

Sharing Lessons Learned on Resilience and Vulnerability to Complex Disasters 2021 Update

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), in coordination with U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development, are hosting a two-part listening session series on resilience and vulnerability to complex disasters (i.e., multiple interacting stressors and impacts). The sessions will focus on how state environmental and health agencies can prevent and mitigate environmental pollution and related public health impacts from disaster events (e.g., natural disasters and extreme weather, wildfire events, environmental contamination and chemical spills, etc.), especially in the midst of COVID-19 response and recovery. The sessions will emphasize state coordination and collaboration to improve environmental and public health resiliency. Upon completion of the sessions, ECOS and ASTHO will compile findings and lessons learned in a written summary.

The listening sessions are invite-only with invites going out to state environmental, environmental health, and preparedness leaders. Listening Session 1, taking place on January 20, 2022, will focus on best practices in planning for complex disasters. Listening Session 2, taking place on January 27, 2022, will focus on best practices in implementing policies and practices during and after complex disasters.