



NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program

Program Goal

The **National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)/Department of Energy (DOE) Nuclear Worker Training Program** provides high-quality health and safety training to DOE site workers to ensure they are prepared to work safely in hazardous environments.

Workers are trained to identify potential hazardous situations and take appropriate actions to protect themselves, fellow workers, and the environment. NIEHS funds programs to deliver both site-specific and trade-specific training that support completion of DOE site missions.

The training offered under the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program supports and integrates with Title 10 part 851 of the Code of Federal Regulations “Worker Safety and Health Program.” Examples of training include safety management, DOE safety culture, and other initiatives.

Program Overview

Administered since 1993 by the NIEHS Worker Training Program, the program provides a blend of fundamental and specialized health and safety training to workers in a timely and cost-effective manner. Training is accomplished through a partnership involving government, contractors, and labor organizations.

A cornerstone of the program is the use of peer worker trainers — employees with experience working in DOE hazardous environments.

Program Training Summary, 2024-2025

For the period Aug. 1, 2024 – July 31, 2025:



29,265
Workers trained

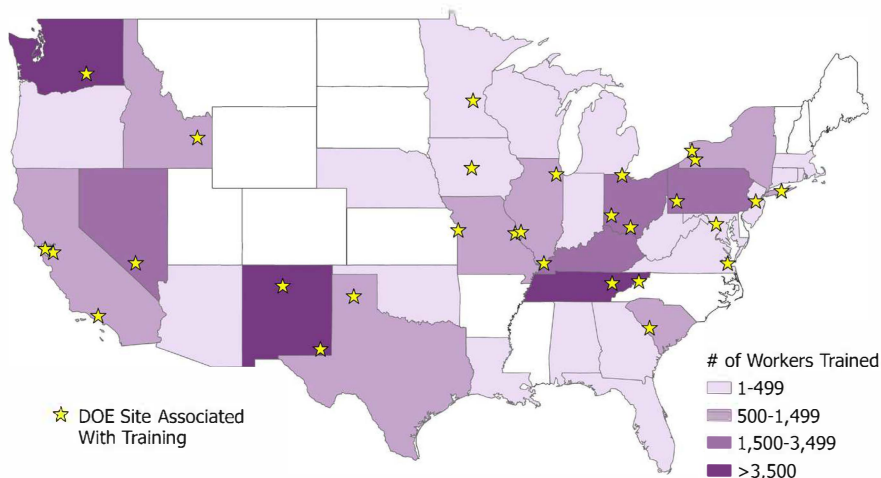


2,029
Courses provided



382,681
Contact hours delivered

NIEHS/DOE award recipients trained in 35 states and the District of Columbia:



Courses delivered during the year covered topics such as Superfund site worker, general construction safety, emergency response, confined space, radiological control technician training, lead abatement, asbestos abatement, hazardous materials transport, triage/first aid, electrical safety, and hazard communication.

These selected individuals train their peers while also sharing their experiences and knowledge to support a safer work environment.

The workers trained under the program represent a variety of occupational sectors and are a national security asset in emergency response. Additionally, some training is extended to community

members surrounding DOE sites, including American Indian Tribes, who then gain certifications and skills through workforce development and other support agreements. These opportunities increase their eligibility for employment at a nearby DOE site or keep them prepared if called upon in an emergency.

Collaborations with DOE and DOE Contractors

Protecting worker health and safety through training delivery has been a primary goal of the Office of Environmental Management. NIEHS also partners with DOE's Office of Environment, Health, Safety, and Security and the National Training Center (NTC). These DOE partnerships help further the reach of award recipient training and improve efficiency across the sites.

Recent collaborations and advancements include:

- The DOE NTC has reviewed many NIEHS award recipient instructor programs and has determined they are equivalent to NTC instructor certification. NTC has also certified over 40 award recipient courses for reciprocity and one award recipient has their apprentice program's safety and health courses certified.
- NIEHS takes actions to increase contractor awareness of the program and facilitate connections between DOE site contractors and award recipients.

Feedback from Trainees

"I've taken other classes and have not had the same interaction and experience with other instructors. I think these instructors are by far the best I have ever experienced."

"The details covering risk management and incident management were two of the most important lessons. Utilizing these vital response methods will help keep myself, fellow responders and the community safe."

"The hands-on skill stations and understanding the need to slow down and act deliberate to ensure a safe working environment was a great takeaway from the class."

Contractors benefit through improved project mobilization and elimination of some training costs.

- Offering radiological control technician training to communities around the Portsmouth and Paducah sites in response to technician shortages.
- Ongoing partnership with Los Alamos National Laboratory to expand training and provide courses on topics such as ladder safety, crane safety, and HAZWOPER refreshers.

Sample Courses Provided

Award recipients deliver courses on various hazards, including those found in environmental remediation, laboratories, or the clean energy sector.

- HAZWOPER 40-hr, 24-hr, and refresher
- Respiratory protection
- Radiological Control Technician
- Confined space awareness and rescue
- Asbestos abatement
- Electrical safety and NFPA-70
- HazMat technician
- Craft-specific topics
- Fall protection
- HazMat transportation
- General construction and general industry safety
- Safety culture
- First aid and CPR

The National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training

The Clearinghouse, supported by the NIEHS Worker Training Program, provides technical support to award recipients. The Clearinghouse [website](#) has reports and other resources on topics specifically related to DOE, as well as a database of curricula developed by NIEHS/DOE award

recipients. Additionally, the Clearinghouse distributes a weekly e-Newsbrief to over 1,200 subscribers.

Program Authorization

The NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program was authorized by Section 3131 of the National Defense Authorization Act (fiscal year 1992) and is implemented through an interagency agreement with DOE. The program is a partnership between the NIEHS Worker Training Program and DOE to provide crucial health and safety training for workers in the nuclear complex.

DOE site workers pictured in protective gear
(Photo courtesy of DOE)



For More Information

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NIEHS Worker Training Program
www.niehs.nih.gov/wtp

NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/training_program_areas/doe

The National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training
<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/>