



Each year*, WTP funds training for:



Approximately **1,178** workers.



More than **1,120** workers employed by U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) contractors.



Delivery of over **100** health and safety courses.



Delivery of more than **12,680** contact hours



Courses on topics including hazardous material worker, electrical safety, basic first aid, and general construction safety

* Metrics shown in this sidebar represent the average number of workers trained, courses delivered, and contact hours delivered for 2021-2024 in Idaho.

Worker Training Program: Idaho

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

The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) funds nonprofit organizations to provide health and safety training for workers who may be exposed to hazardous materials (HAZMAT) and waste at work or while assisting with emergency response situations. WTP is authorized by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 USC 9660a). WTP-funded organizations (award recipients) provide Superfund-related training across the country through the [Hazardous Waste](#) and [HAZMAT Disaster Worker Training Programs](#), and non-Superfund related activities through the [NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program](#).

Training Highlights

Improving Safety at DOE Facilities

The NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program provides funding for award recipients to develop and deliver health and safety training for workers at DOE facilities around the country. In Idaho, most of this training happens at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). There, award recipients teach courses such as basic first aid, general construction safety, and electrical safety to on-site contractors and workers.

- Since 2019, [CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training \(CPWR\)](#) has partnered with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) to deliver the National Fire Protection Association 70E training at INL at least once per quarter. Taught by licensed electricians, this training instructs workers on standard updates on how to reduce electrical hazards, including shocks, electrocutions, arc flashes, and arc blasts. By working with CPWR, INL avoids the cost of contracting a vendor for the training. This has saved the site more than \$500,000 since the partnership's inception, and other DOE sites are currently requesting this training to remain in compliance with updated standards. CPWR and IBEW also deliver the National Electrical Code 2018 Update training for electricians at INL, ensuring that electrical worker trainers are prepared to present electrical code updates to workers on-site.

- The [Laborers' International Union of North America \(LIUNA\) Training and Education Fund](#) trains contractor employees who are required to have specialized skills

Enhancing DOE Safety

In August 2023, the Safety Culture Improvement Panel sponsored a meeting attended by several DOE sites in Idaho. An NIEHS contractor attended the meeting in Idaho Falls, Idaho, on behalf of WTP. At the meeting, the contractor provided information about award recipients like CPWR and their safety culture curricula. This information highlighted the partnership with the DOE National Training Center, which supported CPWR achieving reciprocity certification for the CPWR safety culture training course.



Trainees participating in a HAZMAT safety training course. (Photo courtesy of LIUNA)

training and certifications to qualify for on-site work. This training provides workers with the knowledge and abilities necessary to support site mission completion. LIUNA delivers continuing training for incumbent workers to help them maintain their employability, as well as specialized training for new employees through apprenticeship programs. From 2021-2024, LIUNA trained a cohort of 1,236 participants at INL in courses such as hazard communication, respiratory protection, fall protection, and Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER). In particular, LIUNA supports training in INL priorities like first aid, CPR, and automated external defibrillator instructions, all of which help participants identify hazards and protect themselves.

- **The United Steelworkers (USW) Tony Mazzocchi Center (TMC)** uses a peer-to-peer model to train workers at INL through mutual, collaborative education, while senior instructors provide guidance and experience on more technical subjects. To build trust between workers and INL site coordinators, the training team collaborates with worker health and safety contractor representatives at INL, who visit each HAZWOPER Standard Refresher class to allow workers to raise their concerns and ensure timely follow up. USW TMC also partnered with INL to provide Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and HAZWOPER courses to local community colleges across the state to increase students' prospects for employment on DOE sites. Since the initial course, more community colleges have expressed interest in partnering with USW TMC to facilitate OSHA training.

Magnifying Impact through Trainer Development

NIEHS encourages award recipients to support instructor and trainer development. In December 2023, two USW TMC-affiliated DOE worker-trainers at INL became authorized as OSHA 500-level trainers after taking part in a mentorship process led by TMC staff. These newly authorized worker-trainers can now conduct high-level OSHA courses in addition to standard outreach courses, allowing them to better enhance health and safety knowledge on-site and in their community. As one trainer said, "This certification will help us provide more insight when we train others and allow for more in-depth ways to train general industry topics."

Working With Tribal Communities

Members of Idaho's five federally recognized Tribes are often responsible for hazardous waste and emergency response on Tribal reservations. The University of Washington (UW), a member of the [Western Region Universities Consortium \(WRUC\)](#), delivers safety training to members of Pacific Northwest Tribes to ensure that members are prepared to address these issues and build technical capacity. UW offers courses on topics such as hazard recognition and control, emergency response, general construction safety, and hazardous waste operations.

- In 2022, UW provided a 40-hour HAZWOPER training to members of the Shoshone Bannock Native American Tribe in partnership with the Tribal Solid Waste Advisory Network (TSWAN), a consortium focused on addressing solid waste and environmental issues on Tribal lands. UW continues to work with TSWAN to train consortium members who work in Tribal landfills and waste management in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska.
- UW also conducted a 40-hour HAZWOPER training in Plummer, Idaho, to members of the Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) and Spokane (Washington) Tribes.



Students from a 40-hour HAZWOPER class held by WRUC in Coeur D'Alene. (photo courtesy of Darren Branum)