

**NIEHS Disaster Research Response Tabletop Exercise Assessment  
Appendix C. Survey Questions**

**Disaster Research Response Exercise Evaluation**

**Basics and Capacity**

**Thank you for participating in this survey. As you have read in a previous email from Dr. Aubrey Miller, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences is conducting a follow-up evaluation focused on outcomes from three table top exercises. Based on your participation at the exercise(s), we are interested in learning about any new activities, outcomes, or collaborations with other organizations that have developed.**

**Your responses will help us as we move forward with our commitment to encourage disaster research and help shape disaster research tabletop exercises in the future. Your response will not take more than 15 minutes and will greatly contribute to the future of the NIH Disaster Research Response Program. Summary results will be shared following the evaluation.**

**If you wish to remain anonymous, you may leave blank any information that you feel may identify you. You may also choose to provide your name, which will also be kept confidential, but is greatly appreciated as it will allow us to follow up on any questions or items of interest.**

**\*Indicates a required response to indicate which event was attended**

1. Name

2. City, State

3. Institution or Organization

\* 4. In which DR2 Table Top Exercise(s) did you participate? *(Select all that apply)*

Boston [2016]

Houston [2015]

Los Angeles [2014]

5. Are you, or have you ever been, an NIH grantee?

Yes

No

6. From your participation in the exercise(s), which of the following did you find to be beneficial? (Select all that apply)

- I don't remember much from the event
- Understanding the importance of disaster research
- Understanding local response capabilities to collect information or perform needed studies
- Understanding local emergency response procedures and processes
- Meeting potential disaster responders
- Meeting potential academic collaborators
- New data collection tools and resources
- Discussing IRB requirements
- Exploring community-based participatory research
- Discussing health and safety considerations and training
- Other (please specify)

7. Since the exercise(s), have you or your organization made any revisions to the following disaster research items: (Select all that apply)

- Protocols and/or guidelines for research deployment
- Data collection instruments for research deployment
- Committees/working groups
- Call-down rosters of experts or others to assist with disaster research
- Training
- Exercises
- Funding requests
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) processes, procedures, or practices
- Nothing Yet
- Other (please specify)

8. Since the exercise(s), have you participated in any new disaster research focused meetings, collaborations, or activities, either formally or informally?

- Yes
- No

Please describe any reasons you may not have any new activities

## Disaster Research Response Exercise Evaluation

### Collaboration

9. Did you initiate the meetings, collaborations, or activities?

- No- I was approached about these efforts
- Yes- I initiated these effort

10. You indicated that you reached out to, or were approached by an organization about collaborating in activities related to disaster research. With whom did or do you now collaborate? *(Select all that apply)*

- Academic organization
- State or local government agency
- Community organization or Advocate
- Trainers or Worker representative
- Private industry
- Federal agency or Contractor

Name of collaborating organizations (optional)

11. Are any of these activities or collaborations with organizations that did not participate in the exercise(s)?

- Yes
- No

Please describe the name and type of these organizations:

12. What was the result of this collaboration?

- No major results. Discussions and activities have ceased
- On-going informal discussions, activities and collaborations (e.g., guest lectures, casual calls, information discussion)
- Committed engagement (e.g., routine meetings, working groups, co-authorship, etc. in the absence of a formal signed agreement)
- A formal agreement or effort is in place (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding, contract, inter-agency agreement)

If collaboration is ongoing, please describe the nature of the collaboration and the individual: (i.e., included in a grant proposal, met to formally determine a working relationship, consulted on a worker training program's curriculum.)

## Disaster Research Response Exercise Evaluation

### Pre-Post Capacity

13. How would you rate your organization's capability to support or perform disaster research **before the (first) exercise** you attended?

