

Discussion points based upon presentations at the World Trade Center exposures panel (ISEA, October 2007)

- Congressman Price and every subsequent presenter emphasized the need to improve the integration of exposure science into the “scattered” world of homeland security. Congressman Price particularly noted the relative lack of consideration of environmental exposures in current planning for response to terrorism or to other disastersb
- Institutionalization of exposure science requires the exposure science community to work closely with the many professional groups already involved, as well as developing an understanding of the role of the incident command structure responding to disasters.

Discussion points based upon presentations at the World Trade Center exposures (2)

- Better environmental characterization of the short and long term exposures resulting from disasters requires new techniques and new protocols. It also requires better training.
- It is not clear whether training should be focused on developing the expertise of exposure scientists to better serve in response and rehabilitation, or on developing the expertise of emergency responders in exposure assessment. A major determinant of whether exposure scientists need to be part of the incident command response will be the complexity of the exposure technology and protocols.
- The four Rs of Rescue, Reentry, Recovery and Rehabilitation all require exposure assessment
- Accurately assessing exposure protects the responder and the general public. The data quality objective and resultant technology and protocols will differ depending upon the goals.

Discussion points based upon presentations at the World Trade Center exposures (3)

- Exposure science is integral to the public health response to terrorism and to the role of the public health infrastructure in this response.
- Improving the public health infrastructure is central to homeland security and to improving the role of exposure science
- Public health agencies need to provide a consistent set of guidelines for the role of the academic community in providing support for the nation's goals in homeland security