

Six Months Later
Environmental Health Response to Alabama Tornadoes
Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response – Center for Domestic Preparedness

00:24:21 – 00:32:14

Tornado video over music

00:32:14 – 00:46:12

Tim Hatch, Alabama Department of Public Health

“Environmental health has the components of the food we eat, the water we drink and we want to make sure that our citizens don’t have an increased chance of disease transmission after a disaster.”

00:46:12 – 00:56:28

Tornado video over music

00:56:28 – 01:08:12

Random disaster photos

01:08:12 – 01:13:03

Local weather radar

1:13:03 – 01:31:28

Tim Hatch, Alabama Department of Public Health

“If you remember the April 27 storm started out the day with some storms going through in the morning. Around lunch time everything calmed down, but immediately after lunch everything ramped back up and so we had two waves of 63 confirmed tornadoes in the state of Alabama that day.”

01:31:28 – 01:46:28

Haskey Bryant, Environmental Health Specialist, Jefferson County, Birmingham

“We were getting warnings ahead of time, and knowing it was going to become epic, they seemed sure it would become epic, the health department started sending out notices that we may be called to duty.”

01:46:28 – 01:57:08

Random disaster photos

01:57:08 – 02:31:03

Tim Hatch, Alabama Department of Public Health

“In Alabama we can all probably agree that the April 27th tornadoes was the worst natural disaster on top of Ivan and Katrina due to the fact that not only did we lose 247 individuals that day, but we also had a larger span of devastation. It went from the Mississippi line all the way up the Georgia-Tennessee line. I know the disaster could have been worse, but had we not had trained individuals our response would have been worse.”

02:31:18 – 02:44:28

Haskey Bryant, Environmental Health Specialist, Jefferson County, Birmingham

“EHTER brought the big picture together. Without EHTER you don’t understand that you need waste water tanks or you don’t understand that there’s a circuit of food coming around, so it brings it all together.”

02:45:13 – 03:07:29

Tim Hatch, Alabama Department of Public Health

“We are charged with ensuring the public has conditions which they can live, food and water they can consume—that are healthy. EHTER is the best thing going. Where else can you go and have a week- long training specifically for the Environmental Health Professionals for a specific purpose of disaster response.”