Emergency Preparedness Climate: A New Measure in Occupational Health

Workers’ collective perception of their organization’s preparedness for emergency and disaster events is an important element of overall workplace preparedness. In order to measure this, my team and I developed and tested a new construct: “Emergency Preparedness Climate (EPC). It is similar in some ways to a concept many occupational and environmental health scientists are familiar with - namely, “Safety Climate”. Importantly, EPC is correlated to key constructs that define worker preparedness: ability, willingness, readiness, and compliance. Of special interest is the finding that workers who are prepared for disaster events are less likely to experience important disaster-related adverse outcomes, including long term post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).