



2025 Environmental Health Summit

Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness Agenda

October 15, 2025, Daily Double Ballroom, Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs NY

Time	Event	Speaker(s)	Learning Objectives
8:15-8:45 AM	Registration		
8:45-9:00 AM	Welcoming Remarks	Sarah Ravenhall, Executive Director, NYSACHO	
9:00-10:00 AM	Keynote: Guardians of Public Health: Environmental Health's Strategic Role in Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery	Gina Bare, Director, Program and Partnership Development <i>National Environmental Health Association</i>	1) Participants will be able to articulate the unique value environmental health professionals bring to disaster response. 2) Participants will be able to describe how proactive partnerships between environmental health professionals and regulated businesses enhance community resilience and expedite disaster response and recovery efforts.
10:00-10:15 AM	Networking Break		
10:15-11:45 AM	Extreme Heat/Weather Local Initiatives	Panel Presentation	
	Seneca County: <i>Addressing Emergency Preparedness through the Healthy Neighborhoods Program</i>	Andrew Rude, Public Health Educator/Emergency Planner Katelynn Jones, Public Health Sanitarian <i>Seneca County Health Department</i>	1) Develop actionable strategies to address barriers to extreme weather preparedness in your jurisdiction. 2) Demonstrate how to use existing resources to implement a community-based emergency preparedness initiative.
	Oswego County: <i>Cloudy Skies-Clear Messages</i>	Diane Oldenburg, Associate Public Health Educator	1) Name the 5 elements of message content to help residents make decisions during severe weather.

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		<i>Oswego County Health Department</i>	2) Identify populations at risk in their community and trusted messengers for those communities.
	<i>New York City: Hot Weather and Food Safety</i>	Wendy McKelvey, PhD, MS, Executive Director Bureau of Environmental Surveillance and Policy <i>NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene</i>	1) Understand specific challenges restaurants face in complying with food safety requirements during extreme heat. 2) Understand research methods used to measure food safety risks associated with hot weather.
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM	<i>Working Lunch: Personal Preparedness, Professional Strength (Poll/ Discussion Activity)</i>	Facilitator: Cristina Dyer-Drobnack, Public Policy/Program Director, NYSACHO	1) Analyze how personal experiences with disasters or emergencies influence your ability to empathize with and effectively assist the communities you serve. 2) Identify specific actions and resources to strengthen personal and family preparedness that support your role in emergency response and recovery.
1:00 – 2:15 PM	<i>Preparedness Planning: Tools for Environmental Health</i>	Stephanie Notar, Public Health Preparedness Representative III Jenesse Murray, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Representative III Office of Health Emergency Preparedness, New York State Department of Health	1) Discuss the all-hazards approach for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) planning 2) Describe best practices for PHEP plans 3) Highlight the importance of hazard vulnerability analysis for emergency planning 4) Review the planning cycle 5) Create or update preparedness plans

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	<i>Strengthening Local Preparedness: Supporting Local Health Departments Through Shared Best Practices</i>	Victoria Fish, Disaster Preparedness Program Representative 2 NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services	6) To empower attendees with the understanding that preparedness is not an overnight activity, but instead an ongoing series of systematic and deliberate actions that strengthen the ability to respond to emergencies or disasters.
2:15-2:45 PM	<i>Extreme Weather Risks: Understanding Weather Alerts and Warning Systems</i>	Stephen DiRienzo, Warning Coordination Meteorologist National Weather Service, Albany NY	1) Describe how the National Weather Service (NWS) uses the Emergency Activation System (EAS) and FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to issue weather hazard alerts to the public. 2) Understand the thresholds and decision-making criteria the NWS uses to determine when to issue weather hazard alerts.

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2:45 – 4:00 PM	<i>Building Resilience: Environmental Health Partner Planning Activity</i>	Facilitators: Cristina Dyer-Drobnack, Public Policy/Program Director Robert Viets Program Director NYSACHO	1) Analyze the range of community and institutional partners involved in environmental health emergency preparedness, response, and recovery, and determine their potential roles and resources. 2) Evaluate potential hazards and risks—both immediate and long-term—associated with specific environmental emergencies and assess how these risks impact regulated facilities and community well-being. 3) Develop strategies or action steps to strengthen partnerships and close identified gaps in preparedness, response, and recovery planning for environmental health emergencies.