Community Recovery Following a Major Chemical Incident
*Case Studies Based Virtual Symposium*

**Dates:** January 13, 20 and 27, 2022  
**Location:** Online/Virtual  
**Time:** 14:00 to 17:00 UTC (9:00-12:00 Washington D.C.; 23:00 to 02:00 Tokyo)  
**Organizer:** [Global Health Security Initiative](https://ghsinitiative.org)  
Chemical Events Working Group

The recovery phase following a major incident, by definition, begins as the emergency command and control structures are stood down. A complex process, the purpose is to reduce the public health impacts of a major incident and facilitate the restoration of normality. It is dependent upon a combination of clinical, public health, environmental, economic and social measures and interventions. Underpinned by political will, collectively these aspects serve to protect community health.

Using examples of major chemical incidents as a basis for exploring this phase of the emergency management cycle, this virtual symposium will place communities at the heart of the discussions, exploring the importance of identifying, engaging with and fortifying affected societies, including vulnerable sub-populations. It will interrogate the tools available to the health sector and how the employment and/or deployment of interventions can facilitate restoration of the community, thereby promoting recovery. It will culminate in a discussion regarding the construction of a recovery tool kit for said professionals.

Hosted online and drawing upon global expertise, participants will learn from experts about how communities are affected and what measures and interventions can be deployed to counter the impacts.

This symposium will be of interest to emergency responders and receivers, public health professionals, emergency planners, environmental and behavioural scientists, clinicians, poisons centre specialists, occupational physicians, social/community services, policy makers as well as others involved in managing major incidents of public health concern.

[Register HERE](https://ghsinitiative.org) (no cost)
Welcome (5 minutes)

Symposium organizer: (GHSI – CEWG)
- Mr. Danny Sokolowski, Manager, Chemical Emergency Management and Toxicovigilance Division, Health Canada, Canada & GHSI-CEWG Secretariat

Symposium virtual host (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Dr. Renee Funk, Associate Director for Emergency Management, Office of Emergency Management, National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA & GHSI-CEWG member

Scene Setting (10 minutes)

- The Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI) and the Chemical Events Working Group (CEWG)
- Symposium-Objectives, 3 Themes & Desired Outcomes (health focus) [ 10 minutes]
  1. To identify at risk communities following a major chemical incident, including vulnerable sub-populations.
  2. To assess public health tools that can be utilised in the aftermath of an incident.
  3. To describe public health interventions that can be employed and deployed to promote community recovery following a major incident.
  4. To describe methodologies for optimising community communication and empowerment following a major incident.
  5. To outline tools and procedures to reduce impact and thereby increase resilience and facilitate recovery.

- Key note (20 minutes)
  o **What is Recovery?** : CMDR Jonathan White, Director, Division of Community Mitigation & Recovery, Office of Emergency Management and Medical Operations, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services, USA
THEME 1: Identifying Communities at Risk

Facilitator: Dr. Luke Yip, Medical Officer, Senior Advisor for Medical Toxicology, National Center for Environmental Health/ATSDR, Office of the Director for Emergency Management, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA & GHSI-CEWG member

Purpose of focusing on this theme (5 minutes)

- To identify those communities at greatest risk following a major chemical incident, including vulnerable populations.
- To assess which public health interventions should be deployed in order to promote recovery.
- To critically assess the community impact of commonly deployed countermeasures.

Presentations (4) (100 minutes)

1. Getting Back to Work Following a Major Incident: Implications for the world of work: Dr. Halshka Graczyk, Technical Specialist on Occupational Safety and Health, International Labour Organization, Switzerland

2. Beirut Port Explosion 2020:
   a) Dr. Ziad Kazzi, Professor of Emergency Medicine/Medical Toxicology, Emory University, Atlanta, USA – Adjunct Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon
   b) Ms. Lydia Izon-Cooper, Principal Public Health Scientist, Chemicals & Poisons Team, UK Health Security Agency, UK
   c) Mr. Nicholas Brooke, Principal Public Health Scientist, Chemicals & Poisons Team, UK Health Security Agency, UK

Panel discussion & questions (30 minutes)
- Facilitator and all presenters

Summary of conclusions for Theme 1 (15 minutes)
- Professor David Russell, Professor of Environment and Health, Health Security Agency, UK & GHSI-CEWG co-Chair (15 minutes)
Day # 2: January 20th, 2022 (9 am to noon Washington D.C. time UTC-5)

THEME 2: Engaging with Communities

Facilitator: Dr. Renee Funk, Associate Director for Emergency Management, Office of Emergency Management, National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA & GHSI-CEWG member

Purpose of focussing on this theme (5 minutes)

- To critically assess means of communication following an incident.
- To explore methods for optimising the public health-community interface.
- To determine how communities can be empowered as a prelude to recovery.

Presentations (4) (120 min)

1. Flint water response (2016): Ms. Diane Russell, Community Involvement Coordinator, Environmental Protection Agency - Region 5, USA

2. Deep Water Horizon (2010) – Use of dispersants: Dr. Sharon A. Croisant, Professor, Preventive Medicine and Population Health, Director, Stakeholder Engagement, Gulf Coast Center for Precision Environmental Health, University of Texas Medical Branch, USA

3. Lac-Mégantic train derailment - Mental health: Dr. Melissa Généreux, Associate Professor, Department of community health sciences, Faculty of medicine and health sciences, University of Sherbrooke, Canada

4. Behavioural and psychosocial aspects of incident recovery: lessons from COVID and beyond: Professor Richard Amlot, Head of Behavioural Science, Behavioural Science and Insights Unit (BSIU), Public Health Advice, Guidance and Expertise (PHAGE) function, National COVID-19 Response Centre (NCRC), UK

Panel discussion & questions (30 minutes)

- Facilitator and all presenters

Summary of conclusions for Theme 2 (15 minutes)

- Professor David Russell, Professor of Environment and Health, Health Security Agency, UK & GHSI-CEWG co-Chair (15 minutes)
Day #3: January 27th, 2022 (9 am to noon Washington D.C. time UTC-5)

THEME 3: Fortifying Communities - “Building Back Better”


Purpose of focusing on this theme (5 minutes)

- To critically assess how the public health impacts of an incident can be reduced.
- To identify means for promoting community resilience.
- To assess how communities can turn a crisis into an opportunity to build back better

Presentations (4) (120 minutes)

1. Fukushima 2011: Mr. Masahiro Uemura, Counsellor, Division for Reconstruction and Revitalization from the Nuclear Disaster, Reconstruction Agency, Japan

2. Lessons learnt from previous Hurricanes -2017 season: Ms. Mollie Mahany, Natural Hazards Team Lead, Office of Emergency Management, National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA

3. Hungary – Ajka (2010): Toxic sludge dam burst incident: Dr. Tamas Pandics, Head of department, Public Health Laboratory Department, National Public Health Center, Hungary

4. Construction of a rail line bypass around Lac-Mégantic city centre: Mr. Luc-Alexandre Chayer, Director, Major Transportation Infrastructure Projects, Transport Canada, Canada

Panel discussion & questions (30 minutes)
- Facilitator and all presenters

Summary of conclusions for Theme 3 (15 minutes)
- Professor David Russell, Professor of Environment and Health, Health Security Agency, UK & GHSI-CEWG co-Chair