

# Assessing Emergency Response Preparedness and Training Needs for the United Steelworkers (USW) Members and their Communities



## Prepared by:

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## For:

The Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP)

# Background

- Climate Disasters New Orleans Area
- Essential Workers/Second Wave Responders
- USW union and CBOs
- TMC curriculum/SERTs



UNITED STEELWORKERS  
**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS  
AND RESPONSE**  
*Resource Guide*



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# Our Project: Objective

- Identify training gaps and systematic barriers that leave workers and community members vulnerable to hazards present before, during and after a disaster.



Meeting with NOWCRJ



Meeting with Resilience Force



Meeting with USW local 750 representative

## Encuesta sobre Preparación Individual para Emergencias

1. ¿Qué tipo de emergencias o desastres tienen más probabilidad de ocurrir en su comunidad? (Seleccione todas las que apliquen).

- Huracán
- Tornado
- Inundaciones
- Otro (escriba su respuesta en el blanco correspondiente): \_\_\_\_\_

2. ¿Se encontraba usted en New Orleans durante el Huracán Ida?

- Sí
- No

3. ¿Desalojó su casa o se quedó en ella? (Seleccione una respuesta)

- Desalojó mi casa
- Me quedé en ella
- No me aplica, (no estaba en New Orleans)

a. Si se quedó, ¿tenía un plan para saber qué hacer o improvisó? (Seleccione una respuesta)

- Tenía un plan preparado
- Improvisé
- No me aplica

b. Si se quedó, ¿qué peligros encontró/enfrentó? (Seleccione todas las que apliquen)

- No me aplica (no estaba en New Orleans)
- Árboles caídos
- Cables o líneas eléctricas
- Escombros
- Plagas o animales peligrosos
- Inundaciones
- Moho
- Crimen
- Calor extremo
- Otros (escriba su respuesta en el blanco correspondiente): \_\_\_\_\_

c. Si desalojó, ¿tenía información acerca de cómo proteger su casa?

- Sí
- No
- No me aplica

4. ¿Sabe lo que es un "kit"/bolsa de emergencias?

- Sí
- No

5. ¿Tiene un "kit" de emergencias en su hogar?

# Data Collection: Tool 1

- Survey questionnaire for workers
- Focus on individual safety and preparedness
- Used to see what knowledge people have/trainings they desire
- Taken online or with paper copies depending on population
- Spanish and English versions

## Data Collection: Tool 2

- Interview tool for leadership of organizations
- Examines population served by the organization and how
- Spanish and English versions

### Organizational Staff/Leadership Interview Questions (Condensed)

1. Could you describe your organization and the services it provides?
2. Which population does your organization serve?
3. Can you describe their needs?
4. What is the role your organization plays in disaster preparedness or clean up?
5. What is your organization's emergency plan in case of disasters?
6. What are some of the hazards (both natural and human-made) your organization and community members are exposed to?
7. You mentioned [X hazard/s] as one/some your organization is more likely to encounter. Could you describe the ways in which you would address that/those hazards?
8. How do you communicate your plan to your membership?
9. Do your members receive trainings based on your emergency response plan?
10. Does your membership receive trainings from organizations other than your own? What type of trainings do you as an organization receive for emergencies?
11. Can you identify areas of your emergency response plan that need improvement?
12. Who are your key partners that can help you before and after a disaster?
  - a. What do those partners help you with?
13. What additional emergency preparedness trainings do you give to your membership, if any?
14. Are the training materials designed to fit the needs of your membership? (E.g. language, level of schooling, cultural settings, etc.)

- During your time working at [Place], have there been any emergencies or disasters?
- If YES
  - **Overall Experience**
    - What happened during the disaster?
    - What was that like for you? How did you handle it personally?
  - **Individual Preparedness/Response**
    - Did you have a plan with your family about what you would do if a disaster happened? Did the plan work?
      - If they didn't make a plan before, have they made one since?
      - If they had a plan before, have they changed it since?
    - After the disaster, did you have to do any cleanup at home, or anywhere else outside of your job? What was that like?
    - Did your workplace give you any suggestions or information about disaster preparedness or safety?
    - Did your [union local/CBO/etc] give you any suggestions or information?
  - **Workplace Preparedness/Response**
    - How did your company handle it? What was that like?
    - How did your workplace clean up after the disaster? [Ask them if they know what a hazard is, and give a definition if they need one] Were there any hazards in your workplace?
      - Did you or anyone have any injuries or issues during or after cleanup because of these or other hazards?
      - Did the [union/CBO/etc] have to step in? What did they do?
    - Do you think your company did a good job handling the disaster response? What could they have done better?
      - Is there anything your [union local/CBO/etc] could do—or is already doing—to improve this?
  - **Disaster Plans**
    - Had you practiced what would happen in a disaster before this at your workplace?
      - With your [union local/CBO/etc]?
    - Was that helpful?
    - Have they changed the plan since the disaster?
    - If they had worked at the company for multiple disasters, ask if they changed the plan between the two disasters, and if it went better the next time
  - **Support**
    - Did your company support you at all during the disaster, like continuing to pay you, or making sure you were informed? How about after the disaster?
    - Did you get support from anywhere else, like [union local/CBO/etc]?
    - What support did they give you?
    - What support do you wish you would have gotten?

