



FALL AWARDEE MEETING AND WORKSHOP



National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences
Worker Training Program

EXAMINING the
CHANGING LANDSCAPE
of HAZWOPER TRAINING

Research Triangle Park, NC / October 19-21, 2022





Purpose and Scope of the Workshop

- Ensure that the NIEHS WTP continues to be a model training program for hazardous waste operations and emergency response (HAZWOPER) and supported training
- Explore the ways in which HAZWOPER training has evolved over the last several years and consider changes that may take place in the future.
- Consider and discuss the audience for HAZWOPER training, the conditions under which HAZWOPER work is performed, the changing distribution of hazards, and approaches for teaching refresher courses
- Lastly, you will hear insights from WTP grantee organizations who deliver HAZWOPER training, as well as perspectives from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration on trends they're seeing related to HAZWOPER work and hazmat emergency, response.

WTP Current Priorities

- Push an **all-hazards approach** to training to cover existing and emerging threats
- Continue focus on **infectious disease, opioids, climate change, equity, and justice**
- Promote **Justice40 Initiative** and **ECWTP**
- Encourage grantees to use **adaptable and innovative methods** to respond to future training needs
- Continue focus on **evaluation** across all programs
- Expand **partnerships** at the federal, state, and local levels



Emerging Issues in Hazwoper

- Additional health and safety training approaches are necessary to address emerging health and safety concerns for the hazardous waste workforce. This section focuses on occupational hazards associated with emerging industries and technologies, and the risks workers and communities face as the consequences of climate change become more apparent.
 - Tangible Issues:
 - Alternative Energy, hydraulic fracturing operations or Fracking, Nanomaterials, climate change, life sciences manufacturing and AI
 - Finding and integrating the new skills and SME's needed to adapt our training.
 - Intangible Issues
 - Misconceptions, lies and falsehoods

Common Types of WTP Training Courses

- Hazardous Waste and Materials**
Workers engaged in activities related to hazardous materials and waste generation, removal, containment, and transportation
- Emergency Response/ Disaster Recovery**
Workers who handle response, recovery, and cleanup from emergencies and disasters with hazards such as chemicals, mold, toxic metals, or unidentified hazardous materials
- Confined Space**
Workers who may encounter confined spaces in their work (where dangers exist for entry, exit, and air quality) or would enter an OSHA-regulated permit-required confined space
- Construction and Equipment Safety**
For the health and safety of construction workers and heavy equipment operators involved in hazardous material deconstruction, demolition, cleanup,
- Train-the-Trainer/Trainer Development**
For skilled workers to learn adult education principles, classroom management, specific curriculum and facilitator guides, and other skills to become a trainer

Wide Range of Employers Use WTP Training

For example

Federal

Large Businesses



State, Local, and Tribal

Small and Midsized Businesses/Organizations



Alaska

Vermont

WTP: Future Directions

- **Address emerging concerns for our target population**
- **Disaster and pandemic preparedness and response:** Ongoing training for workers involved in disaster recovery and those with potential exposure to COVID-19
- **Opioids and the Workplace – training tools:**
 - Occupational exposure to Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.
 - Awareness of occupational prevention and assistance to workers and communities
 - Train the Trainer and Leadership courses
- **Job creation and employment for workers:** Continued support of Environmental Career Worker Training Program

