Workplace Safety Training

A division of the Alabama Fire College

With a grant from the NIEHS

And in partnership with the NAFWS

provides Hazmat and Emergency Response Training for Native Americans





- Workplace Safety Training (WST) is one of the original grantees of the program (Starting in 1987)
- In the late 1990s, Native American conservation officers from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians attended a 40-hour Hazardous Waste Worker course offered by Workplace Safety Program (WST) with funding from the Worker Training Program of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; Said officers recognized the importance of this training for their safety, and that of fellow tribal officers that were at risk of coming upon illegal and toxic dumps on tribal lands. Thus, the idea of providing Native Americans with the much-needed training was born.
- Shortly thereafter with support of the NIEHS and in and partnership with the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS) WST has been training Native Americans throughout the United States in a variety of Hazmat and emergency response related subjects.







- 40 Hr. Hazwoper
- 8 Hr. Hazmat Updates
- Illicit Drug Lab Awareness
- Radiation/Nuclear Awareness
- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Hazmat Awareness for First Responders
- Mass Casualty Incident Triage Awareness
- Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations
- Responder Safety Awareness During Disaster Response







WST REACHES TRIBES COAST TO COAST

Eastern Band of Cherokee

GWYA SGLHAY













































CLASSES OFFERED BY WST TO NATIVE AMERICANS



WST in its class recruitment efforts always encourages tribes to have more women and younger tribe members attend WST classes.



Difficulties reaching Native Tribes





- Difficulties to identify the right person to schedule and organize a class.
- Distant and remote locations (Difficult to reach)
- Resources at this locations

Success Story



- WST was recognized for the invaluable preparedness training provided to the Poarch Creek Indians of Alabama prior to 2005 Hurricane Katrina.
- The tribe was fully prepared and equipped to deal with the Hurricane.
- The tribe in Atmore, AL was used as a Federal staging point for the region.
- Enabled the tribe to deliver the much-needed help to other tribes in the affected region.

Other Success Stories



- Fort Peck, Montana. (Assiniboine Sioux Tribe)
- We have been providing all levels of Hazmat Training to this tribe
- Training continued during the covid 19 shutdown through Zoom delivered courses.

Other Success Stories



- Yakama Nation in eastern Washington State and the neighboring Cayuse, Walla Walla, Umatilla Confederated Tribes in eastern Oregon.
- We have provided all levels of Hazmat Training to this tribes, and they have also continued their training with in-person and our Zoom courses.

Other Success Stories





- Saint Regies Mohawk Tribe in upstate New York
- Our relationship started in 2011 when Mr. Les Benedict and I co-presented the DOT Emergency Response Guidebook at a NA Conference in Atmore, AL. After the conference he invited us to bring our training to his tribe.

Saint Regies Mohawk Tribe



 We have trained a large numbers of Tribal responders throughout the years, and they have taken every course that we provide, to include Hazmat Technician and our highest levels of Incident Command System courses.

Saint Regies Mohawk Tribe



 Our training has help them improve their tribal disaster preparedness and response capabilities, as well as to being able to better interact with State and Federal agencies in their jurisdiction for regional emergency response, planning and training exercises.