

NACOSH Work Group for Emergency Responder Preparedness Program

Establishment of the Work Group

SUMMARY

OSHA is assembling subject matter experts to comprise a work group to assist in the development of regulatory text for a proposed Emergency Responder Preparedness Program standard. OSHA has invited subject matter experts who have a strong background and extensive knowledge regarding the day-to-day operations performed by emergency responders. The standard is expected to focus primarily on protection for those who respond to emergencies as a part of their regular duties, with the exception of responders involved in criminal law enforcement activities. The draft regulatory text developed by the work group will be submitted to the full NACOSH for their review, and advice and recommendation to the Secretary, through OSHA, in accordance with the Advisory Committee Charter.

DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATORY TEXT

This rule will replace in its entirety, the current §1910.156, Fire brigade standard. OSHA has developed draft regulatory text for the work group to use as a starting point. An outline of the draft regulatory text is attached for reference. OSHA expects the work group may establish subgroups to facilitate development of regulatory text, as some members may be better suited for specific portions or topics, based on their expertise. The subgroups will report back to the work group for coordination of a final document to be reviewed by the full NACOSH.

RESPONDERS COVERED

The focus of the rule is primarily on those employers with workers who respond to emergencies as part of their regularly assigned duties. Examples include: workplace emergency response teams, industrial and municipal fire fighters, technical rescuers, emergency medical service providers, etc. Secondary focus will include those who may be called upon, from time to time, to respond to emergencies. Examples include: skilled support workers with construction/demolition experience, tow truck operators, etc.

WORK GROUP COMPOSITION and TIME COMMITMENT

The work group will be co-chaired by NACOSH members Lamont Byrd and Rick Ingram. OSHA has invited 12 stakeholder organizations and agencies (list attached) to each nominate a subject matter expert with expertise in emergency response and preparedness. Each stakeholder participated in the July 2014 stakeholder meetings and some responded to the 2007 request for information. It is anticipated that the work group will meet twice year, with the subgroups meeting more often, as needed. The first meeting of the work group is expected to be held this summer.

(Attachment: Outline of draft regulatory text)

(Attachment: List of invited stakeholders)

(Draft) Section 1910.156, Emergency Responder Preparedness Program Standard

- (a) Scope
- (b) Duty
- (c) Definitions and acronyms
- (d) Responder participation
- (e) Establishment of emergency services provided
- (f) Risk management plan, and safety and health policy
- (g) Responder preparedness
- (h) Facility and equipment preparedness
- (i) Vehicle preparedness and operation
- (j) Pre-incident planning
- (k) Standard operating procedures
- (l) Incident management
- (m) Emergency operations
- (n) Post-incident analysis
- (o) Program evaluation

Invited Stakeholders

Industrial Commission of Arizona

International Association of Fire Chiefs

International Association of Fire Fighters

International Union of Operating Engineers

National Association of State EMS Officials

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

National Fire Protection Association

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

National Volunteer Fire Council

North America's Building Trade Unions

U.S. Fire Administration

Virginia Dept. of Labor and Industry