## Data Collection: Tool 3

- Interview tool for workers
- Guide interview (not set list of questions)
- Multiple topics, such as
  - Disaster experiences
  - Past trainings
  - Support given from organizations
- Spanish and English versions



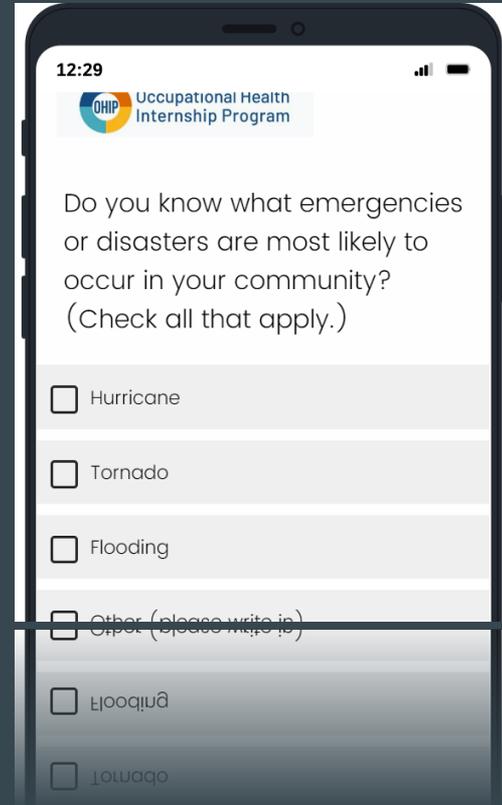
# Data Collection: Study Population

- Surveyed: 127; Interviewed: 460
- Community Based Organizations
  - Resilience Force
  - Familias Unidas
  - New Orleans Worker Center for Racial Justice
- Union Locals
  - Norco USW union local 13750
  - Westwego USW union local 1347
- Demographics
  - Unions were mixed between primarily White and Black males
  - Community groups served low income, often Central American immigrant workers



# Results: Summarized Findings

- Majority of the respondents were in New Orleans for Hurricane Ida (2021).
- Many individuals have not discussed an Emergency Preparedness Plan with their households.
- Majority of the respondents have not attended an Emergency Preparedness training or meeting before.





# Results: Comparisons Between Organizations Wanted Trainings

Organization	Survey Findings Trainings
NOWCRJ	>Preparing the House for a Hurricane, Evacuating Safely, Emergency Preparedness,Preparingan EmergencyKit .
Resilience Force	>Emergency Preparedness,Generator Safety, Water Safety, Mold Cleanup, Hurricane Hazards, Personal Protective Equipment, Emergency Response Resources,Preparingan EmergencyKit .
“Familias Unidas en Acción”	>EmergencyPreparednessFood Safety,DisasterCleanup, EvacuatingSafely, and Preparingan EmergencyKit .
United Steelworkers local 13750	>Water Safety,Mold Cleanup,EmergencyPreparedness
United Steelworkers local 13447	>GeneratorSafety,Water Safety,and DisasterCleanup.



# Final Product 1: Worker Narratives

- Collection of experiences, knowledge from workers of various backgrounds
- For the USW and TMC (sponsor orgs)
- Example: USW 13447 member





# Final Product 2: Survey Report

## Final Product 2: Survey Report

- Resilience Force
- Shared findings; statistical report
- Data as evidence of the needs of their members



# Final Product 3: Flyer

## Final Product 3: flyer

- For Resilience Force
- Based on survey findings
- Emergency Preparedness Kit flyer

## Mochila de Emergencia ¿Qué debemos incluir?



Alimentos no perecederos



Agua embotellada



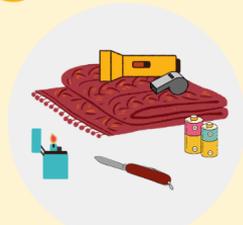
Artículos de aseo personal



Kit de primeros auxilios y medicamentos



Radio a baterías y cargador para el teléfono



Linterna, cuchilla, silbato, encendedor, etc.



# Project Challenges and Successes

Challenges	Successes
Coordinating meetings with CBOs and locals lack of time to perform official interviews	Field work with Resilience Force (44 interviews)
Could not access companies' EAPs in a time manner	Meeting with USW 13447 chair members
Vulnerable populations: language barriers and immigration status	127 survey responses, including online responses
Lack of time to refine our survey tool to match the population	Online Survey Tool; continuous survey mode



# Recommendations for Future Studies

- Longer-running project
- More personal interviews rather than surveys
- Investigate hard-to-reach workers
- Create interactive online resource about disaster preparedness for workers to access easily, at all times (request by USW union local 443)



# Personal Reflections

Natalie



Danielle





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