



## Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists Disaster Epidemiology Subcommittee

The CSTE Disaster Epidemiology Subcommittee is intended to bring together various topic areas of epidemiology including acute and communicable disease, environmental health, occupational health, chronic disease, injury, mental health, and behavioral health. The Subcommittee convenes these disciplines to develop unified and collaborative epidemiologic approaches towards improving emergency preparedness and disaster response capacities at local, state, regional, and national levels following natural disasters and other emergencies. Using principles of epidemiology, emergency preparedness planning and a coordinated disaster response are critical for: describing the distribution of injuries, illnesses, and disabilities; rapidly detecting outbreaks or clusters; identifying and implementing timely interventions; evaluating the impacts of public health efforts; and improving public health preparedness planning.

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**To join the Subcommittee, become a CSTE member today! If you are already a member, sign up to be on our distribution list by following the directions on page 5.**

### **Disaster Epidemiology Subcommittee Monthly Calls:**

The subcommittee has monthly calls on the third Wednesday of every month from 2:00-3:00PM EST.

### **Disaster Epidemiology Subcommittee Work Groups:**

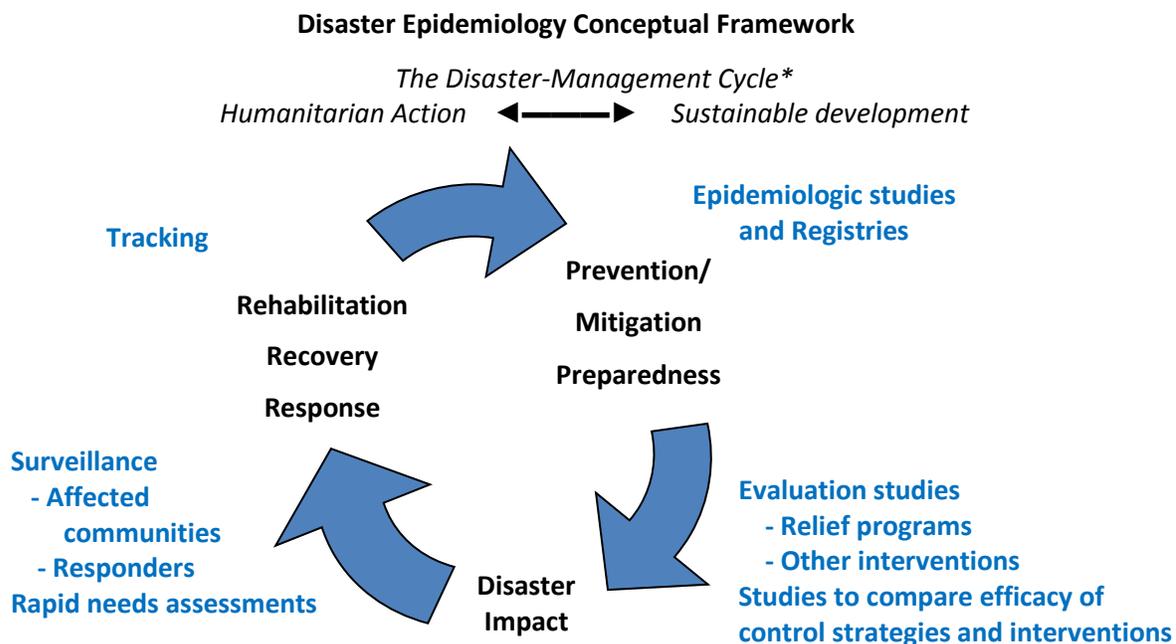
The Subcommittee currently has three work groups that CSTE members can join: the Disaster Epidemiology Toolkit Work Group, the Disaster Mental Health Surveillance Work Group and the Shelter Surveillance Work Group. The Toolkit Work Group is currently focusing on making disaster epidemiology resources readily available and enhancing the current website. The Mental Health Work Group works to enhance the use of disaster epidemiology tools and better integrate mental health into disaster epidemiology. The Shelter Surveillance Work Group is identifying tools and methods that currently exist for shelter surveillance during disasters.



