

Mollie Dworkin, MS

Environmental Scientist, Delaware Division of Public Health, Office of Preparedness

COMPETITIVE DIVISION – PRACTITIONER

Developing Recovery and Hazmat Plans from a Public Health Perspective

The State of Delaware is among the smallest in the United States but is ranked at number six for population density averaging about 500 people per square mile of land. According to the Delaware Public Health Hazard Vulnerability Analysis, special hazards that Delaware faces include pandemic, coastal storms, hurricanes, Nor'easters, flood, utility interruption, infectious disease outbreak, winter storms, hazardous material release/chemical terrorism, conventional explosive, nuclear facility incident/radiological dispersal device, and biological terrorism. Due to the size and organization of the state, there are no local health departments, only the State Delaware Division of Public Health, which is housed under the Department of Health and Social Services. Local and state government workers wear many hats to best serve the State of Delaware.

To continuously and aggressively maintain emergency preparedness, local and state government workers meet regularly at various committee meetings, planning meetings, working groups, public hearings, status update conference calls, and other events as they arise. In Delaware, we leverage some of these existing meetings to receive feedback, share resources, and develop planning committees to address emergency preparedness needs throughout the state. Currently, the Delaware Division of Public Health is working on a hazardous materials plan annex,

updating the Departmental Disaster Recovery Center Plan, and in the beginning stages of developing a Departmental Recovery Plan.

Presentation Theme: The theme of this poster presentation will include experience connected to emergency management and preparedness. Specifically, the Delaware Division of Public Health, Office of Preparedness presents its experience on working through multi-agency-related emergency management issues on: responding to hazardous materials incidents and recovery plans.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research:

Timothy Cooper, MA, CEM - Director, Delaware Division of Public Health, Office of Preparedness; Shawn Foster, MA - Principal Planner, Delaware Division of Public Health, Office of Preparedness; Steven Blessing, MA - Section Chief, Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness Section

Funding: CDC-Public Health Emergency Preparedness