerships and Representation*

Members of the Clearinghouse staff represented the Clearinghouse and the WETP throughout the year:

- Deborah Weinstock presented during a session at the Brownfields 2008 conference;
- Daniel Youhas participated in the NIOSH/Emergency Preparedness and Response Research Portfolio Town Hall Meeting;
- Deborah Weinstock participated in the National Response Team, Safety and Health Subcommittee meetings and calls;
- Deborah Weinstock presented at the 2007 APHA meeting;
- Don Elisburg presented at the APA/NIOSH Work, Stress and Health 2007 Conference;
- Don Elisburg presented at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Voluntary Protection Programs Participant's Association (VPPPA) conference;
- Deborah Weinstock attended the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 DOE HAMMER Steering Committee Meetings;
- Deborah Weinstock participated in a series of DOE Health, Safety and Security/Labor Union meetings;
- Deborah Weinstock presented an update on NIEHS Disaster Preparedness Activities during an Interstate Chemical Terrorism Workgroup call;
- Don Elisburg presented at the Race, Place and the Environment after Katrina: *Reclaiming, Rebuilding, Revitalizing Conference*;
- Don Elisburg presented at The Nexus Between Environmental & Economic Justice: *Harnessing the Green Economy for Community Reinvestment*; and
- Bernie Mizula presented at the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Safety and Health Conference.

## **Conclusion**

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The 2008 NIEHS WETP National Clearinghouse Report is designed to highlight the Clearinghouse and, in turn, the Program's achievements for September 2007 to September 2008. For the past year MDB, Inc. has assisted and enhanced the operational and research capabilities of the NIEHS WETP National Clearinghouse and will continue to do so in the years to come.



# MDB, Inc.

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