

JOURNAL OF

Environmental Health

Dedicated to the advancement of the environmental health professional

Volume 84, No. 1 July/August 2021

fifteen dollars

SCIENCE

Carbon Monoxide Exposure Potential Associated With the Use of Recreational Watercraft



help the U.S. Virgin Islands rebuild its environmental health programs following Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

I mention these opportunities not to say I have done much, but to say there is much to do! We need every one of our members to do what they can to make this association better. Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." NEHA always has opportunities for professionals who want to be involved, and there is much more to do.

In a sense, NEHA is leaving the station and picking up steam. The new Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) exam will be released this fall. Increased efforts are being made to market the profession. NEHA continues to build bipartisan relationships with our national leadership in Washington, DC. The Environmental Health Workforce Act has been reintroduced in Congress. In



four boats. For all boats, there was a significant negative correlation between CO concentrations and distance from the boat stern (Figure 2). Spearman's ρ was -.81, -.61, -.83, and -.56 for boats 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

Carbon Monoxide Results for Each Boat in Motion

CO concentrations acquired for each boat in motion were monitored under conditions mimicking platform dragging and teak surfing. The observed CO concentrations mimicking platform dragging at varying speeds and at distances of 5- and 10-ft behind moving boats ranged from 50–390 ppm (Table 4). Table 4 shows CO concentrations ranging from 155–700 ppm when using boats 3 and 4 to simulate teak surfing at speeds of 5, 7, and 10 mph.

We performed continuous CO monitoring over the j EMC mCREO_o82 BMC [(7T] EMC r31700 near wer concentra320ach r322ionhealth-E



JEH QUIZ

FEATURED ARTICLE QUIZ #1

1. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless and odorless gas generated from incomplete combustion of hydrocarbon-based fuels.
 - a. True.
 - b. False.
2. CO affinity for hemoglobin is ___ times greater than oxygen.
 - a. 50

Abstract The meatpacking industry has faced significant challenges in maintaining a safe and healthy working environment for its employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has resulted in worker illness and death, temporary closures of facilities, reductions in production capacity, and consequences throughout the supply chain. We sought to explore the concerns and perceptions of COVID-19 among meatpacking workers in the Midwestern part of the U.S. We conducted an online survey of meatpacking workers in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri between May 7 and 25, 2020. A total of 585 workers participated ($M = 41.3$ years, $SD = 10.3$). More than 72% of workers believed that they were at “high

