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.

For more information, visit 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 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