

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.

Workers are trained to identify hazardous situations and take appropriate actions to protect themselves, fellow workers, and the environment. NIEHS funds programs to deliver both site-specific and trade-specific training that supports completion of DOE site missions.

The training offered under the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program supports and integrates with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 851, “Worker Safety and Health Program”; Integrated Safety Management; DOE safety culture; and other initiatives.

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. Training is accomplished through a partnership involving government, contractors, and labor organizations.

A cornerstone of the program is the use of worker-trainers or peer 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, 2020-2021

For the period September 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021:



23,095

Workers trained



1,901

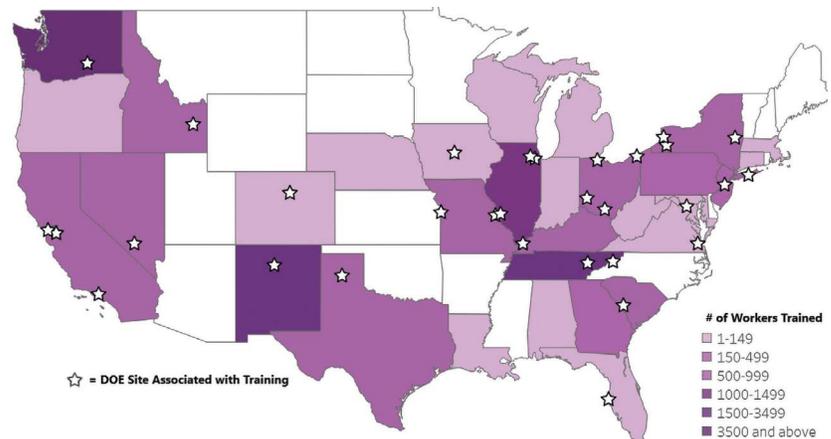
Courses provided



280,377

Contact hours delivered

NIEHS/DOE grantees trained at or around 31 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. Additionally, some training is extended to communities surrounding DOE sites, including American Indian 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. NIEHS also partners with DOE’s Office of Environment, Health, Safety, and Security and the National Training Center (NTC). These partnerships help further the reach

of grantee training and improve efficiency across the sites.

Recent collaborations and advancements include:

- The DOE NTC has reviewed many NIEHS grantee instructor programs and has determined they are equivalent to NTC instructor certification. NTC has also certified over 30 grantee courses for reciprocity and one grantee has their apprentice program's safety and health courses certified.
- NIEHS takes actions to increase contractor awareness of the program and facilitate connections between DOE site contractors and grantees.

Feedback from Trainees

"The Local [union] has been able to supply trained and qualified workers to our DOE contractors very quickly; in large part due to the [grantee's] ability to immediately and effectively train our membership. On more than one occasion this year, we would not have been able to meet contractors' needs if it had not been for our training program."

"The most valuable part of the course was the ability of the instructors to take a very complicated subject and make it understandable at a basic level. The instructors did a great job explaining all aspects of the [HazMat] technician class."

"[I learned] how to be safer around all types of jobsites. I feel more confident about returning to work and being around materials that I thought I knew about. I now have more confidence and information about the resources that are at my disposal."

Contractors benefit through improved project mobilization and elimination of some training costs.

- Offering radiological control technician (RCT) training to communities around the Portsmouth and Paducah sites in response to RCT shortages.
- Ongoing partnership with Los Alamos National Laboratory to expand training and provide courses on topics such as ladder safety, crane safety, and virtual HAZWOPER refreshers during COVID-19.

Sample Courses Provided

Grantees deliver courses on various hazards, including those found in environmental remediation, laboratories, or the clean energy sector.

- HAZWOPER 40-hr, 24-hr, and refresher
- Respiratory protection
- Radiological
- Confined space awareness and rescue
- Asbestos abatement
- Electrical safety and NFPA-70
- HazMat technician
- Craft-specific topics
- Fall protection
- HazMat transportation
- General construction and general industry safety
- Safety culture
- First aid and CPR

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.

Hands-on training activity at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant.
(Photo courtesy of United Steelworkers)



For More Information

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NIEHS Worker Training Program
www.niehs.nih.gov/wtp

NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker
Training Program
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/>