Environmental Health Response to Chemical Emergencies

Course Instructors

Erik R. Janus, MS, is a toxicologist with the Michigan Department of Community Health. He splits his time between public health preparedness and environmental health related to chemical exposures. Prior to coming to Michigan, he was an environmental scientist and risk analyst for the US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine where he developed an expertise in the toxicology and environmental fate of chemical warfare agents, ecological and human health risk assessment, exposure assessment, and risk communication. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University with an MS in Environmental Science and Policy.

Mark D. Johnson, MSPH, PhD, DABT, is Senior Environmental Health Scientist with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). He is currently a member of several ATSDR workgroups, including those for Minimal Risk Level (MRL), Children’s Health, and Public Health Hazard Categories. He has worked with the U.S. EPA in the Superfund Program and was an assistant professor of pathology at Northwestern University Medical School, teaching and supervising a research laboratory in the Lurie Cancer Center.

Max Kiefer, BS, MS is Associate Director for Emergency Preparedness and Response, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). He began with CDC/NIOSH in 1991 as an industrial hygienist conducting health hazard evaluations in the Atlanta Field Office. Max has a BS in Environmental Health/Microbiology, a MS in Industrial Hygiene, and is an ABIH certified industrial hygienist (1987).

Michael T. Mason, MS, CIH, is a certified industrial hygienist in the Chemical Compliance Unit of the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG). He is responsible for ongoing oversight and management of MIOSHA disaster response efforts.

Steve Tackitt, RS, MPH, DAAS, is Health Officer for the Barry-Eaton District Health Department. He has extensive experience in representing public health and working with local, state and federal agencies and the news media in response to chemical emergencies.

Chris Weber, PhD, NREMT-B, is Deputy Director of the Washtenaw County Hazmat Team. He has been a firefighter for over 18 years. He has extensive experience in hazardous materials chemistry including a Ph.D. in Biological Chemistry from the University of Michigan and 15 years research experience in biomedical sciences. He has instructed hazardous materials courses at the national level and is a contract instructor for the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Training Center.