



# Worker Training Program: Mississippi

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

The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) annually funds training for about 500 workers through 20 courses in Mississippi. These grantee-led trainings are preparing workers to handle hazardous materials and respond to disasters in their communities.



### Courses include:

- Basic Superfund Site Worker
- Emergency Response and Preparedness
- General Construction Safety
- Hazard Communication
- Hazard Materials Specialist
- Mold and Mildew Remediation

## Training Highlights

### Disaster Preparedness and Response Training

The Jackson Police Department (JPD) regularly receives training on topics such as general industry safety, general construction safety, adult CPR, and trainer development. The training is provided by the International Chemical Workers Union Council (ICWUC) Center for Worker Health and Safety Education, in collaboration with the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

In 2017, a Disaster Train-the-Trainer course was taught to JPD staff, which increased their emergency response capacity for disasters in the Gulf and Atlantic Coast regions. During the course, staff learned about topics such as hurricane safety and flood response, and then used adult education principles to teach the topics to their peers.

Additionally, Vietnamese fishermen in Mississippi received training on health and safety issues related to oil spill cleanup from OAI, Inc., after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. OAI has a long-term collaboration with Boat People SOS, an agency supporting the Vietnamese community in the U.S., and has continued disaster preparedness training in this community.



Photo courtesy of ICWUC



### 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).**

### Community College Training

Mississippi workers receive critical job skills through health and safety training at Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, Pearl River Community College in Poplarville, and Itawamba Community College in Fulton. The Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training/National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education provides the trainings.

### Biosafety, Biosecurity, and Infectious Disease Response

WTP also provides training under the Ebola Biosafety and Infectious Disease Response Training Program, a national effort to deliver infection control practices and hazard recognition training to workers in health care and non-health care settings. In the first year of the program, grantees trained about 450 workers through more than 40 courses in Mississippi.

The training in Mississippi is conducted mainly by The University of Mississippi Medical Center under the Deep South Biosafety Worker Training Program consortium. The consortium, funded through The University of Alabama at Birmingham, trains health care and public safety workers on infection control safety practices.

The training has reached workers across the state, including Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians firefighters, members of the Mississippi State Guard, and staff and health profession students at universities and community colleges, such as Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead and Mississippi State University in Starkville.

The consortium's advisory board includes the Mississippi State Department of Health, the Mississippi Hospital Association, and the Mississippi State Fire Academy.

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



Photo courtesy of the Deep South Biosafety Worker Training Program

### Building Capacity Across Diverse Populations

OAI works with Boat People SOS to train Vietnamese nail salon workers on the chemical and biological hazards in their work environment. Using a train-the-trainer model, workers from Mississippi, as well as California, Texas, Alabama, Georgia, and Virginia, gain relevant hazard awareness and disseminate safety training in their region.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has received emergency response and preparedness training, hazard awareness training, and Hazardous Materials Specialist training from the Alabama Fire College Workplace Safety Training (WST) program. Training has been provided to tribal members, as well as tribal conservation officers, emergency responders, and housing authority.

Across the country, WST partners with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, and United South and Eastern Tribes, to train tribal members employed by emergency medical, fire service, natural resource, law enforcement, and public works agencies.



Photo courtesy of OAI

### Overall Training

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

- Alabama Fire College Workplace Safety Training
- Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training/National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- 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.
- Nova Southeastern University
- United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center for Health, Safety, and Environmental Education
- The University of Alabama at Birmingham