



professionals have been trained on how to use this assessment tool.

In light of the evolving and increasingly complex nature of emergencies, CDC and its partners saw the need to update the 2008 version of the Environmental Health Assessment Form for Disaster Shelters. In 2018, the revision process began by convening partners from local, state, and federal government agencies and nongovernmental organizations within environmental health and emergency management professions. Through a series of interactive web conferences, more than 100 suggested changes were received. NCEH subject matter experts evaluated all suggestions and shared the draft document for approval by the partners. The new version of the form adds safety areas to be assessed such as prepared food, potable water, hygiene routines, hazard-

ous material handling, medical waste disposal, child care areas, and companion animals.

People will continue to be at risk during disasters as the dynamic complexity and range of public health issues evolves. These interagency workgroup efforts serve as a model of collaboration among disaster partners for improving an existing disaster assessment tool. Although no one can predict the next disaster, environmental health professionals need to be equipped with the appropriate tools and resources to assist in ensuring that disaster shelter facilities remain safe, clean, and monitored for potential environmental hazards.