



GOES View of Hurricane Sandy. acquired October 28, 2012 earthobservatory.nasa.gov

## UCONN | HEALTH CENTER

### Center for Indoor Environments and Health UCONN is developing training on working safely and protecting your health when responding to hurricanes and rebuilding water damaged property.

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## Information sheet on participating in focus groups

### Project Name: Recovery from catastrophic weather: mold exposure and health-related training

1. If you have any questions you can contact Paula Schenck 860-679-2368 schenck@uchc.edu.
2. Many responded to the devastation of Hurricane Sandy: union and non-union construction, trade and maintenance/public works employees; public health and environmental professionals; emergency response including medical personnel; volunteers - students, faith-based and/or community organizations; and family members and friends of property owners. Exposure to the damp environments in the damaged homes and buildings is a risk to breathing health. Although there is technical guidance and training materials available on what people need to do to protect themselves, many don't know how to find it and some choose not to follow the advice. In addition the scientific information about mold exposure and restoring our hurricane damaged places is not always clear and understandable.

The Center for Indoor Environments and Health at the UConn Health Center is organizing these focus groups so we can meet and learn your thoughts about health effects and mold/moisture exposure, and worker health and safety in response (both immediate and long term) to hurricane response and recovery activities. We will use this information to guide us in developing training resources and seminars for workers, volunteers, home occupants and emergency response medical staff.

3. Participation in our program is voluntary. It is your choice to participate.
4. If you choose not to participate in the focus group, there will be no effect on you and our continuing relationship or your work with the person who suggested UConn contact you.
5. We will record the discussion during the focus group. We will not record your name or information that could identify you personally. Your participation is confidential and the information collected will be anonymous.
6. By participating you are giving us your consent to be a part of this project. Thank you for considering this request.