

Public Health Research and Surveillance Priorities from the East Palestine, Ohio Train Derailment

Centering the Community When Contemplating Research After a Disaster

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Guiding Principles for Community Engagement

- **Cultural competence and inclusiveness**
- **First do no harm**
- **Honesty**
- **Confidentiality**
- **Productive use of resources**
- **Effective communication**
- **Commitment to advocacy**
- **Education and co-learning**
- **Sound science**

Some Perspective

- 1,164 train derailments in 2022 (Federal Railroad Administration)
 - 3 per day!
- 150 serious chemical incidents a year in the U.S. (EPA)
 - 1 every 2-3 days

Glendive, MT 01/2015



Honolulu, HI
11/2021

Observations

- Assessing and addressing community needs are a necessary components of a response
 - Engagement can take many forms
- Identifying the “community” can be a challenge
- Need to build and maintain trust
- Need to be able to clearly communicate what you know and what you don't know
- Timeliness of data/information release is important but can be a challenge

Needs

- Support local and state health departments
 - Community Engagement Playbook
- Coordination across federal and state agencies
- Provide information of toxic substances
- Conduct health assessments
 - Short-term and long-term
- Physician education and training
 - Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units
- Address mental health impacts
 - Community Stress Resource Center