



NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program

PREPARING DOE WORKERS TO PERFORM WORK SAFELY

This brochure provides information on the NIEHS/U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Nuclear Worker Training Program and how DOE sites can partner with NIEHS-funded training organizations for course delivery.



Trainees during a 40-hour Hazardous Waste course.

Photo courtesy of Volpentest HAMMER Federal Training Center

Since 1993, WTP has been in partnership with the DOE Office of Environmental Management to provide grants from the National Institutes of Health. The grants go to nonprofit organizations, or grantees, to develop and administer model health and safety training programs for DOE workers.

Program Overview

The [NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program](#) provides health and safety training for workers within the DOE nuclear weapons complex.

The program is a partnership between the NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) and the DOE Office of Environmental Management to provide grants for nonprofit organizations, or grantees, to deliver fundamental and site-specific health and safety training to DOE workers.

WTP grantees deliver training to DOE workers involved in any nuclear weapons related activities. Training includes fundamental and advanced hazard-specific training and is provided through local partnerships between the government, contractors, and program grantees. Pre-employment training can also be provided, which improves project mobilization and reduces costs.

Course Curricula and Delivery

Course delivery is available for topics related to hazardous materials and emergency response, as well as other occupational safety and health topics and trade-specific training.

Course curricula and training materials are developed by professionals with a systematic approach, building on an analysis of needs, curriculum design, and evaluation. Adult learning methods are the bedrock of WTP grantee training, with hands-on skills development and technologies that enhance the learning experience.

The development, maintenance, and delivery of course curricula are funded by NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program grants. In some situations, collaborative agreements allow WTP grantee instructors to use DOE contractor training materials.

Qualified Instructors

Grantee instructors have years of experience with adult learning methods and many are worker-trainers, bringing job experience to the classroom. They have completed formal instructor training and qualification programs, such as required training programs within their organization and Occupational Safety and Health Administration instructor training. Each instructor is required to comply with requirements specified in the WTP [Minimum Criteria for Worker Health and Safety Training for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response \(HAZWOPER\)](#).

Mobile Specialty Training

WTP grantees can bring qualified instructors to any DOE site. This mobile training capability can be used for specialty training or training to support preparation for state required training and licensing. It also increases DOE community access to low volume or infrequently used courses, eliminating the need to subcontract training at an additional cost.

“In-depth training from instructors from different parts of the country proved beneficial to me. They brought a wealth of knowledge that was applicable to incidents that could arise in my response area.”

– Site worker



Worker during waste management protocol at Los Alamos.

Photo courtesy of DOE

DOE Reciprocity, Project Mobilization, and Cost Avoidance

Training offered by WTP grantee instructors can significantly reduce time and costs associated with project mobilization. This training is delivered at no additional cost to the DOE site contractor. Generally, DOE site contractors define the training requirements that would help prepare workers to perform work activities safely. Many WTP grantees participate in the [DOE Reciprocity Certification Program](#) implemented by the DOE National Training Center. This program certifies the content of training courses, as well as course instructors, and ensures that the core elements of training programs meet requirements established by federal regulations and DOE directives.

The reciprocity program also eliminates the need for duplicative training on fundamental course content, especially for workers who are reassigned. For example, when a site recognizes previous training for a new employee, including apprentice safety training and license or certificate training, the contractor can concentrate resources on delivery of new site- or job-specific training.

“This [program] is a great benefit to our organization in Safety and Industrial Hygiene as it has allowed us to send more individuals to training, save money through not having to travel out of town for training or bring training vendors to the plant with contract funding, and provide a more extensive selection of training.”

– Safety and industrial hygiene manager



Trainees participate in a dress out.

Photo courtesy of CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training

For More Information

For more questions about the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program or to discuss possibilities for training offered by the program, please contact:

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NIEHS Worker Training Program

<https://www.niehs.nih.gov/wtp>

NIEHS/DOE Nuclear

Worker Training Program

Overview and Annual Report

https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/training_program_areas/doe/index.cfm

The NIEHS Worker Training Program

Minimum Criteria

<https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=142>