



# NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program

## Program Goal

The **National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)/Department of Energy (DOE) Nuclear Worker Training Program** provides high-quality health and safety training to DOE site workers to ensure they are prepared to work safely in hazardous environments. The workers are trained to identify hazardous situations and take appropriate actions to protect themselves, fellow workers, and the environment. To accomplish this, NIEHS funds programs to deliver both site-specific and trade-specific training that address complicated DOE site missions. These missions often include a combination of nuclear, industrial, chemical, demolition, and construction activities.

## Program Overview

Administered since 1993 by the NIEHS Worker Training Program, the program provides a blend of fundamental and specialized health and safety training to workers in a timely and cost-effective manner. The average cost per contact hour is \$27. Training is accomplished through a partnership involving government, contractors, and labor organizations.

A cornerstone of the program is the use of “worker-trainers”—employees with experience working in DOE hazardous environments. These selected individuals train their peers while also sharing their experiences and knowledge to support a safer work environment.

## Program Training Summary, 2017-2018

For the period Sept. 1, 2017, to Aug. 31, 2018:



27,739

Workers trained



1,678

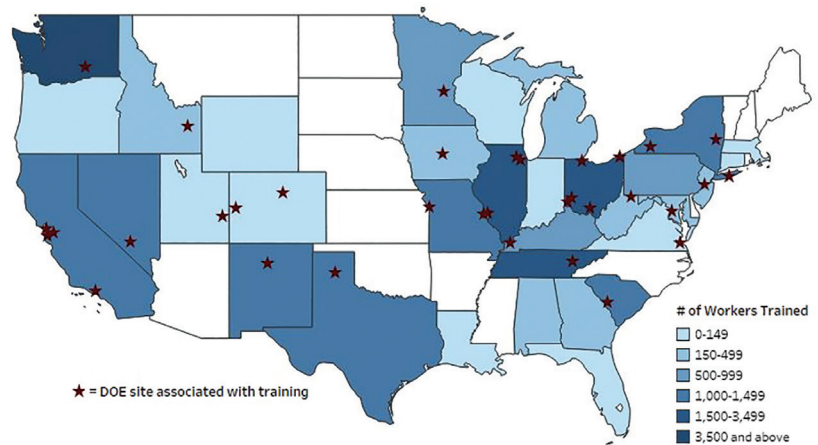
Courses provided



343,203

Contact hours delivered

NIEHS/DOE grantees trained at or around 34 sites:



Courses delivered during the year covered topics such as Superfund site worker, respiratory protection, radiological worker, radiological technician, confined space, emergency response, asbestos abatement, hazardous materials transport, electrical safety, and hazard communication.

The workers trained under the program represent a variety of occupational sectors and are a national security asset in emergency response. These pre-trained, experienced workers respond in case of accidental or deliberate radiological events or other disasters. Additionally, some training

is extended to communities surrounding DOE sites, including Native American tribes, who then gain certifications and skills that increase their eligibility for employment at a nearby DOE site or keep them prepared if called upon in an emergency.

## Collaborations with DOE and DOE Contractors

Protecting worker health and safety through training delivery has been a primary goal of the Office of Environmental Management. The training offered under the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program supports and integrates with DOE safety culture; Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 851 (10 CFR 851), “Worker Safety and Health Program”; and other initiatives.

Recent collaborations and advancements include:

- NIEHS grantees achieving certification for reciprocity for multiple training courses by the DOE National Training Center.
- NIEHS facilitating connections between the DOE Labor Training Working Group (composed primarily of NIEHS grantees) and the Energy Facility Contractors Group Training Working Group. These connections are creating opportunities to meet contractor training needs with NIEHS-supported training, which could reduce training redundancy and contractor training costs.
- NIEHS grantees developing safety culture curriculum, supporting the DOE Office of Environmental Management initiative on the topic, and ensuring the frontline worker perspective is integrated into training.

## Feedback from Trainees

*“Because of the HAZWOPER training provided..., our crew paused a job until we get the right equipment for the job task. An example is obtaining the right attachment for the forklift before proceeding with the job. In most cases, it just takes a few minutes to change one or two things to make the job safer and easier for the worker.”*

*“This [Scaffold Train-the-Trainer] course was great! Helped me to understand the importance of how the scaffold needs to be properly installed for the safety of my workers and why PPE is so important for each person on the scaffold to prevent falls/death.”*

## Program Grantees, 2015-2020

- CPWR—The Center for Construction Research and Training
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- International Chemical Workers Union Council Center for Worker Health and Safety Education
- International Union of Operating Engineers National Training Fund
- National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education/Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training
- United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center for Health, Safety, and Environmental Education

## The National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training

The Clearinghouse, supported by the NIEHS Worker Training Program, provides technical support to grantees. The Clearinghouse website has reports and other resources on topics specifically related to DOE, as well as a database of curricula developed by NIEHS/DOE grantees. Additionally, the Clearinghouse distributes a Worker Training Program Weekly e-Newsbrief to 1,500 subscribers.

## Program Authorization

The NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program was authorized by Section 3131 of the National Defense Authorization Act (fiscal year 1992) and is implemented through an interagency agreement with DOE. The program was authorized to fund nonprofit organizations with expertise in health and safety training.

*International Chemical Workers Union Council's Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training at the Volpentest HAMMER Federal Training Center.* (Photo courtesy of HAMMER)



## For More Information

Contact Chip Hughes

([hughes3@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:hughes3@niehs.nih.gov)) or

Demia Wright

([demia.wright@nih.gov](mailto:demia.wright@nih.gov)) at NIEHS.

NIEHS Worker Training Program

[www.niehs.nih.gov/wtp](http://www.niehs.nih.gov/wtp)

NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program

[https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/about\\_wetp/doe/index.cfm](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/about_wetp/doe/index.cfm)

The National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training

<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/>