



National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences
Worker Training Program

Award Recipient Meeting



OCTOBER 22, 2024



RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC



Clearinghouse (MDB) Staff



2023 MDB staff photo. While all staff are not involved with WTP/ Clearinghouse, everyone plays a collaborative role in supporting this contract.

Clearinghouse (MDB) Staff



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WTP Strategic Plan, 2025-2030

 National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Worker Training Program

STRATEGIC PLAN 2025 TO 2030



Significance of HAZWOPER and Other Federal Regulations

SARA (1986) established the requirement for OSHA to develop and promulgate two standards applicable to hazardous waste operations and responses to hazardous materials incidents.

The first standard, 29 CFR 1910.120 HAZWOPER,⁶ required a standard for the protection of workers engaged in hazardous waste operations; hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal activities (TSD); and emergency responses to hazardous materials incidents without regard to location. The second standard was promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at 40 CFR 311 to provide coverage for public workers otherwise exempt from coverage under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 1970.

The HAZWOPER standard is unique in that it is based on a proactive approach to worker and public health protection. Each of the three categories of operations the standard addresses (hazardous waste cleanup, TSD, and emergency response) is complex. Because hazardous exposures are difficult to predict before workers are engaged in labor, workers must be protected until actual exposures are adequately determined and protective measures are established. Consequently, the worker training provisions in the standard are rigorous and contain: pre-job core training requirements that include knowledge, skill and ability elements; site-specific training; a minimum of three days of actual field experience under the direct supervision of a trained, experienced supervisor; and annual refresher training. With respect to public health protection, the standard has extensive requirements regarding hazardous materials containment; decontamination requirements for workers and equipment to prevent transfer of hazardous materials into public environments; and hazardous waste transportation requirements.

Engagement in operations covered by the HAZWOPER standard often includes potential exposures to additional hazards for which specific standards and training requirements apply. Some examples include asbestos, lead, confined spaces, and demolition operations. As appropriate, WTP award recipients continue to develop HAZWOPER-supporting training curricula and programs for these potential exposures for their target audiences and constituencies.

OSHA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for a standard to certify training programs but has never finalized action on that standard. As a result, no current federal standard exists specific to requirements for certification of the extensive training requirements established in the worker protection standard. OSHA amended the HAZWOPER standard to add the non-mandatory Appendix E that provides guidelines for training providers and the training program curriculum. Appendix E is based on the NIEHS WTP Minimum Criteria for 29 CFR 1910.120 training providers and the training curriculum, which was developed at a national technical consensus workshop in 1990.

⁶ The standard 29 CFR 1910.120 HAZWOPER was promulgated on March 6, 1989, at 54 FR 9317, as amended at 55 FR 14073 on April 13, 1990, and 56 FR 15832 on April 18, 1991.

Sub-Theme 6. Health and Safety at DOE Facilities

In 1992, NIEHS established an interagency agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) to prepare and equip workers with proper training to address hazards within and around DOE sites, particularly those related to the nation's Cold War environmental legacy. This agreement was authorized by Section 3131 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 1992, establishing what is now known as the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program. The goal of the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program is to provide high-quality training to workers supporting the mission of DOE to ensure they are prepared to work safely in hazardous environments.

Key aspects of success for the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program are **integrated safety management systems** and a focus on safety culture. Both DOE and WTP prioritize a safety-conscious work environment. To accomplish this, workers need to be informed about hazards, as well as their rights. Workers also need to be invited to spaces where they can openly raise safety issues or concerns without fear of retaliation. Another key aspect of success is the DOE National Training Center's **Health and Safety Training Reciprocity Program**.

This program establishes a policy for reciprocity of employee health and safety training across all DOE sites and facilities. This eliminates the need for redundant training, improves mobilization, and increases the efficiency and effectiveness of DOE operations while meeting federal health and safety requirements.

According to a recent Government Accountability Office **report**, the DOE EM manages radioactive and hazardous waste cleanup program across 16 sites using both capital asset projects and operations activities, and will spend more than \$392 billion before the nation's nuclear weapons complex is cleaned up. These types of projects highlight the need for critical WTP work to ensure the safety and health of workers who oversee and contribute to these cleanup efforts.

