

## Cincinnati Conference Activity for the Morning of May 1st

**Purpose:** On April 30-May 1, 2009 the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) will hold its spring Workshop at the Millennium Hotel in Cincinnati, OH for the purpose of sharing knowledge, materials, and resources for chemical and all-hazards preparedness. NIEHS WETP and The Interstate Chemical Terrorism Workgroup (ICTW) have a primary interest in developing and maintaining functional relationships between state, local, and federal partners involved in all-hazards emergency preparedness focused on chemical response. Facilitating awareness and increasing hazmat training and promoting information exchange between federal, state, and local partners is the primary purpose for the Spring 2009 meeting. Among other things we will review a new draft training tool that addresses the health and safety hazards that response and recovery workers will face following a chemical incident.

**Background:** Since 1987, NIEHS WETP has funded non-profit organizations with a demonstrated track record of providing occupational safety and health education in developing and delivering high quality training to workers who are involved in handling hazardous waste or in responding to emergency releases of hazardous materials. The NIEHS WETP in conjunction with 18 awardees has supported the development of curricula and initiation of training programs throughout the country to help employers meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements under [CFR 1910.120, Hazardous Waste Operations & Emergency Response](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9765) ([http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=STANDARDS&p\\_id=9765](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9765)). This model program encourages innovation for training difficult-to-reach populations by addressing issues such as literacy, appropriate adult education techniques, training quality improvement, and other areas un-addressed directly by the private sector. The program enhances rather than replaces private sector training responsibility by demonstrating new and cost-effective training techniques and materials. Over 2 million workers have been trained under the NIEHS WETP.

The ICTW is made up of public health, medical and emergency response professionals from all 50 states. Representatives from state, local and federal agencies formed the ICTW in 2002 to share knowledge, materials and resources for chemical and all-hazards terrorism preparedness. The ICTW currently includes members from nearly all states and a number of federal agencies and large urban areas. The ICTW has a steering group of advisors and co-facilitators broadly representing disciplines and regions within the group and will be a key partner in planning the spring 2009 meeting.

