



Worker Training Program: Ohio

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

The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) annually funds training for more than 6,300 workers through nearly 425 health and safety courses in Ohio. Recipients of NIEHS grants lead training to prepare workers to handle hazardous materials and respond to disasters in their communities.



Courses include:

- Asbestos Abatement
- Basic Superfund Site Worker and Site Worker Refresher
- Confined Space Entry and Rescue
- Cranes and Rigging
- Emergency Response
- General Construction and General Industry Safety
- Infectious Disease Awareness
- Process Safety Management
- Radiological Control Technician
- Training Methods/Trainer Development

Training Highlights

Industrial Sector Training for Hazardous Materials and Emergency Response

Through a multi-state agreement with Ford Motor Company, Emergency Response Solutions International (ERSI) delivers courses at Ford's Ohio Assembly Plant in Avon Lake, Cleveland Engine Plant in Brook Park, Lima Engine Plant, and Sharonville Transmission Plant. Classes include confined space rescue, hazardous materials response, incident command for emergency response, and use of personal protective equipment. Training also includes a 36-hour annual refresher for these and other relevant topics. ERSI is part of the Midwest Consortium (MWC) for Hazardous Waste Worker Training, funded through University of Cincinnati.

The International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW) trains its members in industrial settings across Ohio, including Toledo, Springfield, Huron, Wauseon, and Sidney, and with employers such as FCA Jeep, Toth Industries, Johnson Controls, International Automotive Components, Dana Incorporated, and ZF Friedrichshafen AG. UAW trains workers in general industry safety topics such as cranes and rigging, electrical safety, and accident investigation. The training programs teach workers how to identify current workplace hazards and ways to correct them. UAW also supports joint labor-management health and safety committees, such as the safety committee at GE Aviation in Evendale, Ohio.



Photo courtesy of Midwest Consortium



Photo courtesy of ICWUC

About the Worker Training Program

WTP funds nonprofit organizations to provide health and safety training for workers who may be exposed to hazardous materials and waste at work or while assisting with emergency response. WTP was initiated under the Hazardous Substance Basic Research and Training Program authorized by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 USC 9660a).

Under these NIEHS Superfund-related activities, WTP grantees provide trainings across the country through the [Hazardous Waste, Hazmat Disaster, and Environmental Career Worker Training Programs](#).

For more information, visit www.niehs.nih.gov/wtp.

Supporting Safer Worksites Through Union Training

United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center (USW TMC) for Health, Safety, and Environmental Education provides training to local union members and management throughout Ohio. The center has trained workers in high-hazard industry sectors, such as paper, rubber, oil, and chemical. PBF Energy's Toledo refinery works with USW TMC as part of the union's labor-management cooperative health and safety program called the Triangle of Prevention (TOP). Through TOP, union health and safety leaders engage entire plant populations, including managers, to deliver training, conduct investigations of safety incidents, develop and share lessons learned, and implement systematic improvement.



Hands-On Training for Chemical Emergency Response

The International Chemical Workers Union Council (ICWUC) Center for Worker Health and Safety Education, based in Cincinnati, annually trains about 5,500 workers across the country through their consortium. Consortium partners represent workers who are responsible for chemical emergency response either full time or as needed. At the ICWUC Cincinnati training center, hands-on training incorporates scenarios specific to trainees' work. Hands-on exercises comprise 40% of all four-day programs. For example, industrial emergency response classes practice how to contain leaking pipes, valves, and drums.

ICWUC also delivers many trainer development courses in Cincinnati throughout the year, in both English and Spanish.

Community Colleges

Community college students across the state are prepared to work at hazardous waste sites or in response to emergencies through the Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training (CCCHST)/National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education. Key job skills in remediation, industry, and construction are taught at Zane State College in Zanesville, Columbus State Community College, and Stark State College of Technology in North Canton.

Nuclear Worker Training

Several grantees facilitate health and safety training for cleanup, waste management, and emergency response at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapons and nuclear waste sites, with funding from the [NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program](#). In Ohio, more than 1,500 workers are trained annually, with most training programs

supporting the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site in southern central Ohio.

USW TMC provides training for Portsmouth site workers. In addition, the TMC, USW Local Union 1-689, the village of Piketon, and Pike County Career Technology Center formed a consortium to provide free training to local job seekers. It includes delivery of Radiological Control Technician training to address increased employment. All 20 class participants passed, with more than 50% of them receiving job offers upon completion.



Photo courtesy of DOE

The TMC and Local 1-689 also partnered with the Ross County Safety Council and Portsmouth Mission Alliance to provide Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-hour General Industry training in Chillicothe, Ohio. All 25 attendees completed the class and earned OSHA 10-hour cards, a success story that necessitated a wait list for future classes.

Overall Training

The following [WTP grantees](#) trained workers in Ohio:

- Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training/National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education
- CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training
- Indiana University Bloomington
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- International Chemical Workers Union Council Center for Worker Health and Safety Education
- International Union of Operating Engineers National Training Fund
- International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)
- Midwest Consortium for Hazardous Waste Worker Training
- United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center for Health, Safety, and Environmental Education