



Each year in Washington, WTP funds training for:



More than **8,800** workers overall.



More than **6,900** workers employed at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facilities.



Workers in diverse industries, such as construction, emergency response services, fire fighters, and others.



Delivery of nearly **570** health and safety courses.



Delivery of training on a variety of topics, including confined space, emergency response, general industry safety, infectious disease, lead abatement, radiation worker, and respiratory protection.

## Worker Training Program: Washington

### A National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Superfund-Related Activity

The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) funds nonprofit organizations to provide health and safety training for workers who may be exposed to hazardous materials (HAZMAT) and waste at work or while assisting with emergency response situations. WTP is authorized by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 USC 9660a). WTP grant recipients provide Superfund-related training across the country through the [Hazardous Waste](#), [HAZMAT Disaster](#), and [Environmental Career](#) Worker Training Programs and non-Superfund related activities through the [NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program](#).

### Training Highlights

#### Nuclear Worker Training at the Hanford Site

Grant recipients funded by the [NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program](#) facilitate health and safety training for cleanup, waste management, and emergency response at DOE facilities.

More than 6,900 workers are trained annually at DOE sites in Washington State, and most courses are delivered at the Hanford Site in Richland through the HAMMER Volpentest Training Center. Courses at HAMMER focus on hazardous waste, personal protective equipment, and respiratory and radiological protection. Some organizations that deliver this training are described below.

- [CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training](#) delivers training that helps protect construction workers by preparing them to handle hazardous waste cleanup.
- The [International Chemical Workers Union Council \(ICWUC\) Center for Worker Health and Safety Education](#) delivers a respiratory protection program, focusing on specific respiratory gear as needs change or new equipment is added. ICWUC also provides courses on building demolition, groundwater cleaning, and beryllium awareness. Trainers are subject matter experts, relying on their knowledge of the Hanford site and experience instructing HAZMAT classes to develop the site-specific program.

Other grant recipients equip trainers and instructors with the relevant skills and tools needed to deliver training at DOE facilities.

- The [International Brotherhood of Teamsters](#) conducts an annual instructor development program at HAMMER. This program provides an opportunity for instructors to exchange best practices for training workers. These activities help workers ensure safe remediation and transport of hazardous waste from DOE facilities.



Students at the HAMMER Training Facility. (Photo courtesy of International Chemical Workers Union Council)



Participants practicing a hands-on exercise during instructor development program at HAMMER. (Photo courtesy of International Brotherhood of Teamsters)

## Building Emergency Response Capacity and Job Training for Tribes

WTP grant recipients deliver industry-specific and emergency response training for American Indian Tribes and communities across Washington State.

- Near the Hanford Site, the [United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center](#) (TMC) partners with the Yakama Nation to build a cadre of trainers certified in construction and general industry through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. TMC also conducts emergency preparedness training for the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation. The training helps Tribes prepare for train derailments, hazardous chemical spills, and other emergency events that may happen near DOE sites.
- In Toppenish, [Alabama Fire College](#) (AFC) delivers mass casualty incident and triage awareness training to workers at Yakama Nation Legends Casino. Tribal casino workers learn necessary protocols to follow during a crisis and how to manage resources for adequate care of individuals. AFC also delivers other courses focused on disaster preparedness, illicit drug response, and the incident command system.

Other grant recipients deliver training to prepare Tribal members for jobs that deal with hazardous materials.

- The University of Washington (UW), a member of the [Western Region Universities Consortium](#), partners with the [Tulalip TERO Vocational Training Center](#) and the [Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network](#) to deliver Hazardous Waste and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER), Asbestos Awareness, and General Industry safety courses to Tribes in Neah Bay, Snoqualmie, Spokane, and Tulalip. The Tulalip TERO Vocational Training Center is the only Tribal-operated construction pre-apprenticeship program in the nation. This hands-on program is open to all American Indians, as well as their spouses and parents.

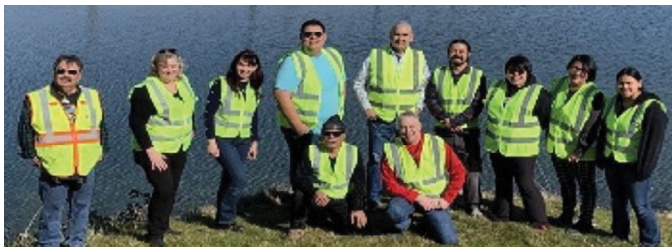


Photo of general industry safety class participants in Neah Bay, WA. (Photo courtesy of Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network)

## Disaster Preparedness: Wildfires and Flooding

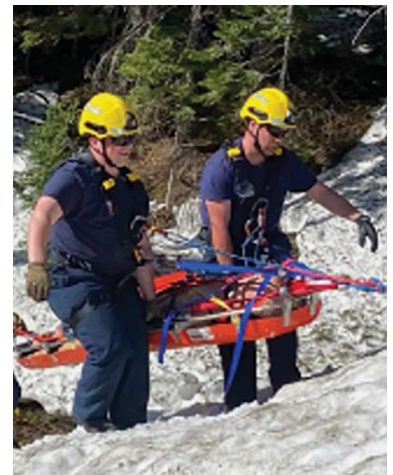
As natural disasters become more frequent, WTP grant recipients continue to expand their disaster preparedness efforts across Washington State.

- Recently, UW collaborated with the Whatcom County Fire District #1 to deliver training on emergency response and wildfire and flooding preparedness to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technician students. Training courses included First Aid, CPR, Emergency Response Medical Basic, Emergency Responder Basic Operations, and Water Rescue.



New fire recruits attending emergency response training at Whatcom County Fire District #1. (Photo courtesy of Whatcom County Fire District #1)

In the months following these trainings, Whatcom County experienced both extreme flooding and wildfires. Emergency medical technicians and firefighters used the skills, equipment, and technical assistance provided by UW during these disaster events.



Trainees participating in Snoqualmie Pass Rope Rescue training. (Photo courtesy of Snoqualmie Pass Fire & Rescue)

- UW also partnered with Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue, an under-resourced agency relying on volunteers for emergency response. Heavy snowfall and subsequent, severe flooding frequently affect the area. UW provided several training courses related to heavy storms and floods, including Avalanche Awareness, Wildland Fire Response, Stop the Bleed, Rope Rescue, and Extrication.