



# State Environmental Health Directors

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## Problem statement:

**We need a national EH policy-setting voice**

**What results do we really want?** All states to buy into and use the benefits of such an association. This helps elevate EH issues within public health and broader contexts.

☞ **What is the payoff?** A unified EH body, sharing ideas, developing best practices, working together to solve common issues.



# Mental Models:

## What thinking leads to the choices being made?

- EH Programs vary from state to state.
- “State EH directors” did not have a national “home”.
- Excellent examples (e.g., State Preparedness Directors, State AIDS Directors, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians).
- Some states’ EH programs are in other agencies than health.
- Some states may not see a need for such a formed group.

## Other issues?

- Too many organizations to join.



# Benefits

- ☛ Access EH best management practices, response resources and brain trust throughout the nation
- ☛ Provide cohesive approach to priority EH issues
- ☛ Discuss handling of challenging situations
- ☛ Develop of EH standards



# Benefits (cont'd)

- ☛ Unify and give voice to state EH programs
- ☛ Provide a mentoring opportunity to interested states



# Interventions

- ☛ Joining can assist in mutual aid issues such as disaster response.
- ☛ Targeted workgroups to address systems issues
- ☛ Assure rapid communication to keep states engaged



# First Steps

- ☛ Work through State Health Officers to identify SEHDs (ASTHO).





# Action!

- ☞ Facilitated brainstorming session to prioritize EH needs (ASTHO)
- ☞ Development of contacts
- ☞ Development of shared website
- ☞ Operational guidance
- ☞ Launch!



# Workgroups

- ☛ Census of states' programs
- ☛ Marketing EH with EH partners
- ☛ Indoor air standards
- ☛ Climate change



# \*\* Join EPHLI \*\*

## Questions?

