

Disaster Epidemiology: From Fukushima to Super Storm Sandy

Sunday, June 9, 2013 – Full Day

This workshop will address environmental epidemiology response during disasters, including sessions addressing manmade and extreme weather events. The goal and purpose of this workshop will be to discuss the role of environmental epidemiology in preparing for responding to and recovering from disasters. It is anticipated that discussion of natural disasters such as super storm Sandy (summary of the storm effects, illness and injury, surveillance efforts, environmental health response and the challenges which followed) will be prominent. Panel members representing states that have recent experience with hurricanes, ice storms and possibly large wild fires are also anticipated. Resources to be shared and presented include current approaches and tools that are in place for interview surveys and assessments (such as EHRMS, CASPER and ACE); tracking tools developed by the Environmental Public Health Tracking program; and best field use of these. The role of tracking data in disaster planning and response (baseline, assessing long term recovery, etc.) will be discussed as well as the use of syndromic surveillance in this novel situation.

The final half-day will include an interactive discussion of the role of environmental epidemiology in responding to radiation emergencies such as what occurred in the Fukushima Japan incident will also be presented as the case study (or as the basis of our discussion). A summary of this event, after action recommendations, guidance and population monitoring tools related to radiation that were recently developed, and new radiation guidelines will be shared. Current state activities related to response and monitoring (debris washing on shore, etc.) will be also discussed.

CSTE Staff Contact:

Erin Simms

esimms@cste.org