



March COAD General Membership Meeting

March 11th, 2026, 1:30 p.m. Hybrid on Webex and at the Jackson County Public Health Department: 3651 NE Ralph Powell Road, Lee's Summit.

Much of the planning for the 2026 FIFA World Cup focuses on ensuring the safety of visitors. What has not been given equal focus is, the safety of critical operations teams that may need to respond to emergencies during the event. In 9/11, emergency responders and volunteers faced thousands of tons of pulverized concrete, glass fibers, gypsum, and hazardous asbestos that in turn created a caustic, highly alkaline dust. The dust contained high levels of lead, mercury, cadmium, as well as beryllium, antimony, chromium, and nickel. The explosions released toxic chemicals, including benzene, dioxins, PAHs and PCBs.

Are we prepared to protect first responders and volunteers?

In response to this question, the COAD will welcome in March, International Association of Fire Fighters, Master HazMat Instructor Bob Ingram. Chief Ingram is a retired FDNY Battalion Chief over HazMat and served in the FDNY Hazardous Materials Operations Command and, following the events of 9/11, led the rebuilding of the FDNY Haz-Mat Operations Division. He established and managed the WMD Branch Office at the FDNY Center for Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness and has represented FDNY on multiple local, state, and federal working groups on terrorism and preparedness. He has been a national instructor in hazardous materials for the IAFF since 1994 and worked directly with federal and state officials to develop and deliver responder-focused training. Chief Ingram's experience with mass scale events will help us to keep responders and volunteers safe by refreshing critical skills for events larger than previously experienced. There will be an opportunity to review updated, or new, environmental protection and occupational safety standards and changes to response technologies, something not all volunteers are well-versed in.

After the presentation, there will be reports from the COAD committees and general updates. Please reach out if you need an invitation to the meeting. Unlike many events, the FIFA World Cup is one we know when it will happen making the time now more critical than ever to ensure the safety of all.

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