



Worker Training Program: New Mexico

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

The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) annually funds training for about 3,500 workers through 200 courses in New Mexico. These grantee-led trainings are preparing workers to handle hazardous materials and respond to disasters in their communities.



Courses include:

- Asbestos Abatement
- Basic Superfund Site Worker and Site Worker Refresher
- CPR
- Confined Space Rescue
- Emergency Response
- General Construction Safety
- Hazard Communication
- Infectious Disease Awareness and Operations

Training Highlights

Building Capacity with Native American Tribes

Arizona State University (ASU), part of the Western Region Universities Consortium, offered courses to Native Americans in New Mexico and Arizona, as part of a program coordinated with the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), through the Navajo Region Division of Environmental and Safety Management.

In 2017, ASU trained 467 Native American workers in 20 courses for the BIA. ASU is the only provider of Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response training, as well as other key hazardous materials courses, for BIA in this region.

Additionally, Alabama Fire College trains Native American emergency responders and hazardous waste workers in New Mexico, through their Workplace Safety Training (WST) program. Courses include Mass Casualty Incident Triage, Responding to Meth Labs, and more.

Tribes that have received training from WST include Navajo, San Felipe Pueblo, Pueblo of Laguna, Pueblo of Acoma, Isleta Pueblo, Sandia Pueblo, Zia Pueblo, and Mescalero Apache. Nationally, WST trains tribal members employed by law enforcement, emergency medical, fire service, natural resource, and public works agencies by partnering with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society and United South and Eastern Tribes.



Photo courtesy of Alabama Fire College



Photo courtesy of Alabama Fire College

About the Worker Training Program

WTP funds nonprofit organizations 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. The NIEHS WTP was initiated under the Hazardous Substance Basic Research and Training Program authorized by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 USC 9660a).

Under these NIEHS Superfund-related activities, WTP grantees provide trainings across the country through the [Hazardous Waste](#), [Hazmat Disaster](#), and [Environmental Career Worker Training Programs](#).

For more information, visit www.niehs.nih.gov/wtp.

Community College Training

Workers receive health and safety training at the Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque, through the Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training/National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education. Courses include Basic Superfund Site Worker, Hazardous Waste Operations, General Industry Safety, General Construction Safety, and Respiratory Protection.

Biosafety, Biosecurity, and Infectious Disease Response Training

NIEHS grantees also provide training in New Mexico under the [Ebola Biosafety and Infectious Disease Response Worker Training Program](#), a national effort to deliver infection control practices and hazard recognition training for workers in health care and non-health care settings. In the first year of the program, grantees trained more than 70 workers through six courses in New Mexico.

At the Albuquerque International Sunport airport in 2017, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers received hands-on infectious disease training to lessen their risk of exposure to infectious agents. The Duke University Infectious Disease Response Training Program provided the training.

Additionally, Albuquerque Police Department crime scene laboratory staff, forensic scientists, and police officers completed awareness trainings and a train-the-trainer course, increasing the capacity for infection control and prevention in the police department. The Indiana University Bloomington Biosafety and Infectious Disease Training Initiative provided the training.

NIEHS received \$10 million to develop this three-year program from emergency Ebola treatment and prevention funds provided by Congress to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



Photo courtesy of Duke University

Nuclear Worker Training

The International Union of Operating Engineers National Training Fund (IUOE NTF) trains workers for jobs in U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapon facilities, using funding from the [NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program](#).

The IUOE NTF conducts Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response training for the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The site-specific classes, such as cryogenics and toxicology, are taught to a broad range of workers who perform cleanup across the site.

In New Mexico, NIEHS/DOE grantees train approximately 2,500 workers annually, through courses primarily delivered to Los Alamos National Laboratory employees. These courses provide worker safety and health training for cleanup activities, waste management, and hazardous materials response.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of Energy

Overall Training

In recent years, the following [NIEHS WTP grantees](#) trained workers in New Mexico:

- Alabama Fire College Workplace Safety Training
- Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training/National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education
- Duke University
- Indiana University Bloomington
- International Chemical Workers Union Council Center for Worker Health and Safety Education
- International Union of Operating Engineers National Training Fund
- LIUNA (Laborers' International Union of North America) Training and Education Fund
- OAI, Inc.