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**SA E – Worker Safety and Health**

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## SA E. Worker Safety and Health

SA E Tasked Agencies	
Primary Agency	Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Supporting Agencies	
Adjunct Agencies	

## 1 Introduction

Whenever the resources of local, state or federal agencies are called upon for emergency response, the protection of life and property is critically important. The safety and health of emergency workers has been a longstanding value of the emergency response community. The protection of those workers who become part of the response and recovery efforts is addressed in this annex.

## 2 Purpose

The Worker Safety and Health Support Annex provides State support to State, tribal and local response and recovery organizations in assuring response and recovery worker safety and health during incidents requiring a coordinated State response.

## 3 Scope

This annex provides supplemental assistance to State departments and agencies, and tribal and local governments, to support and facilitate the protection of response and recovery worker safety and health during an incident requiring a coordinated Federal response. This annex describes the technical assistance resources, capabilities, and other support to ensure that response and recovery worker safety and health risks are anticipated, recognized, evaluated, communicated, and consistently controlled. This annex addresses the coordination and provision of technical assistance for worker safety and health management activities; it does not address public health and safety.

- This annex describes coordination mechanisms, policies, and processes to provide technical assistance for response and recovery worker safety and health management activities that include anticipation, identification, and mitigation of response and recovery risks and hazards. These mechanisms also include the assessment and analyses of health risks from occupational exposures, to facilitate incident risk management for response and recovery workers.
- This annex is structured to provide technical assistance and support for response and recovery worker safety and health in the changing requirements of domestic incident management to include preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery actions. Activities within the scope of this function include development of health and safety plans; identifying, assessing, and controlling health and safety hazards; conducting response and recovery exposure monitoring;

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collecting and managing data; providing technical assistance and support for personal protective equipment programs, incident-specific response and recovery worker training, and medical surveillance; providing exposure and risk management information; and providing technical assistance to include industrial hygiene expertise, occupational safety and health expertise, engineering expertise, and occupational medicine expertise.

## **4 Roles and Responsibilities**

### **4.1 Primary Agency**

#### **4.1.1 Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division**

Within the Department of Consumer & Business Services (DCBS), the Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (Oregon OSHA) has statutory authority for enforcement of occupational safety and health laws. This includes employers in the public sector and private sector who perform these emergency response activities. Emergency response operations are regulated under the Hazardous Waste & Emergency Response Operations (HAZWOPER) standard, at 1910.120(q). Enforcement of safety and health laws is a necessary component to worker protection in response and recovery operations, although this may not be the first priority during significant response efforts.

When incidents of regional or statewide significance impact the state, OR-OSHA intends to join with other state agencies through the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS) to offer technical assistance around occupational safety and health issues. This safety and technical assistance role is offered in support of employers performing their emergency response duties without supplanting each agency's individual responsibility to protect their workers. In other words, Oregon OSHA does not intend to be the incident safety officer for these significant events.

Under the Incident Command System (ICS), the role of the safety officer in the Command staff and the technical assistance function within the Planning Section are two key areas where safety expertise can be identified and put into action early in an emergency response. The safety plans of individual response agencies can be coordinated in the broader context of unified or area commands. If chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosives (CBRNE) are suspected, these safety resources are paramount.

Oregon OSHA's role, therefore, is to emphasize the criticality of safety during emergency response and recovery operations and place urgency around the implementation of the safety officer and technical assistance related to worker protection as early in the response as feasible. OR-OSHA can offer the expertise and resources of our own agency in support of significant regional or statewide incidents.

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**SA E. Worker Safety and Health****4.2 Support Agencies****4.2.1 Oregon Department of Environmental Quality**

[TO BE DEVELOPED]

**4.2.2 Oregon Department of Human Services/Public Health Division**

[TO BE DEVELOPED]

**4.2.3 Oregon Department of Transportation**

[TO BE DEVELOPED]

**4.2.4 Oregon Department of Agriculture**

[TO BE DEVELOPED]

**4.2.5 Oregon Emergency Management**

[TO BE DEVELOPED]

**4.3 Adjunct Agencies**

Other agencies, as well as private-sector organizations with response and recovery workers at the incident location, provide technical support and expertise in accordance with their agency's mission and responsibilities, in coordination with Oregon OSHA and cooperating agencies.

Organizations lacking safety and occupational health technical expertise are expected to attend appropriate safety briefings, identify issues regarding potential hazards, and communicate those issues to their response and recovery worker personnel and to the Incident Command Post Safety Officer.

**5 Concept of Operations****5.1 Worker Safety and Health Protection**

Employers are responsible for the safety and well-being of their workers. The decisions made in the crisis phase of an emergency response are compressed within the fast-pace of the issues at hand. The pre-planning and training inherent in the emergency response community are designed to develop the knowledge, skills and abilities of workers for effective and efficient decision-making under emergency conditions.

**5.2 Expected Actions**

- Providing occupational safety and health technical advice and support to the JFO Safety Officer and Coordination Group, to the ICP Safety Officer(s) involved in incident management, and if appropriate, at incidents sites (s).

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- Undertaking site-specific occupational safety and health plan development and implementation, and ensuring that plans are coordinated and consistent among multiple sites, as appropriate.
- Identifying and assessing health and safety hazards and characterizing the incident environment, to include continued monitoring of incident safety.
- Carrying out responder personal exposure monitoring, including task-specific exposure monitoring.
- Assessing responder safety and health resource needs and identifying sources for those assets.
- Developing, implementing, and monitoring an incident personal protective equipment (PPE) program, including the selection, use, and decontamination of PPE.
- Communicating with labor unions, contractors, and other organizations regarding responder safety and health issues.
- Coordinating and providing incident-specific responder training.
- Work in coordination with DOL/OSHA and their partners, in carrying out functions of the National Response Framework, Workers Safety and Health Annex.

**6 Supporting Documents**

- National Response Framework, Worker Safety and Health Support Annex

**7 Appendices**

None at this time.