



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

USACE Safety and Occupational Health Functional Planning and Response Team

**6 November
2014**

FACT SHEET

- Mission- Enhance emergency operation mission success by reducing risk of incident or fatality resulting in serious loss across a wide variety of mission assignment activities in a cost effective manner.
- Comprised of 100+ USACE highly qualified and trained safety and occupational health professionals such as RFO Safety Managers, Field Safety Specialists, Industrial Hygienists, and Occupational Health Nurses (RNs- 6 of them)
- Divided into 9 teams (one in each division with one of them being in the Pacific Ocean region (Hawaii, Alaska, Korea, and Japan) and one compromised of USACE HQs and Centers
- Can deploy within 8 hours to anywhere in the world and specialize in safety during debris removal (including asbestos exposure control), tree operations, temporary roofing, temporary housing, medical and occupational health of responders, and temporary power.
- Successfully responded to the last 11 major emergency events to include Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Katrina, Alabama Tornado Recovery Event 2011, and the World Trade Center attack of 9/11
- Proven track record for successfully reducing risk/loss or life, property, and/or environment during emergency operations (Note that according to NIH, the average cost of a fatality is \$4 million when considering direct and indirect costs such as poor media publicity-2007)
 - **PRIOR TO SAFETY FUNCTIONAL PRT ESTABLISHMENT:**
 - 1989 Hurricane Hugo- NO USACE Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) systemic process in place. No safety records available because there was not a USACE SOH professional tracking. Seed of need established.

- 1992 Hurricane Andrew- 27 Lost Time Accident.
 - 1995 Hurricane Marilyn- USACE Safety professionals responded but were untrained in emergency operation safety related to specific ESF#3 mission assignments. Lessons learned after this event lead to the addition of a section in the USACE Safety and Health requirements manual, EM 385-1-1 APP B.
 - 1998 Hurricane Georges- Lost time accidents 18. Still no formal team with training and management. Staffing of Safety professionals difficult with one or two USACE divisions having to supply the safety pros. First iteration of our USACE EP 500-1-10 CH 7, Safety and Occupational Health developed.
- SOH FUNCTIONAL PRT/PROCESS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED in 2000- The need to professionally manage USACE safety and occupational health before, during, and after emergency deployments was systematically established and recognized by the USACE Leadership.
- AFTER USACE SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH FUNCTION PRT FORMALLY ESTABLISHED. Proof in the pudding.
 - 2005 Hurricane Katrina had only 4 lost time accidents total with over 100,000 blue roofs executed without one lost time accident. Due to formal development of the medical screening and clearance process by the SOH PRT, there was a 3% decrease of having to send deployed personnel home after deployment due to unidentified health issues and conflicts with deployment position duties.
 - 2011 Alabama Tornado Recovery- 4.1 million exposure hours with a lost time accident-
 - 2012 Hurricane Sandy- 2 USACE government lost time accidents and 5 contractor lost time accidents while removing 6 million cubic yards of debris
- USACE Safety professional training program established for all levels of safety responders from the RFO Safety Manager, Field Safety Specialist, and Occupational Health Nurse in the RFO. Have

provided training to volunteer organizations such as VOAD as well as other agencies and available anytime to provide FREE training to any agency in an effort to partner and reduce risk to the overall mission.

- USACE Safety Functional PRT has close relationships with the NRT Worker Safety and Health Subcommittee as well as OSHA Emergency Management where partnering results in decreased conflict during emergency operations enhancing mission success.
- USACE Safety and Occupational Health Emergency Planning and Response Program Manager, Jon M. Fentress
jon.m.fentress@usace.army.mil