Objectives:

- Ensure workers receive quality, fundamental safety and health training for their assigned activities.
- Ensure workers at DOE facilities get the site-specific health and safety training needed.
- Foster a positive safety culture among workers new to the DOE complex.
- Assist in improving training of subcontractor personnel who often go without safety and health training.
- Improve collaboration with DOE organizations, including the DOE National Training Center, the Energy Facility Contractor Group, and the Labor Training Work Group, to target training topics based on lessons learned reports and assessment activities.



WTP Director Sharon Beard speaks at the 2024 DOE Energy Facility Contractors Group conference.

Alignment with NIEHS Strategic Plan

Graphic shows alignment between the NIEHS Strategic Plan and WTP Strategic Plan.



Award Recipient Meeting

OCTOBER 22, 2024
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Workshops & Meetings

- Fall 2023 Workshop
- Spring 2024 Workshop and Congressional Briefing
- Disaster Supplements Meetings (Puerto Rico and Wilmington, NC)
- Protecting Our Communities: Tools and Resources for Natural Disaster Preparedness and Response (July 2024 webinar)

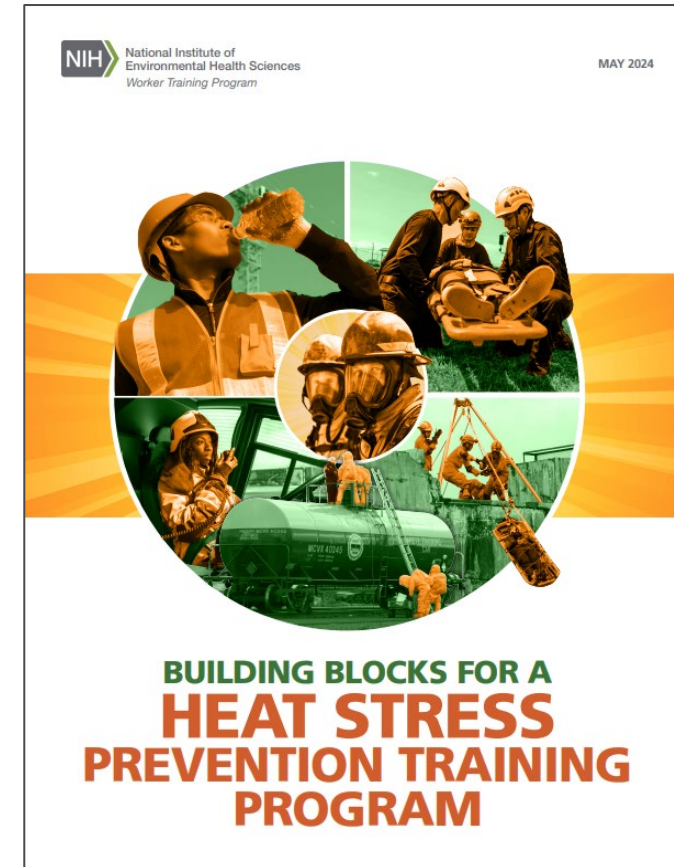
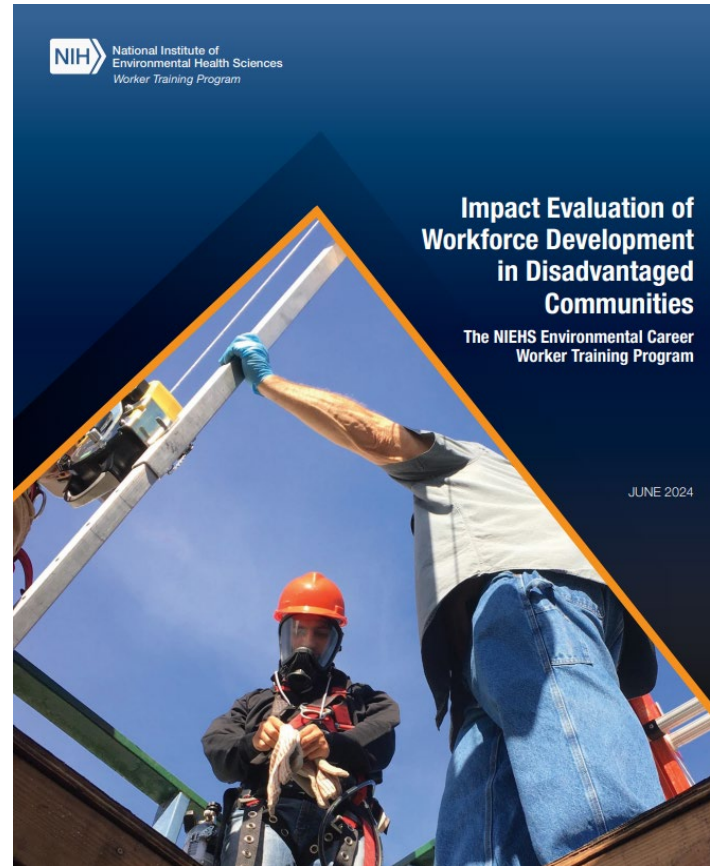


