"Public Health Aspects of Disaster Response"

Dr. Daniel Boatright, Ph.D., FRSPH
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Friday, April 20, 2012
Chem. Sci. 101, 2:00 pm

The environmental aspects of disaster response are of paramount importance in protecting the health of displaced populations, especially in shelters where people and exposure issues are concentrated. Both water quality and quantity are of concern, as well as conditions that may threaten health through waterborne or water-related mechanism as well as the broader spectrum of public and environmental health factors. Dr. Boatright led a team of environmental public health specialists in support of operations in the Astrodome following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

His presentation will highlight a range of public health issues related to high density facilities under stressed conditions over extended periods with particular focus on water, wastewater, solid waste management, vector control, foodborne illnesses, and related topics. He will discuss the conditions to which the Astrodome population was exposed prior to arrival and the subsequent implications for meeting the range of environmental and public health challenges.

Dr. Daniel Boatright’s areas of expertise include Environmental Risk Assessment and Management Techniques and Practices, Environmental Risk Communication, Environmental Workforce Health and Safety Policy Issues and Public Health Workforce Development. He has worked extensively with the DoD, USEPA, CDC, NSF and the USPHS.

Dr. Boatright’s visit is co-sponsored by the Michigan Tech Center for Water & Society, the King-Chavez-Parks Visiting Women and Minorities Lecture Series and the Biological Sciences Department. Contact Rupali Datta (rupdatta@mtu.edu) for faculty and student meetings with Dr. Boatwright.