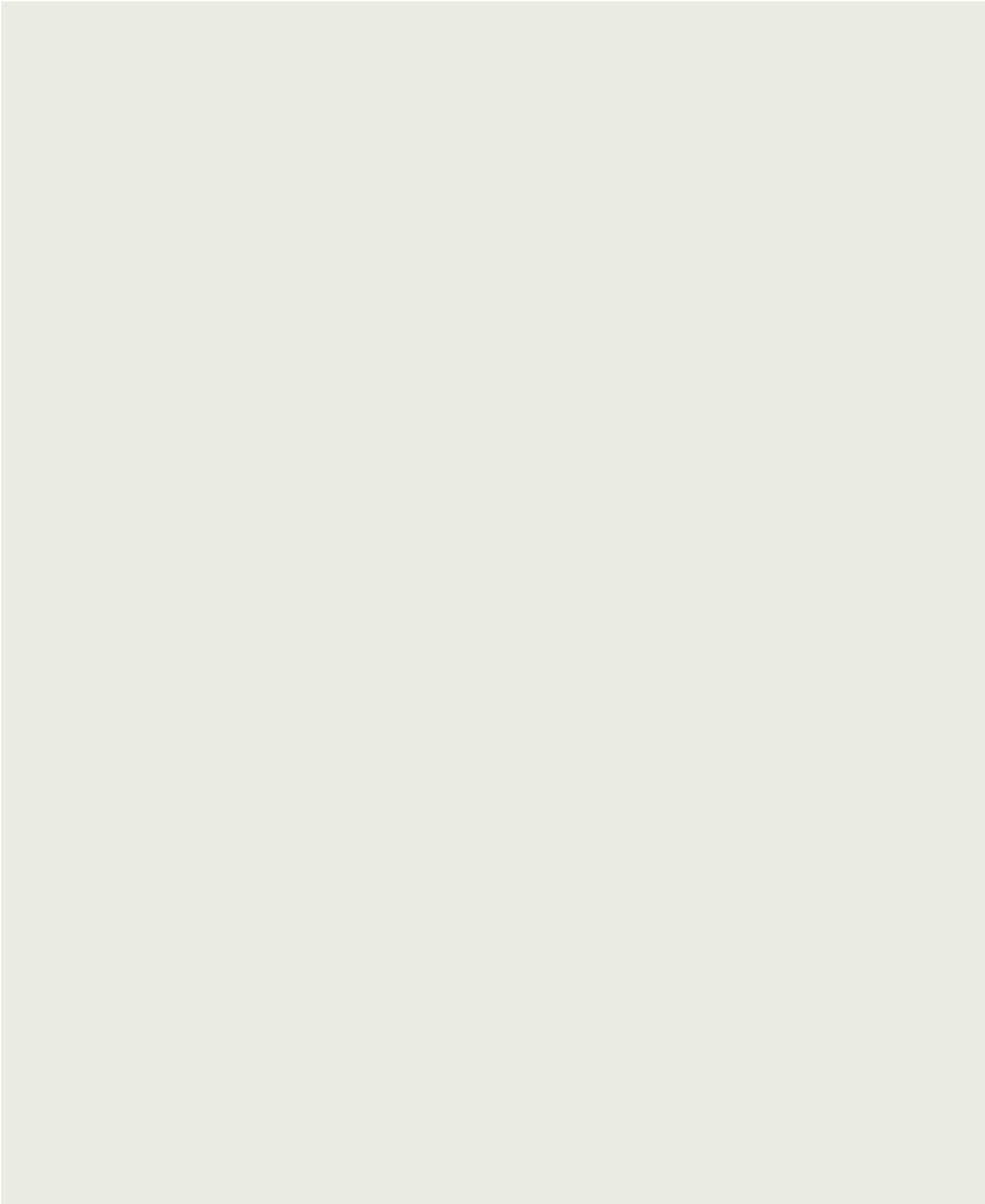


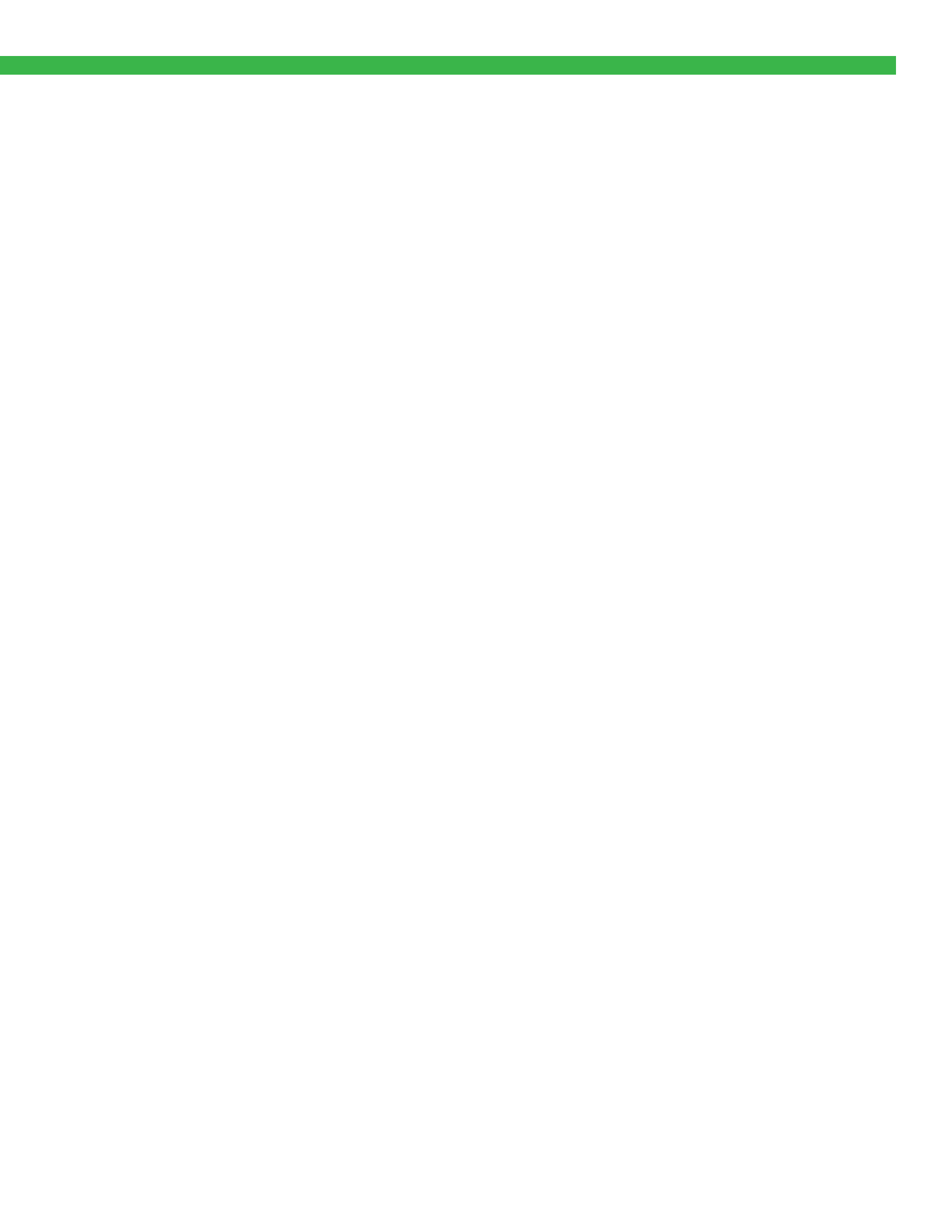




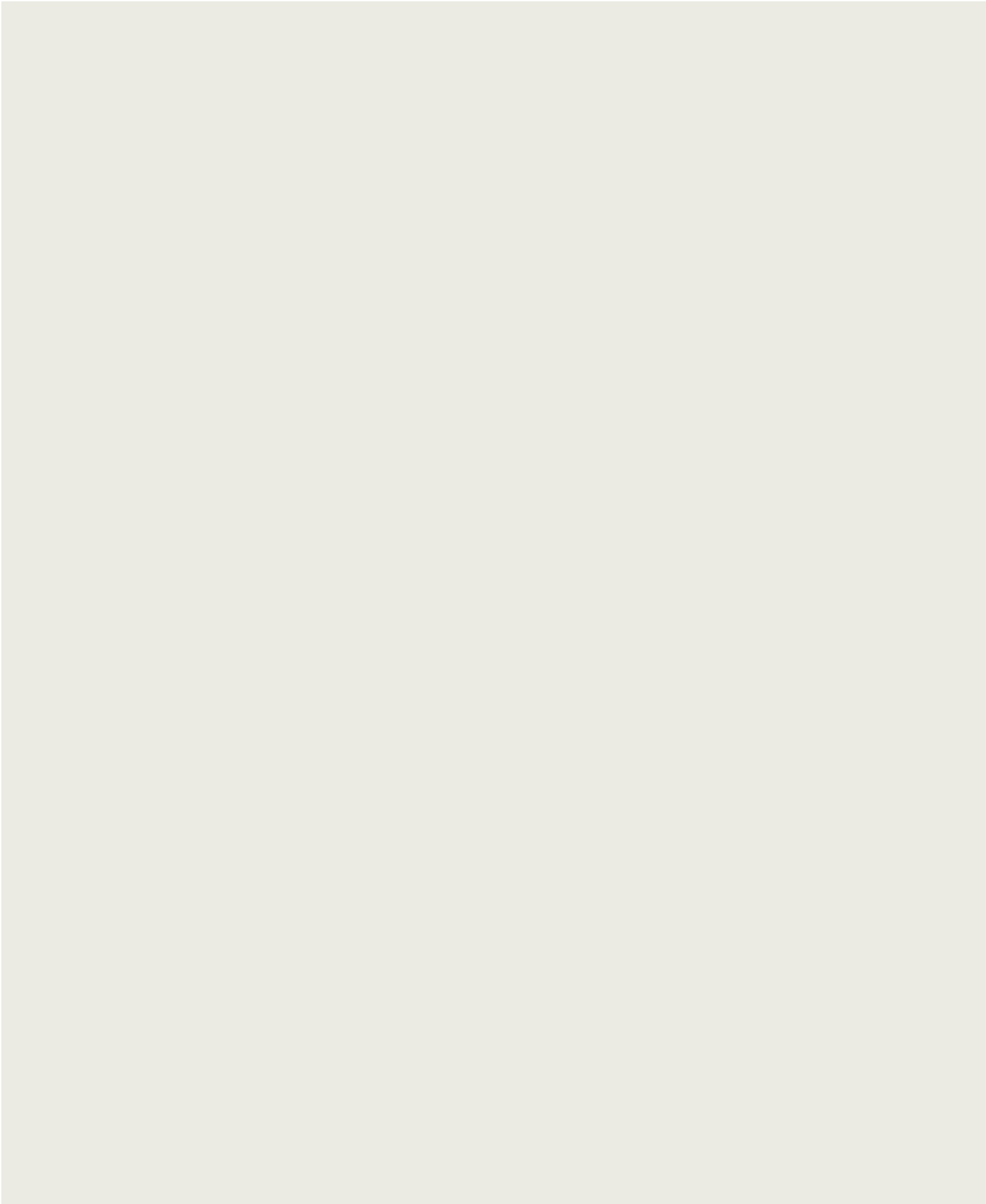














During summer 2017, the U.S. and its territories were struck by three major hurricanes—Harvey, Irma, and Maria—within the span of one month. The damage caused by these storms was devastating, leaving widespread flooding, power outages, and interruptions to everyday life for millions of people.

The mental health impact of these storms was severe. By late 2017 and early 2018, media outlets reported increased suicide rates and mental illness in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria (Acevedo, 2018; Campbell, 2018; Dickerson, 2017; Dickerson & Bourne, 2018; Jackson, 2018; Perez, 2018). Adolescents were not exempt from these mental health impacts. A 2018 survey of public school students in Puerto Rico administered 5–9 months after Hurricane Maria made landfall showed that 7.2% of children and

adolescents in grades 3–12 reported symptoms of clinically significant post-traumatic stress disorder (Orengo-Aguayo et al., 2019).

Stress Following Natural Disasters Can Affect the Mental Health of Adolescents

Distress caused by natural disasters can cause emotional, mental, and physical problems. It can affect a person's ability to think clearly, making it harder for them to process information and, in turn, follow health and safety guidance (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2019a). On an emotional level, distress can lead to a person feeling fearful, angry, sad, worried, numb, or frustrated. It can affect their sleep, appetite, and energy levels. Distress can even worsen chronic health problems and cause headaches, body pains, stomach issues, and skin rashes (CDC, 2019b).

For children and adolescents (ages 11–19), these reactions can be heightened by the physical, mental, emotional, and social changes that normally occur at this stage of development. In response to trauma, adolescents might act out, argue with their families, and spend less time with friends. They might also find it harder to express their feelings or really understand what is bothering them; they might claim to be fine when they are not, stay silent, or complain of physical pains or aches (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2013).