Webinars & Presentations

- **KSU-JT TAB Grantee Meeting (Aug. 2024)**
 - Deborah shared more about Clearinghouse and training resources available.
- **PETE StayFresher Event (Aug. 2024)**
 - El'gin presented the new Building Blocks for a Heat Stress Prevention Training Program.

Reports & Resources

- ECWTP Impact Evaluation, Report, and Presentations
 - Shared at National EJ Conference, and National Assoc. for Workforce Dev. Professionals Conference
- Building Blocks for a Heat Stress Prevention Training Program (English and Spanish)
 - Featured on Heat.gov, AIHA's Heat Stress Mobile App, Biden-Harris National Heat Strategy, and more!



Reports & Resources

- Tennessee and Washington State profiles
- WTP Onboarding Slides (finalized and uploaded to DMS)
- Disaster Supplements Kickoff Meeting report
- Fall 2023 Workshop Report

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Worker Training Program: Tennessee

About the NIEHS Worker Training Program
The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) funds nonprofit organizations (grant recipients) 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 situations. WTP is authorized by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 USC 9660a). WTP grant recipients provide Superfund-related training across the country through the Hazardous Waste, Hazmat Disaster, and Environmental Career Worker Training Programs and non-Superfund related activities through the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program.


Each year in Tennessee, WTP funds training for:

- More than **5,500** workers overall.
- More than **3,700** workers employed at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facilities.
- Other workers in industries, such as emergency response services, law enforcement, and others.
- Delivery of nearly **500** health and safety courses.
- Training on a variety of topics, including asbestos abatement, confined space, general industry safety, radiation worker, and personal protective equipment awareness.

Training Highlights

Nuclear Worker and Community Training
Grant recipients funded by the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program facilitate health and safety training for cleanup, waste management, and emergency response at DOE facilities. Most efforts are around Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

- Each year, the Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training/National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education sponsors training for more than 650 DOE workers through Roane State Community College. Courses cover topics such as radiation training, facility decontamination, and asbestos abatement.
- CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training trains nearly 450 workers each year. CPWR helps workers become and remain active participants in improving the



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Worker Training Program: Washington

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 grant recipients provide Superfund-related training across the country through the Hazardous Waste, HAZMAT Disaster, and Environmental Career Worker Training Programs and non-Superfund related activities through the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program.

Each year in Washington, WTP funds training for:

- More than **8,800** workers overall.
- More than **4,800** workers employed at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facilities.

Training Highlights

Nuclear Worker Training at the Hanford Site
Grant recipients funded by the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program facilitate health and safety training for cleanup, waste management, and emergency response at DOE facilities.

More than 6,900 workers are trained annually at DOE sites in Washington State, and most courses are delivered at the Hanford Site in Richland through the HAMMER Volpentest Training Center. Courses at HAMMER focus on hazardous waste, personal protective equipment, and respiratory and radiological protection. Some organizations that deliver this training are described below.

- CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training delivers training that helps protect waste cleanup.

Students at the HAMMER Training Facility. (Photo courtesy of International Chemical Workers Union Council)




Participants practicing a hands-on exercise during nuclear development program at HAMMER. (Photo courtesy of International Brotherhood of Teamsters)




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For more about WTP history and significant milestones, watch this keynote presentation from Mitchel Rosen: <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/events.cfm?id=2624#h32310>




Mitchel A. Rosen, Ph.D., is the principal investigator of the Atlantic Center for Occupational Health and Safety Training. Since 1988, Rosen has managed the training of over 750,000 workers in occupational safety and health, environmental health, and public health education.