Although not a work group, some members of the committee are creating a Disaster Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness capabilities crosswalk to provide resources to health departments on disaster epidemiology tools that are available to help meet the capabilities.

### Disaster Epidemiology Framework:

Below is a conceptual model for a disaster's phases and the community's response using disaster epidemiological tools. For example, conducting surveillance of first responders during the response and recovery phase and conducting epidemiological studies in the prevention/mitigation phase.



\* The Role of Applied Epidemiology Methods in the Disaster Management Cycle, AJP. In Press

### Archived Disaster Epidemiology Webinars of Interest:

- Webinar Recording: Disaster Epidemiology 101 posted on the CSTE webinar library <http://cste.site-ym.com/?page=WebinarLibrary>
- 5th Annual CSTE Disaster Epidemiology Workshop, May 14-15, 2014 in Atlanta, GA
  - Presentations made available at: <http://cste.site-ym.com/?DisasterEpiWrksp2>
- Webinar Recording: Using Electronic Death Registration Systems (EDRS) to Conduct Real-Time Disaster Mortality Surveillance <http://cste.site-ym.com/?page=WebinarLibrary>

### CSTE DE Subcommittee Publications:

- Disaster surveillance capacity in the United States: Results from the 2012 CSTE assessment [http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/EnvironmentalHealth/Disaster\\_Epi\\_Baseline731KM.pdf](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/EnvironmentalHealth/Disaster_Epi_Baseline731KM.pdf)
- Disaster Mental Health Surveillance at State Health Agencies: Results from a 2013 CSTE Assessment <http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/EnvironmentalHealth/DMHSFinalReport.pdf>

- The Role of Applied Epidemiology Methods in the Disaster Management Cycle, American Journal of Public Health  
<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdfplus/10.2105/AJPH.2014.302010>

### Trainings:

- Regional Trainings: The CDC is currently hosting a 2-day training on three disaster epidemiology skill areas (Community Assessments for Public Health Emergency Response, Assessing Chemical Exposures, and Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance) in various regions across the country. Contact Amy Schnall (770-488-3422, [ghu5@cdc.gov](mailto:ghu5@cdc.gov)) for additional information or to request a training session be offered in your jurisdiction.
- If you would like a presentation on Disaster Epidemiology for your health department or organization, please contact Jessica Wurster. We currently have a *Disaster Epidemiology 101* presentation that reviews current tools and resources that may be useful for health departments and organizations responding to disasters.

### Helpful Disaster Epidemiology Links:

- CDC Disaster Epidemiology Community of Practice – The DECoP, formally known as the Disaster Surveillance Workgroup (DSWG), is a collaborative group of CDC, other federal and state partners established to provide technical resources to partners; expand use of disaster surveillance tools; and evaluate tools and guidelines to improve situational awareness and response activities. They have launched a community of practice SharePoint site on disaster epidemiology and you are invited to participate in this online community. The purpose of the DECoP SharePoint is to utilize tools made available through the site and collaborate with state and federal partners by communicating information to others during an actual disaster event.
  - Request access by emailing your full name, address, email address, and contact phone number to Amy Schnall at [GHU5@cdc.gov](mailto:GHU5@cdc.gov).
- CSTE Disaster Epidemiology Website: <http://www.cste.org/group/DisasterEpi>
- CDC Health Studies Branch Disaster Website:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/disaster/default.htm>
- Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER):  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/disaster/casper.htm>
  - Following any type of disaster, public health and emergency management professionals must be prepared to respond to and meet the needs of the affected public. The Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) enables public health practitioners and emergency management officials to determine rapidly the health status and basic needs of the affected community. CASPER uses valid statistical

Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) Toolkit



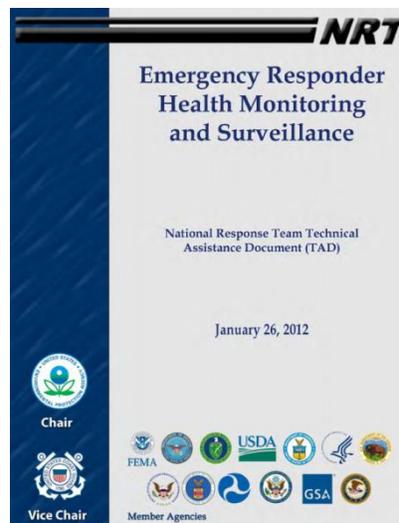
Second Edition

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
 National Center for Environmental Health  
 Environmental Hazards and Health Effects  
 Health Studies Branch

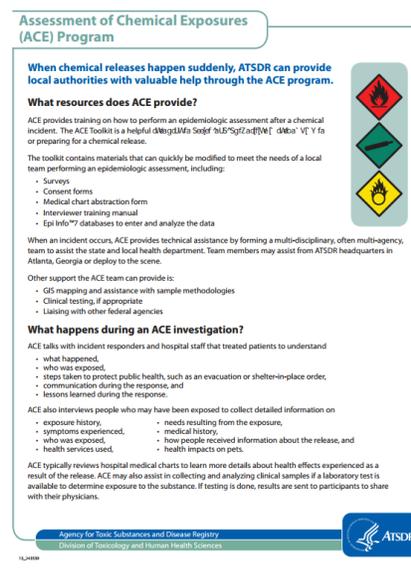


methods to gather information about health and basic needs, allowing public health and emergency managers to prioritize their response and distribution of resources accurately

- Emergency Responder Health and Safety Monitoring System (ERHMS): <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/erhms/>
  - NIOSH worked with the U.S. National Response Team (NRT), and a number of federal agencies, state health departments, labor unions, and volunteer emergency responder groups to develop the Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS) system. The ERHMS provides guidelines for protecting emergency responders over a full range of emergency types and settings. It is for use by all who are involved in deployment and protection of emergency responders. This includes incident management and response organization leadership, health, safety and medical personnel, and emergency responders.



- Assessment of Chemical Exposure (ACE): <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ntsip/ace.html>
  - When toxic substance spills or chemical emergencies happen, ATSDR helps state and local health departments by providing ACE resources to perform a rapid epidemiologic assessment. ACE provides training on how to perform an epidemiologic assessment after a chemical incident. The ACE Toolkit is a helpful resource to assist local authorities in responding to or preparing for a chemical release. The toolkit contains materials that can quickly be modified to meet the needs of a local team performing an epidemiologic assessment. When an incident occurs ACE provides technical assistance by forming a multi-disciplinary, often multi-agency, team to assist the state and local health department.

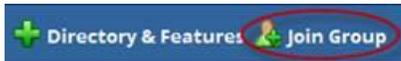


## Join the CSTE Disaster Epidemiology Subcommittee!

To join the CSTE Disaster Epidemiology Subcommittee distribution list and participate on our monthly conference calls and webinars, you must be a CSTE member. To identify the membership level that is right for you, follow these instructions:

### To join this Subcommittee distribution list

- If you're a current CSTE member, sign-in to the website ([www.cste.org](http://www.cste.org)) to choose your groups of interest. If you do not remember your password, please use the "forgot your password" feature on the home page.
- If you are not a CSTE member, [we'd like you to join](https://cste.site-ym.com/?page=JoinCSTE) (<https://cste.site-ym.com/?page=JoinCSTE>)!
- If you're not ready to join, you'll need to enroll as a guest non-member to remain on CSTE's distribution list. To do so, [click here](https://cste.site-ym.com/general/register_member_type.asp?) ([https://cste.site-ym.com/general/register\\_member\\_type.asp?](https://cste.site-ym.com/general/register_member_type.asp?)) and enroll as a guest non-member using this promotional code: [GUEST14-3].
- To join the Disaster Epidemiology Subcommittee distribution list, sign in to the website, visit the [DE page](http://www.cste.org/group/DisasterEpi) (<http://www.cste.org/group/DisasterEpi>), and then click "Join Group" on the banner at the top of the page. Once you have done this, you will receive all emails from me that are intended for the OH Surveillance Subcommittee.



- Finally, please click through the other program area pages and join different groups that may be of interest