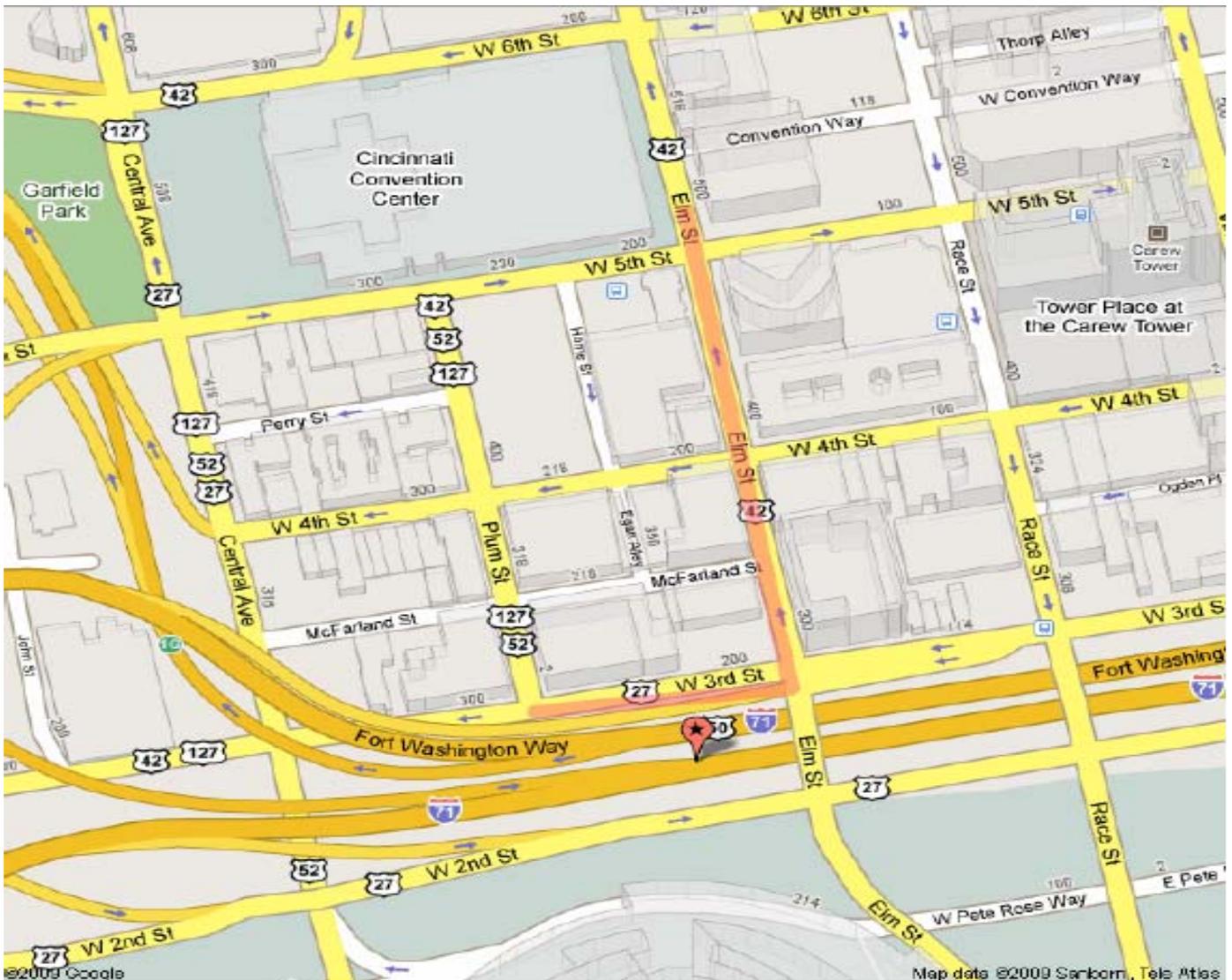
**Objectives:** In addition to sharing model programs and best practices by local, state, NGO, and federal agencies, we will end the workshop with a practical activity with the purpose of stimulating discussion, putting into practice previous training by using shared material, as well as the identification of areas of health and safety issues that may require further follow up. To that end, see below the proposed scenario for the morning of Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Keep in mind this question, "What safety issues do responders need to be aware of when conducting incident stabilization in a chemical environment?"

