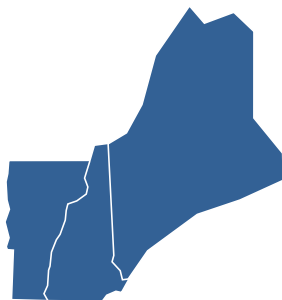




## Worker Training Program: Northern New England

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

The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) annually funds training for more than 200 workers through a dozen health and safety courses in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. These grantee-led trainings prepare workers to handle hazardous materials and respond to disasters in their communities.



### Courses include:

- Basic Superfund Site Worker and Site Worker Refresher
- Confined Space Entry and Rescue
- Domestic Preparedness Awareness
- Emergency Response
- General Industry Safety
- Infectious Control Risk Assessment
- Lead Abatement
- Process Safety Management

### Training Highlights

#### Supporting Safer Worksites Through Labor Training

The United Steelworkers (USW) Tony Mazzocchi Center (TMC) provides health, safety, and environmental training to local union, worker center, and management members throughout Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont as part of USW District 4. The training is designed to help members who work in various industry sectors, such as paper manufacturing, to identify and eliminate workplace hazards. Recently, USW TMC worker-trainers facilitated “Near-Miss Prevention” training for multiple local unions. This course provides workers the opportunity to participate in hazard recognition during incident investigations.

#### Training for Modern Disasters: Opioids and COVID-19 in New Hampshire

In 2020, the New England Consortium-Civil Service Employees Association (TNEC-CSEA) hosted a two-day online “Opioids and the Workplace Leadership Training” for city officials in Concord, New Hampshire, in collaboration with the NIEHS National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Healthy Training. This course supports leaders who have influence or authority to change organizational policy, procedures, and culture



Photo courtesy of TNEC



Photo courtesy of TNEC

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

in the prevention and response to opioid misuse in the workplace.

TNEC-CSEA works with several New England Council on Occupational Safety and Health (COSH) groups that are dedicated to protecting workers from occupational injury, illness, and fatality through support to labor unions and other groups of workers. A consortium member, New Hampshire COSH, has assisted and provided training to staff and members of the American Federation of Teachers on COVID-19 and health and safety in the schools, as well as working with the New Hampshire Bureau of Adult Education.

### Preventing Private Sector Workplace Incidents in Vermont

WTP also prepares factory workers to safely handle chemicals that pose health hazards associated with serious respiratory illnesses and skin irritation.

Since the 1990s, TNEC-CSEA, based at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, has trained workers and supervisors at ice cream production facilities in Vermont on emergency response and incident command.

The primary chemical of concern is anhydrous ammonia, which is used as a refrigerant. Misuse and exposure to concentrated anhydrous ammonia may cause severe chemical burns and frostbite to the eyes, lungs, and skin.

### Hazard Safety for the Construction Sector in New Hampshire

CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training delivers courses for approximately 36 employers annually across New Hampshire. These courses include “Infection Control Risk Assessment” to prepare the workforce to perform construction, renovation, maintenance, and demolition activities on healthcare facilities. Performing work in a healthcare facility requires coordination and



Photo courtesy of iStock

collaboration among all construction trades to minimize the risk of spreading infections to hospital patients, staff, and visitors.

In addition, as part of CPWR’s training consortium, the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) delivers courses on topics such as lead abatement to New Hampshire employers. They provide state-required training on lead-safe work practices to help protect workers and the public from existing lead-based paint hazards during bridge rehabilitation and maintenance work.

### Community Colleges

Headquartered in South Portland, Maine, the Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST)/

National Partnership

for Environmental

Technology Education

(PETE) provides training

and education to prepare

a highly trained workforce capable of safely handling the

cleanup of hazardous waste sites and other incidents in

which hazardous materials are involved.

CCCHST offers hazardous materials instruction in 33

states and two territories through member community

colleges. Every year, these colleges partner with business

and industry, universities, and community-based

organizations. They provide more than 50,000 students

with critical job skills through more than 3,000 health

and safety courses. Courses include industrial emergency

response, confined space entry and exit, hazardous

materials awareness, and Superfund site worker health

and safety. The grantee is also offering virtual instructor

conferences to teach trainers best practices for providing

emergency health and safety in the virtual world.



### Overall Training

The following [WTP grantees](#) trained workers in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont:

- CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- The New England Consortium-Civil Service Employees Association
- United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center for Health, Safety, and Environmental Education