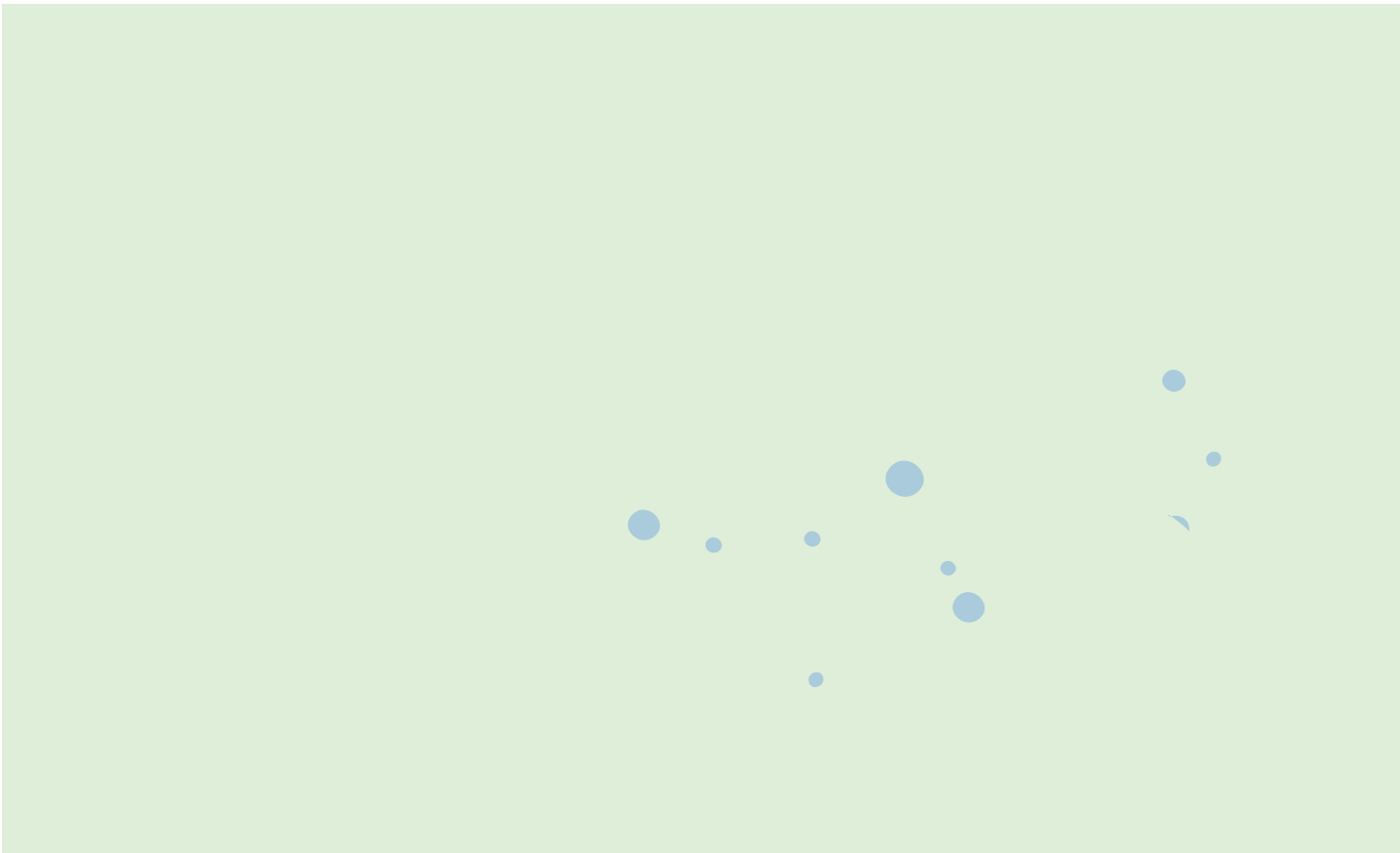
Mental health is already a growing concern among our nation's youth. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2020a), more than 1 in 3 high school students in 2019 experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness, 40% higher than in 2009. Rates of suicide are also on the rise for adolescents—in 2019, approximately 1 in 6 reported making a suicide plan in the past year. Because adolescents are already vulnerable to poor mental health, it is important that we address their unique needs by providing the resources they need after a natural disaster. By doing so, they might be better able to manage their feelings and make healthier decisions.

Healthy Coping Strategies Can Help Adolescents Find Resilience and Hope During Difficult Times

In late 2020, CDC launched a new website (www.cdc.gov/disasters/teens.html) to help adolescents who are dealing with the aftermath of a natural disaster. The site features a video series, Finding a New Normal: Life After a Natural Disaster, that highlights the experi-

rience of four youths who have experienced different natural disasters, including hurricanes and wildfires. They share their stories and advice to help others better cope after natural disasters.

In one of the videos, Mariana, an adolescent who dealt with the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, talks about the importance of staying connected to loved ones. “Stay close to the people that love you and help each other get through this difficult time. Always share and help people—and try not to take anything for granted,” Mariana said in







)DFLOLW\ PDQDJHPHQW IRU DOO IXQ&RPLRQDCHQVH'DW 'RMHDVH &RQWURO
(QYLURQPHQWDO 3XEOLF +HDOWK 0RGXOH ZLWK 6\QQGURPLF DQG /DE &
(PHUJHQF\ DQG (YHQW 0DQDJHPHQW 6XUYHLOODQFH
)DFLOLW\ 5LVN \$VVHVPPHQW ZLWK 2SHUDWLRQDO 5LVN 0DQDJHPHQW 2
LQKHUHQW RSHUDWLRQDO DQG SUR40LQJ FDSDELOLWLHV 2XWFRPH EDVHG GHFLYLRQ PDNLQJ
-PSRUW GDWD IURP H[WHUQDO DJHQFLHV ZLWK 3HUIRUPDQFH 0DQDJHPHQW DQG \$X
EXVLQHVV ORJLF L H ODE UHVXOWV DQG SURJHVV 6WD 3URJHVV
LQIRUPDWLRQ 3XEOLF DQG 3ULYDWH :HE 3RUWDOV



LISTING

National Officers

www.neha.org/national-officers

President Roy Kroeger, REHS
President@neha.org

President-Elect D. Gary Brown,
DrPH, CIH, RS, DAAS CIH, 1



NEHA NEWS

YOUR ASSOCIATION

NEHA NEWS

NEHA NEWS

code requirements based on this assessment will be processed as

NEHA NEWS

currently working on posting information about NEHA award

