

*Being Proactive: Current
Activities of the NIEHS WETP
and its Awardees in
Preparing for Avian Influenza*

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Background

- NIEHS was given responsibility for initiating a training grants program under SARA (1986)
- Funds non-profit organizations to train workers involved in handling hazardous materials and in emergency responses involving hazardous materials

Overview

- Since 1987 the program has trained nearly 2 million workers
- The program areas include:
 - Hazardous Waste Worker
 - DOE Nuclear Weapons Cleanup
 - HAZMAT Disaster Preparedness
 - Minority Worker
 - Brownfields Minority Worker
 - Advanced Training Technology

Involvement with National Response Plan

- NIEHS WETP and its awardees' role in response to WTC attacks
- WETP developed ESAP, which serves as the Training Annex to the NRP Worker Safety and Health Annex
- WETP played a large role in response to Hurricane Katrina
 - Activated under the WS&H Annex
 - Developed Hurricane S&H Booklet/PPT
 - Opened a field office to facilitate the development of training partnerships

Why Avian Influenza?

- WETP looked to develop training tools in line with DHS' 15 disaster planning scenarios
- No one else seemed to be looking at avian, focus was on pandemic
- WETP wanted to fill the gap and recognized that quick and competent response to avian outbreak could help prevent pandemic

Steps Taken

- Provided supplemental funding to 4 awardees to develop safety and health training for workers responding to pandemic and/or avian influenza
- Awards went to:
 - Kirkwood Community College/HMTRI
 - SEIU
 - IAFF
 - ICWU

Steps Taken (continued)

- Convened an AI/PI briefing in NC 11/06
 - Reached out to other agencies and organizations
- Joint NIEHS/APHIS meeting 4/07
- Protecting Avian Influenza Responders Conference 9/07

Avian Influenza Booklet/PPT

- Developed training tool to protect responders to an avian influenza outbreak
- Thorough review process
- Joint product of NIEHS and APHIS
- Produced in English and Spanish
- Since mid-September, more than 3,000 English booklets and nearly 600 Spanish booklets ordered

Avian Influenza Booklet



National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Avian Influenza: Worker Safety & Awareness

Protecting Yourself from Avian Influenza



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WORKER EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM



Other Activities

- Developed a pod cast series on avian influenza for responders
- Organizations that received supplemental awards have developed curricula

Contact/Resource Information

- Materials are available at <http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp>

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