



Each year in Tennessee, WTP funds training for:



More than **5,500** workers overall.



More than **3,700** workers employed at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facilities.



Other workers in industries, such as emergency response services, law enforcement, and others.



Delivery of nearly **500** health and safety courses.



Training on a variety of topics, including asbestos abatement, confined space, general industry safety, radiation worker, and personal protective equipment awareness.

## Worker Training Program: Tennessee

### About the NIEHS Worker Training Program

The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) funds nonprofit organizations (grant recipients) to provide health and safety training for workers who may be exposed to hazardous materials 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 and Community Training

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. Most efforts are around Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

- Each year, the [Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training/National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education](#) sponsors training for more than 650 DOE workers through Roane State Community College. Courses cover topics such as radiation training, facility decontamination, and asbestos abatement.
- [CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training](#) trains nearly 450 workers each year. CPWR helps workers become and remain active participants in improving the safety and health conditions under which they work. To deliver training, CPWR collaborates with workers and contractors at Oak Ridge, the Y-12 National Security Complex, and the East Tennessee Technology Park.

Grant recipients equip trainers and instructors with the relevant skills and tools needed to deliver hazardous materials and chemical emergency response training to DOE workers. Many grant recipients conduct community trainings, including for local high school students, showing their dedication to protecting the health and safety of people who live near the plant.

- The [United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center](#) conducts health and safety training for more than 400 workers from Oak Ridge and from Nuclear Fuel Services, a DOE facility in Erwin, Tennessee. The center also partners with a high school in Erwin to provide general industry training to help students become familiar with hazards and prepare them for future employment at DOE sites. To date, more than 80



Photo courtesy of the Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training/ National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education.



Photo courtesy of United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center.

high school students have completed the training.

- The [International Chemical Workers Union Council \(ICWUC\) Center for Worker Health and Safety Education](#) sponsors trainer development programs at Oak Ridge. Each year, ICWUC trains about 1,000 trainers from Oak Ridge and the Tennessee Department of Conservation and Environment. Topics covered include industrial emergency response operations, radiological hazards, and proper treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste.

## Emergency Response Training

WTP grant recipients also deliver training to prepare first responders and other workers to respond to weather-related disasters and other emergencies.



Photo courtesy of IAFF.

- The [International Association of Fire Fighters \(IAFF\)](#) trains firefighters, emergency medical service personnel, fire brigades, and law enforcement in Memphis, Tennessee. IAFF training aims to improve worker safety, address behavioral and substance use issues, increase individual and community resiliency, and reduce the risk of worker injury, death, and suicide.

- The University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services, part of the [Midwest Consortium for Hazardous Waste Worker Training \(MWC\)](#), developed and delivered a Post Storm Response Safety training course for public works and utility workers in the state. The training allows workers to recognize hazards and protect themselves in a post-storm environment.

**“I have attended many courses and training programs in my 41 years of working in industrial environments. The instructor was knowledgeable and was able to keep the class interested and participating as well as interested in the material presented.”**

Hazardous Waste 40-hr. Worker,  
Trainee from Tennessee

## Building Capacity Within Communities

WTP grant recipients also provide workers and residents who may be exposed to hazardous substances with the skills and knowledge needed to protect themselves and their communities.

- The University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services provides training on workplace hazards for more than 1,000 workers every year. The university also trains teachers in Rutherford County, who incorporate it into their curricula for high school seniors to prepare them for work in manufacturing and other industrial trades. To date, more than 400 high school students have completed the program.



Photo courtesy of the University of Tennessee.

- Another MWC training center, the Fisk University Community Environmental Toxics Awareness and Sustainability Program, facilitates health and safety training for communities that are disproportionately exposed to toxic substances. The training covers topics such as family and community emergency preparedness, toxic use reduction, infectious diseases, opioids awareness, climate and disasters, at-risk populations, and sustainability.
- In Memphis, the [International Brotherhood of Teamsters](#) developed a coal ash awareness training course in response to concerns raised by residents regarding the transportation of coal combustion residuals to a landfill within the city. The course covers information about coal fly ash, national regulations, health hazards, control measures, and how and where to report problems.