- We had no capacity to perform disaster research
- Some components existed, but we needed considerable assistance
- We could perform basic disaster research functions on a limited basis
- We could perform most of the activities associated with disaster research
- We had a fully capable program, but had not performed research
- We had a fully capable program that performed disaster research
- Our organization's mission does not include conducting or supporting disaster research

14. How would you rate your organization's capability to perform disaster research **since the exercise(s)**?

- We have no capacity to perform disaster research
- Some components now exist, but we need still considerable assistance
- We can now perform basic disaster research functions on a limited basis
- We can now perform most of the activities associated with disaster research
- We now have a fully capable program, but have not performed research
- We now have a fully capable program and have performed disaster research
- Our organization's mission does not include conducting or supporting disaster research

15. Since the exercise, have you or your organization been included in, or added to any new disaster research activities such as: *(Select all that apply)*

- Committees/working groups
- Development of disaster research plans, rosters etc..
- Trainings
- Exercises
- Funding requests/proposals
- Preparedness planning
- Community groups/ Environmental justice efforts
- Nothing yet
- Other (please specify)

16. Please indicate how challenging these capacity issues are to **establishing a disaster research program or policy** at your organization or community:

	Biggest Challenge	Major Challenge	Somewhat of a Challenge	Lesser Challenge	Least Challenging	N/A
Lack of funding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of leadership support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No career track for disaster research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of interest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of Health and Safety program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Administrative bureaucracy (e.g., IRB, logistics, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For 'Other' challenges, please describe:

## Disaster Research Response Exercise Evaluation

### DR2 Tools

17. During the exercise(s), the new DR2 website (<https://dr2.nlm.nih.gov/>) was introduced as a resource for tools and disaster research training and information. Have you visited that site, hosted by the National Library of Medicine?

Yes

No

## Disaster Research Response Exercise Evaluation

18. During your visit to the site, which of the following did you complete: *select all that apply*)

- Downloaded a research protocol
- Searched or downloaded some of the data collection tools
- Downloaded a publication, report, training materials, or other information
- Reviewed the site for general information

Please provide any recommended additions or modifications to the website

## Disaster Research Response Exercise Evaluation

### Role in Disaster Research

19. In order to understand your specific role or interest in disaster research, please select which field below most closely describes your professional affiliation in regard to disaster research:

- Academic/researcher
- Community representative or local advocate
- Federal agency employee or contractor
- Industry or business representative
- Workers and worker trainers
- State or local government- Emergency management
- State or local government- Public health
- State or local government - Other [Environment, Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, etc.]
- I represent an agency or organization involved in research, health or response in a location outside of the U.S.

## Disaster Research Response Exercise Evaluation

### Local Public Health

20. Since your participation in the exercise(s) have you:(*Select all that apply*)

- Explored your organization's capacity to conduct or support disaster research without external assistance?
- Considered topics of interest to your organization that research could inform?
- Considered questions such as long-term health outcomes that could be investigated after a disaster?
- Consulted with local scientists or universities regarding a health threat?
- Explore partnerships with an organization to supplement your capability to perform surveillance and research?
- Other

If yes to any of the above, please note topics of interest, potential research topics or provide links, citations here:

## Disaster Research Response Exercise Evaluation

### Emergency Management

21. Since your participation in the exercise(s) have you:(*Select all that apply*)

- Explored ways to support or integrate disaster research or researchers into response?
- Developed a place in the Incident Command System for scientists?
- Explored the potential for research to improve management and response?
- Outlined training requirements for a scientist or researcher to safely join a response?
- Considered questions such as long-term health outcomes that could be investigated after a disaster?
- Other

If yes to any of the above, please describe:

## Disaster Research Response Exercise Evaluation

### Academic

22. Since your participation in the exercise(s) have you:(*Select all that apply*)

- Published literature or reports on disaster research?
- Participated in disaster research?
- Included disaster research in a funding proposal/request?
- Submitted a disaster research specific proposal?
- Designed a disaster research protocol?
- Worked to advance institutional review board (IRB) policies or processes for disaster research?
- Begun to identify experts and skills within your institution able to address specific research issues and needs?
- Developed a plan to support deployment to a disaster site (concept of operations)?
- Other

If yes to any of the above, please provide links, citations, names or descriptions here:

## Disaster Research Response Exercise Evaluation

### Workers

23. Since your participation in the exercise(s) have you: *(Select all that apply)*

- Published literature or reports on disaster research?
- Participated in training for disaster researchers?
- Developed a training for disaster research?
- Changed your training to include concepts from the event?
- Included disaster research in a funding proposal/request?
- Other