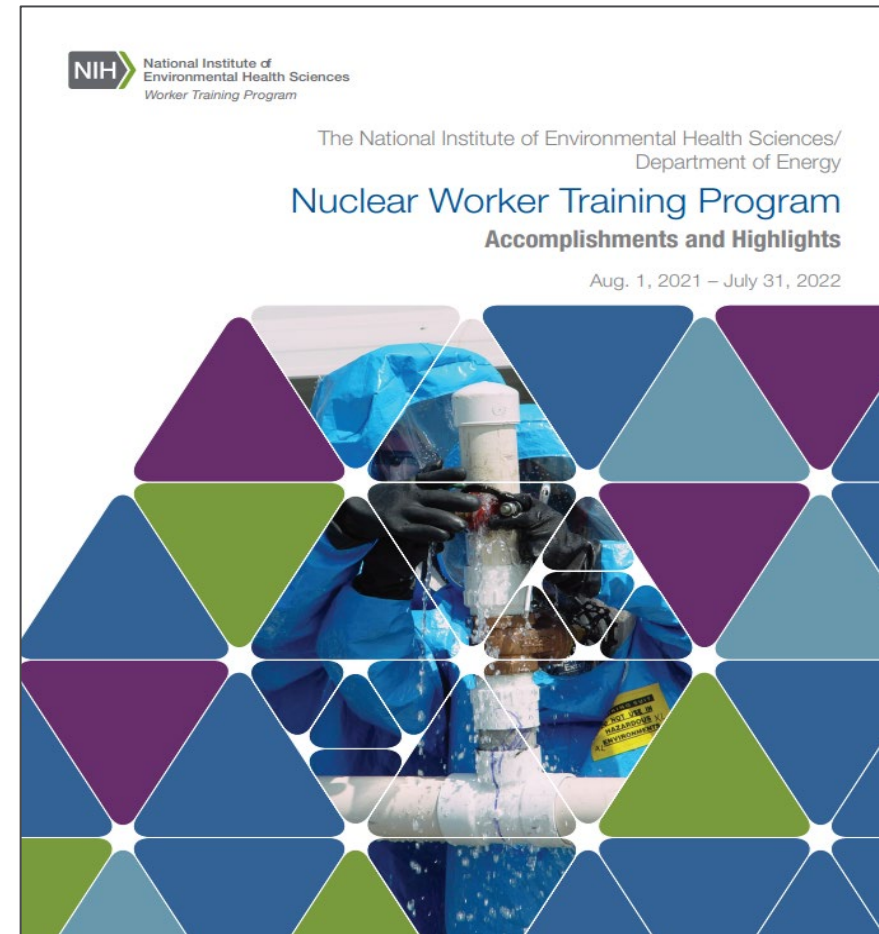
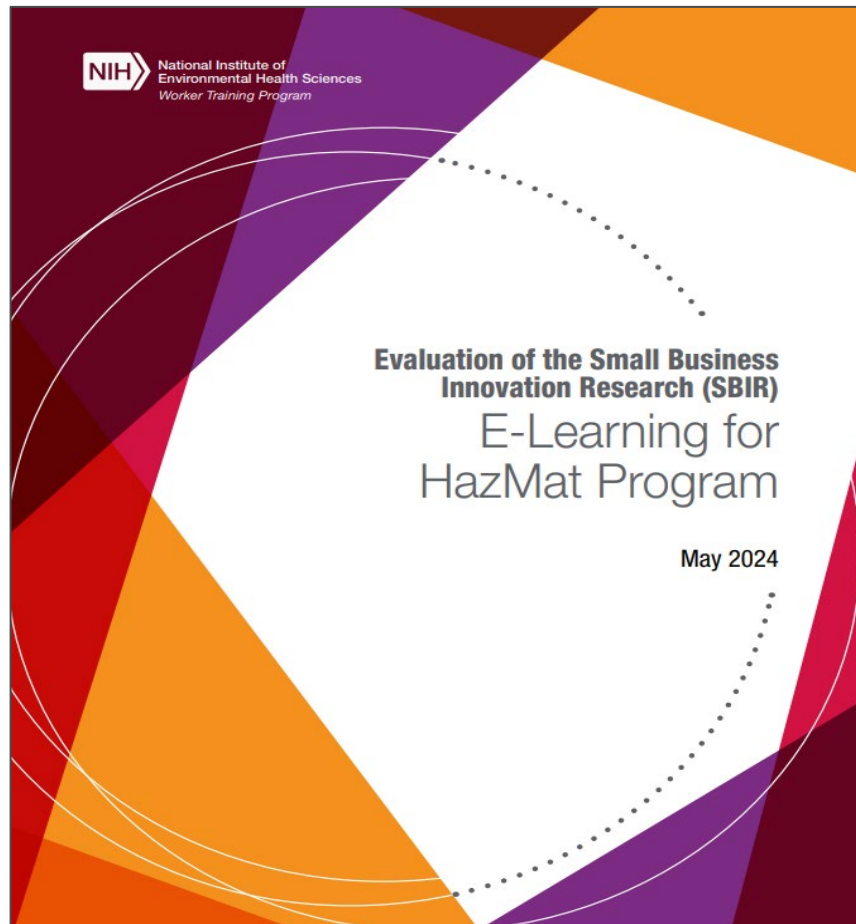
Looking back, looking forward:
How did we get here and where are we going?



