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#### Developing a Bureau-Level Incident Response Program: Lessons from the Ottawa Lake Diesel Spill

This poster showcases how a real-world environmental emergency-the Ottawa Lake Diesel Spill-served as a foundation for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Environmental Health Bureau's development of a bureau level Incident Response Program (IRP). Leveraging FEMA's Continuous Improvement Processes and the CDC's PHEP capabilities, the response was rigorously analyzed to assess current system readiness, identify capability gaps, and develop structured actions. Findings led to the creation of a tailored IRP including formalized operational plans, a training framework, and a virtual operations center model. This initiative demonstrates how incident-based learning can be used to strategically construct sustainable and scalable emergency management programs for state and local environmental health programs.

**Presentation Theme:** This poster highlights how the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Environmental Health Bureau applied lessons from the Ottawa Lake Diesel Spill to build a sustainable and scalable Incident Response Program (IRP). Grounded in emergency management principles, it reflects practical experience and applied

research by integrating FEMA's Continuous Improvement Process and CDC PHEP capabilities. The session emphasizes how analyzing real-world incidents can drive the development of structured response systems, close capability gaps, and enhance overall readiness within environmental health and public health preparedness frameworks.

**Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research: N/a.**