If yes or Other to any of the above, please provide links, citations, or names here:

## Disaster Research Response Exercise Evaluation

### Attendee Actions

24. Since your participation in the exercise(s) have you: (*Select all that apply*)

- Continued to participate in, or be interested in, furthering your ability to support or participate in disaster research?
- Considered activities such as Citizen Science as a tool for research in disasters?
- Considered a role for your organization in disaster research and/or response?
- Developed new processes, guidelines, or policies for your agency related to involvement in disaster research?
- Other

If yes to any of the above, please describe:

## Disaster Research Response Exercise Evaluation

### Federal Staff or Contractor

25. Since your participation in the exercise(s) have you: *Select all that apply*

- Continued to participate in, or be interested in, furthering your ability to support or participated in disaster research?
- Considered inclusion of activities such as Citizen Science to help support research in disasters?
- Worked on activities to further a role for your organization in disaster research and/or response?
- Developed new processes, guidelines, or policies for your agency related to involvement in disaster research?
- Other

Other (please specify)

## Disaster Research Response Exercise Evaluation

### Community Involvement

26. Each exercise involved vulnerable populations who have been disproportionately impacted by existing environmental hazards and risks. Do you now consider the environmental health issues brought up by these communities, e.g., health disparities, as part of your disaster planning and response?

- Yes- It was considered before the exercise(s) and remains an important consideration
- Yes- It was *not* a part of our work before the exercise(s) but now is
- No- Before the exercise and no to little progress since

If not, please describe

## Disaster Research Response Exercise Evaluation

### Sustaining a Program

27. Please rate the most challenging capacity issues to your organization **maintaining an ongoing presence in a disaster setting**:

	Biggest Challenge	Major Challenge	Somewhat of a Challenge	Lesser Challenge	Least Challenging	N/A
Funding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personnel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research tools access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Subject matter experts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understanding of the process for conducting research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

For 'Other' please describe

Final Thoughts

28. Was your participation in the exercise of value to you and your organization?

Please describe

29. What do you consider the most important topics and concepts for the future of disaster research?

30. Please provide any additional comments, feedback or thoughts you would like to share. [We are especially interested in details of activities, actual response, or other collaborations inspired by the exercise(s).]

**THANK YOU** for your contribution to this important evaluation and for taking the time to share your thoughts with us!

## Appendix C

### FOLLOW\_UP INTERVIEW PHONE SURVEY

#### OF PARTICIPANTS IN DISASTER RESPONSE RESEARCH TABLE TOP EXERCISES

in Boston, Houston, and/or Los Angeles

**To be completed on or before July 15, 2017**

*[Internal note: Questions in this document are meant to be used as a guide to generate discussion. Most, but not all questions will be asked and the exact wording of questions may be changed by the interviewer depending on the flow of the discussion or the interviewee. Our main goal is to figure out if the exercises have had impact on the organization's disaster research capability and capacity and not necessarily activities/collaborations/relationships happening regardless of exercise participation.]*

*Verbally read:* As you read in an email from Dr. Aubrey Miller, the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences is conducting a follow-up evaluation, to find out what collaborations, new research, or other activities may have emerged, in whole or in part, following your attendance at one of three disaster response research table top exercises. We hope you have taken the survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/59SD3BG>.) If not, we hope you will take the time to do so. A partially completed survey is better than none! Your responses to the survey and this interview will help us as we move forward with our commitment to encourage needed research to support communities and decision-makers in response to disasters.

This interview will not take longer than 30 minutes. Responses will remain confidential, unless you grant us permission to share with others as deemed appropriate.

**Name:**

Do you wish for this interview to remain confidential? (Your name will not be used in a report, under any circumstances, without your permission. However, if you give permission, we would like to be able to share your responses, with your identity, with those that organized the meetings, in order to help prepare future exercises and to improve our disaster research capabilities. We would also like to share your success stories with other stakeholders as part of the report.)

Remain confidential \_\_\_ OK to share\_\_\_

**City:**

**State:**

**Institution:**

**Ties to the disaster response community (affiliation)?**

- Academic/researcher
- Community representative or local advocate
- Federal agency employee or contractor
- Industry or business representative
- Worker trainer/Worker representative
- State or local government emergency management
- State or local government public health
- State or local government, other [Police, environment etc.]