Mitchel A. Rosen
NIEHS Worker Training Program Fall Workshop
October 21, 2022



Reports & Resources



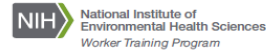
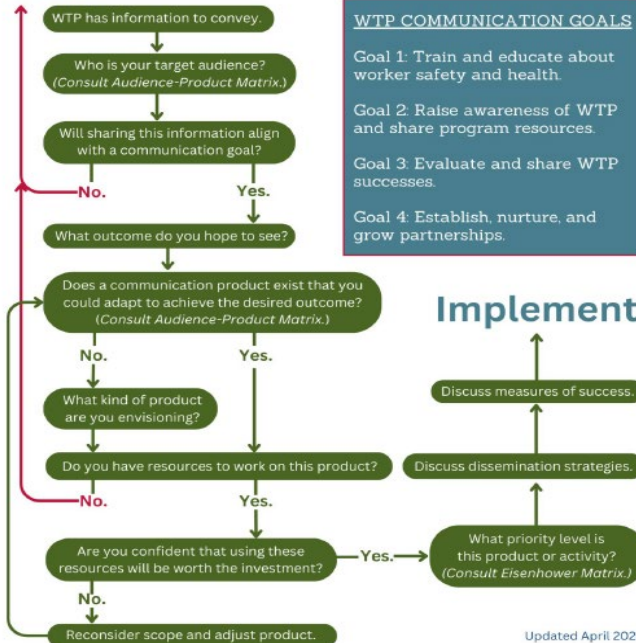
WTP Communication Plan

Appendix 2: Developing a WTP Communication Product

When the occasion arises to communicate information to WTP audiences, use the flowchart below to determine your course of action.

Steps for Developing a WTP Communication Product

Start



Appendix 1: Audience-Product Matrix

Audience-Product Matrix

This matrix is not an exhaustive list of WTP audiences and products. This matrix should be referenced and used as a guide along with the WTP Communication Plan.

		PRODUCTS*																					
		Newspaper	Congressional justification	Fact sheets	State profiles	Technical levels	Posters and slide decks	Infographics	Genetic and training success stories	E-Factor stories	Peer-reviewed articles	White papers	Programmatic reports	Workshops	Workshop reports	Mobile and online applications (e.g., disease app)	Brochures	Training tools	WTP and Clearinghouse websites	Webinars	YouTube videos clips	Genetic-specific YouTube videos	
AUDIENCE	NIEHS WTP grantee organizations, sub-grantees, and trainers (e.g., CPWR, OAI, WRUC, etc.)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Trainees (i.e., graduates of training programs)		●				●							●	●	●		●		●			
	Public (e.g., disaster-affected communities), other workers (e.g., working with HAZMAT; youth entering job market)									●							●		●		●		
	Professional organizations and associations (e.g., safety and health, healthcare, academic)					●	●				●	●											
	Community-based organizations, nonprofits, safety and health advocates (e.g., local COSH groups, EJ groups)	●	●				●						●	●			●				●	●	
	Employers, contractors, supervisors		●														●	●	●				
	Congress and policymakers		●	●	●				●	●	●			●									
	HHS and its federal offices (e.g., NIH Office of Public Affairs, OHPA)		●	●										●									
	NIEHS leadership (e.g., director, DERT, OCPL, congressional liaison, etc.)		●	●	●		●	●	●					●									
	DOE		●	●									●	●									
	Other federal partners (e.g., DOT, EPA)		●	●									●	●	●								
	Local and state partners		●	●									●	●	●								
	Academia (e.g., universities, colleges/community colleges, HBCUs, Tribal colleges)						●					●	●										
	Small businesses			●													●		●				
Workforce development programs (e.g., pre-apprenticeships, etc.)															●		●						

