



The IUOE National Training Fund  
National HAZMAT Program's  
**Responder Alliance Initiative**

## **Construction firms can help during a disaster ... ... their community and their business.**

### **Dealing with disasters**

No community is immune from disasters, either natural or terrorism-related. Ground Zero appalled the entire nation and Hurricane Katrina reminded us how much destruction nature can wreak. Everyone wants to help, but we often don't know how. Locals of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) are building partnerships with State Urban Search and Rescue Teams to quickly provide their communities with skilled operators and heavy equipment in those critical hours when rescues are possible. Construction firms are playing a critical role in this effort, assisting with rescue and recovery by moving debris and helping to lift collapsed structures. Having equipment and staff on site during the rescue also positions the firm to help with the later phases as the site transitions to cleanup. Consequently, being on the list of available contractors is good for the community – and for business.

### **What you can do**

Consider joining the Responder Alliance Initiative. Construction workers are recognized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration as skilled support personnel who will be called upon by emergency responders to help during disasters. The Department of Homeland Security, under a presidential directive, has formally recognized heavy equipment operators as “first responders” because of the critical skills they bring to a disaster response. Your employees can be responders, too, as long as they are properly trained and your firm has established an emergency contact mechanism.

### **A long union history of disaster response**

Operating Engineers have repeatedly responded to disasters including the San Francisco and Los Angeles earthquakes, the Midwest Region Flood of the Mississippi River, the Murrah Building bombing in Oklahoma City, the World Trade Center (WTC) and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



## The benefits of joining an alliance

The IUOE and the National HAZMAT Program support OSHA's goal "to encourage the development of a cadre of workers who are highly trained to respond safely to natural and man-made disasters." To reach that goal, the IUOE offers a broad range of **free** health and safety training to construction firms participating in alliances. The following training is being made available through IUOE local unions:

- Fork Lift Training
- Extrication Techniques
- Rigging and Lifting
- Hand Signals
- Crane Safety Awareness

OSHA issues a Disaster Site Worker Training Program card (the "Program Card") for workers who complete all three of the following courses available through the National HAZMAT Program:

1. OSHA 10-Hour Construction Outreach Training Course;
2. The OSHA 16-Hour DSW Course #7600; and
3. Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (40-Hour HAZWOPER) training.

States like New Jersey require the OSHA Program Card for any heavy equipment operator to be allowed on a disaster site to help with the rescue. Across the country, governmental organizations are working to limit the liability of contractors who have entered into agreements to respond during disasters.

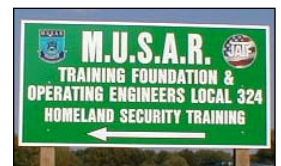
## What it will require of your firm

Besides having your workers and supervisors trained in at least the OSHA 10-hour Construction Outreach course and the 16-hour Disaster Site Worker course, you will probably be asked to do the following:

1. Provide a list of the specific types of equipment your firm owns and could make available on short notice;
2. Provide a mechanism for contacting a member of the firm during off-hours; and
3. Participate in planning and mock disaster exercises to understand how your firm may be used.

## To get further information

The National HAZMAT Program is coordinating this national effort. Call them at 304-253-8674 and ask to speak to someone about the Responder Alliance Initiative. You can also fax a request to 304-253-7758, or send an email request to [hazmat@iuoeiettc.org](mailto:hazmat@iuoeiettc.org).



*Construction of the Michigan Urban Search & Rescue Homeland Security Training Facility in Howell, Michigan.*

This material was produced under grant number 46C6-HT33 from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. It does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. To get more information, contact the National HAZMAT Program at 304-523-8674 or email at [hazmat@iuoeiettc.org](mailto:hazmat@iuoeiettc.org).