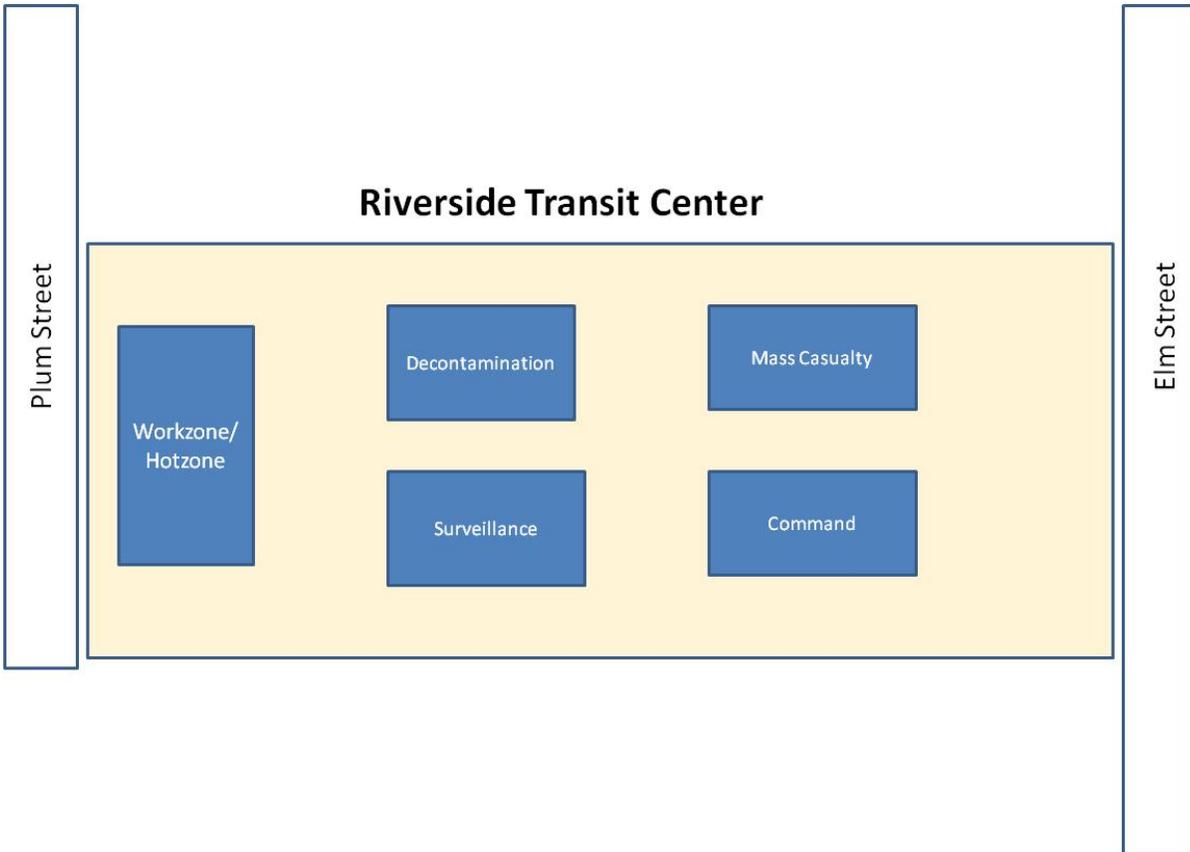
**Description of Incident:** At approximately 0700 EST on May 1<sup>st</sup> an alarm came in for a fire and explosion at a local brewery. Shortly after arrival, it was discovered that the manufacturing facility was partially collapsed with smoke and flames visible and a strong pungent odor. Additional fire support, EMS and Hazmat were requested. Upon further assessment and interview with facility manager it was determined that approximately 30,000

pounds of anhydrous ammonia and other assorted chemicals used for the production of brewery's products were stored on the facility grounds. During the exercise, the activities will focus on:

- Command,
- Decontamination,
- Mass Casualties,
- Incident Surveillance, and
- Workzone/Hotzone.

**Activity Process:** Activities listed above will be prepositioned as displays/stations located within the Riverside Transit Center (located under Interstate 71/Fort Washington Way, between Plum Street and Elm Street). After receiving a briefing on the conduct of the activity attendees will make their way from the Millennium Hotel to the Riverside Transit Center.





Conference attendees will be divided into small groups (approximately 5 groups of 20-30). Each group will have an Incident Commander, Safety Officer, and Public Information Officer. Each group will spend approximately 20-30 minutes at each station and then rotate to the next.

**Incident Commander (IC):** Responsible for facilitating and focusing the group on the objectives identified for each station.

**Safety Officer (SO):** Responsible for the safety of their assigned group as they rotate to the various stations and assisting the group in identifying health and safety issues.

**Public Information Officer (PIO):** Responsible for collecting the information from the group regarding meeting each station's objectives and general feedback that will be reported back to the general audience upon conclusion of the activity.

**Group Members:** Responsible for using the collective knowledge of the group to assist in meeting the assigned objectives for each station. Each member will utilize the information presented at each station along with material and presentations from the previous day of the workshop to work through the objectives and provide a summary to the IC and PIO.

**Supporting Activity:** A current intel briefing on chemical terrorist activities will be provided to conference attendees at the beginning of the conference. All intel updates will contain national information as background and support for the incident that will occur on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This information will be disseminated to the attendees through short intel briefings or may be transmitted via electronic means. Site and incident specific training and safety information will be provided in the form of a chemical awareness tool, short electronic messages, or other tools shared during the conference.