* Some products will be translated into other languages, as appropriate

- #### Acronyms
- COSH: Councils on Occupational Safety and Health
 - CPWR: The Center for Construction Research and Training
 - DERT: NIEHS Division of Extramural Research and Training
 - DOE: U.S. Department of Energy
 - EPA: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - HBCU: Historically Black Colleges and Universities
 - HHS: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 - NIEHS: National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
 - NIH: National Institutes of Health
 - OAI: Opportunity Advancement Innovation in Workforce Development
 - OCPL: NIEHS Office of Communication and Public Liaison
 - OHPA: NIH Office of Legislative and Policy Analysis
 - OSHA: Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 - SBIR: Small Business Innovation Research
 - WRUC: Western Region Universities Consortium
 - WTP: NIEHS Worker Training Program

The WTP Communication Plan...

- Is an *internal* document.
- Will be updated annually.
- Can be adapted for your use.

Audience-Product Matrix

This matrix is not an exhaustive list of WTP audiences and products.
 This matrix should be referenced and used as a guide along with the WTP Communication Plan.

		Newsbrief	Congressional justification	Fact sheets (programmatic or health care)	State profiles	Technical briefs
AUDIENCE	NIEHS WTP grantee organizations, sub-grantees, and trainers (e.g., CPWR, OAI, WRUC, etc.)	●		●		●
	Employers, contractors, supervisors			●		
	Congress and policymakers		●	●	●	
	HHS and its federal offices (e.g., NIH Office of Public Affairs, OLPA)		●		●	
	NIEHS leadership (e.g., director, DERT, OCPL, congressional liaison, etc.)		●	●	●	

Increased Social Media Activity

NIH NIEHS @NIEHS · Jul 15

A relatively small federal investment in the Environmental Career Worker Training Program at NIEHS results in vast societal and economic benefits, per a new program evaluation report covering 2014 to 2022. bit.ly/3WezxSA #NIEHSFactor #NIEHSWTP

**What has the
NIEHS ENVIRONMENTAL
CAREER WORKER
TRAINING PROGRAM
accomplished?**

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

0:03 / 0:57

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National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
13,307 followers
4mo ·

Today, May 31, is recognized as National Heat Awareness Day, and #NIEHSWTP is putting workers at the forefront of heat illness prevention. Check out the new tool, Building Blocks for a Heat Stress Prevention Training Program, which is available on the WTP website: <https://lnkd.in/efmQvmYD>

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Worker Training Program

MAY 2024

**BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A
HEAT STRESS
PREVENTION TRAINING
PROGRAM**

CC BY 13

2 comments · 3 reposts

Times NIEHS used #NIEHSWTP

(from January to October 2024)




= 27



= 25

National Environmental Justice Conference

 = 31

 = 4




Heat Stress Tool



= 18



= 7

A circular collage of four images illustrating heat stress prevention: a worker drinking water, workers with a stretcher, workers in protective gear, and workers near a large green tank.

**BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A
HEAT STRESS
PREVENTION TRAINING
PROGRAM**

Highlight Reel



What has the
**NIEHS ENVIRONMENTAL
CAREER WORKER
TRAINING PROGRAM**
accomplished?