**Exercise(s) attended**

- Los Angeles
- Houston
- Boston

**Background Experience with Disasters**

*[Internal note: Questions to help to understand the individual's experience with disaster and disaster research]*

1. Have you had a significant experience with a disaster that has affected your community (i.e., Preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation)?
  - If yes, please describe.
2. Have you ever participated in a disaster research or data collection project?
  - If yes, describe the project and results and disaster

**Pre/Post Exercise Impacts**

*[Internal Note: Core set of questions that target the impacts (e.g., relationships, collaborations, activities, etc.) of the exercise—If there were impacts resulting from the exercise, what were they and how did it happen (success story)? If there was no impact, please ask the interviewee why. Make sure that questions are asked in the context of “as a result your participation in the exercise”]*

3. [all] How did the exercise change your thinking about the need for collecting important information through timely research as part of disaster response? How do exercises like these change state and local understanding and preparedness to support or perform disaster research?
4. Pre/Post Results:
  - [Academics] Did the exercise in any way change your interest in participating in or performing needed research in response to a disaster? If so, how?

## NIEHS Disaster Research Response Tabletop Exercise Assessment

### Appendix C. Interview Questions

- [Public health, emergency managers] Did the exercise in any way encourage you to include disaster science/research in your thinking and/or actions related to disaster response. If so, how?
  - [Local PH and EM] As a result of the exercise, did you make any changes to your response/recovery actions that include disaster related research components? If so, please describe.
  - [Community members] How did the exercise change you and your community's view about disaster research? How likely are you to collaborate with other organizations or agencies to conduct disaster research?
5. [all] Have you been involved in any new relationships, activities, and/or collaborations with others who attended the exercise or any other groups?
- If not, have you thought about any for the future? If no, and you were approached by a party wanting to collaborate, how likely would you be to explore the possibilities?
  - If yes, how did it happen and what have been the results? Can you share success stories and any challenges in the process?
6. [all] As a result of the exercise, has your capacity and/or capability to support, participate in, or conduct disaster research changed. If so, how? If not, why? If possible, please list some examples.
7. What can the National Institutes of Health do to help promote or further disaster research in your organization or locale? For the nation?  
(Variation for local governments—What can NIH or its grantees do, to help you address disaster research related issues?)
8. Please share with us any anecdotes or stories about your interests or participation in disaster research related activities as they may relate to the tabletop exercise or subsequently.

#### Other Topic Areas (if there is time and as appropriate)

*[Make sure to frame in the context of the exercise and DR2 Program]*

1. During the exercise, a new website for tools and disaster research resources was discussed. Have you visited that site (the DR2 website at <https://dr2.nlm.nih.gov>) hosted by the NIH/National Library of Medicine?
- If yes, what was your overall impression?

## NIEHS Disaster Research Response Tabletop Exercise Assessment

### Appendix C. Interview Questions

- Have you read or used any of the information or training materials from the website?
  - Have you downloaded any information such as protocols or data collection tools from that site? Have you used any of these tools?
2. Based on the discussions from the exercise, how can NIEHS better communicate disaster research information to researchers, local government, and communities following any disaster?
  3. The safety and health of anyone conducting disaster research is a big component of the DR2 and a key discussion during the exercise. From what you heard from the exercise, what, if any, specific training types and content do you feel should be required for a researcher to safely work in a disaster setting? Have you participated in the NIEHS Working Training Program disaster site trainings?
  4. During the exercise, speakers discussed the potential for a 'national network of disaster scientists'. Do you feel you could play a role in such a network? Do you think a network such as this could be useful to your organization?
    - Please explain.
  5. During the exercise(s), collaboration was a key theme: How important do you think collaborations are for improving the potential for disaster research?
    - Do you feel collaborations can help research proposals to get funding?
    - Who do you feel needs to collaborate to successfully research disasters? Do you have any examples of successful collaborations in the field?
  6. In your opinion, based on what you experienced at the exercise(s), which organization has **primary** responsibility for including disaster research into disaster response - academics, public health, emergency management, other – and why?

Thank you for your time!