Worker Training Program: Oregon
A National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Superfund-Related Activity

The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) annually funds training for 1,200 workers through more than 120 health and safety courses in Oregon. Recipients of NIEHS WTP grants lead trainings to prepare workers to handle hazardous materials and respond to disasters in their communities.

Courses include:
- Asbestos Awareness
- Basic Superfund Site Worker and Site Worker Refresher
- Hazard Communication
- Confined Space Entry and Rescue
- First Aid
- Hazardous Waste Operations
- General Construction Safety
- General Industry Safety
- Personal Protective Equipment Awareness
- Emergency Response
- Wildfire Awareness
- Infectious Disease Awareness (COVID-19)

Training Highlights

Job Training and Economic Impact
The NIEHS Environmental Career Worker Training Program offers job training for disadvantaged and underrepresented workers. This program has a nationwide economic impact through pre-employment, and health and safety training in underserved communities.

In Portland, the Western Region Universities Consortium works with the University of Washington and Constructing Hope to provide a workforce development program for underserved communities. As part of this program, the consortium targets individuals who face barriers to employment, health disparities, poor or unsafe environmental conditions, and other environmental justice concerns. Constructing Hope students receive job and life skills training to advance their economic stability. Overall, this training helps students obtain sustainable careers in the construction industry. The 2019 job placement rate was approximately 86%.

Native American Tribes: Hazardous Materials Awareness and Emergency Response
The Alabama Fire College Workplace Safety Training program serves members and employees of Native American tribes nationwide. A longstanding partnership with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Services (NAFWS) allows this training program to reach, promote, and deliver hazardous materials and emergency response training to tribes.

Photo courtesy of CCCHST

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.
In Oregon, the program provided training to NAFWS regional conference participants. The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation is also a key training partner, with a representative from the tribe providing guidance and feedback on the program's advisory board. Other tribes in Oregon have benefitted from training over the years, such as the Coquille Indian Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Burns Paiute Tribe.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, members of The Klamath Tribes in Oregon joined an online emergency response awareness training class. This training supports recognition of and protection from hazardous materials.

**Wildfire Preparedness and Response**

WTP grantees deliver training on hazardous waste associated with natural disasters, such as wildfires. Wildfire training can focus on the wildland-urban interface, wildfire smoke safety, or disaster preparedness.

The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees conducted a wildfire awareness training using their *Wildfire Preparedness and Response at Home* fact sheets and the NIEHS *Protecting Yourself While Responding to Wildfires* training booklets. Although the training was conducted online due to COVID-19 restrictions, it reached more than 120 workers across Oregon. Their program is funded under the International Chemical Workers Union Council Center for Worker Health and Safety Education.

**Community Colleges**

The Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST), sponsored by the National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education, partners with community colleges, universities, businesses, and community-based organizations to provide critical job skills training through health and safety courses. TCB Northwest in Oregon has been a partner of CCCHST since 2016. The company offers hazardous waste worker and related training for companies whose employees perform remediation and response. In recent months, TCB Northwest offered hazardous materials awareness and hazard communication courses achieving more than 3,000 contact hours of training.

**Overall Training**

The following WTP grantees trained workers in Oregon:

- Alabama Fire College
- CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- International Chemical Workers Union Council
- International Union of Operating Engineers
- Laborers’ International Union of North America
- Partnership for Environmental Technology Education
- United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center for Health, Safety, and Environmental Education
- Western Region Universities Consortium