Award Recipient Meeting

New Template for Weekly Newsbrief

- Worked with NIEHS to put the Newsbrief into the GovDelivery template
- New templated launched summer 2024
- More colorful and easier to navigate


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WEEKLY E-NEWSBRIEF
A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE WORKER EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

! Top Stories

How Gen Z Is Becoming the Toolbelt Generation

Long beset by a labor crunch, the skilled trades are newly appealing to the youngest cohort of American workers, many of whom are choosing to leave the college path. Rising pay and new technologies in fields from welding to machine tooling are giving trade professions a face-lift. Growing skepticism about the return on a college education, the cost of which has soared in recent decades, is adding to their shine. Enrollment in vocational training programs is surging as overall enrollment in community colleges and four-year institutions has fallen. Demand for trade apprenticeships, which let students combine work experience with a course of study often paid for by employers, has boomed lately.



+

Federal Agency Updates

Department of Labor Issues Final Rule Reducing Silica Dust Exposure, Better Protecting Miners' Health from Irreversible Workplace Illnesses

The Department of Labor (DOL) announced that its Mine Safety and Health Administration has issued a final rule to better protect the nation's miners from health hazards associated with exposure to respirable crystalline silica, also known as silica dust or quartz dust. The final rule lowers the permissible exposure limit of respirable crystalline silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air for a full-shift exposure, calculated as an 8-hour time-weighted average. If a miner's exposure exceeds the limit, the final rule requires mine operators to take immediate corrective actions to come into compliance.

DOL News Release

New Disaster Supplements Webpage

- New webpage describes training being done using supplemental funding from Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023
- Page includes list of grant recipients, GIS dashboard, resources, and more!



Disaster Act Supplemental Funding

> Table of Contents

Overview

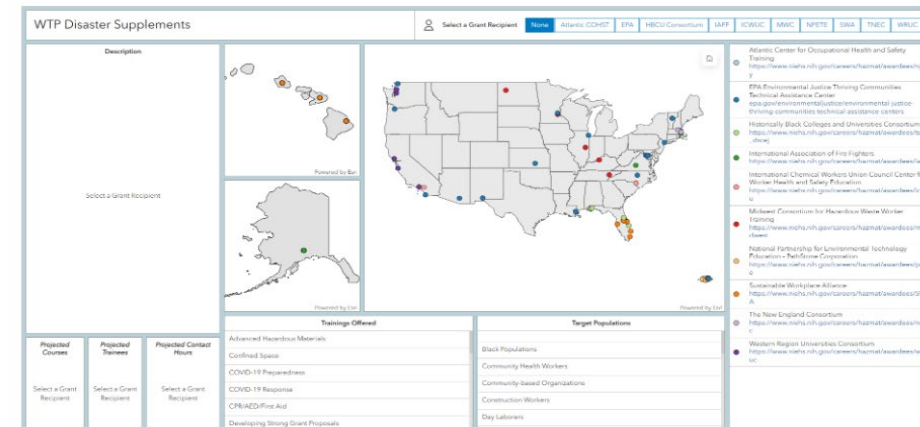
Nine WTP grant recipients received Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 supplemental funding to deliver health and safety training to U.S. populations impacted by major disasters declared in 2022.

Grant recipients use targeted strategies to reach and train workers, day laborers, and volunteers in disaster-impacted areas, especially those in



GIS Dashboard

The GIS online dashboard can be accessed by clicking on the image below. It visualizes the locations of each grant recipient organization and where they conduct training. It also provides the background of grant recipient organizations, trainings they provide, and the estimated number of trainees and man hours reached using this supplemental funding.



Updated Training Tools

- Pathogen Safety Data Course and Training Guide
 - Created shorter course and updated instructor guide
- Mold Training Tool/PPT
 - Updated to reflect info on remediation for buildings impacted by mold in tropical areas)



The image displays two training materials. The top material is the cover of the 'Pathogen Safety Data Short Course' (MAY 2024) from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Worker Training Program. It features a collage of microscopic images: blue branching structures, orange rod-shaped bacteria, and green spherical particles. The bottom material is a slide titled 'Mold Clean-up and Treatment Orientation' from the same program. The slide has a blue header and contains the text 'Mold Clean-up specific to Puerto Rico and other tropical environments'. It includes a map of Puerto Rico showing the Atlantic Ocean to the north and the Caribbean Sea to the south, and a satellite image of a tropical storm. Below the images, it states 'Building materials used in tropical environments require special attention.' and 'WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM' at the bottom.

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Worker Training Program

Pathogen Safety Data
Short Course
MAY 2024

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Mold Clean-up and Treatment Orientation

Mold Clean-up specific to Puerto Rico and other tropical environments

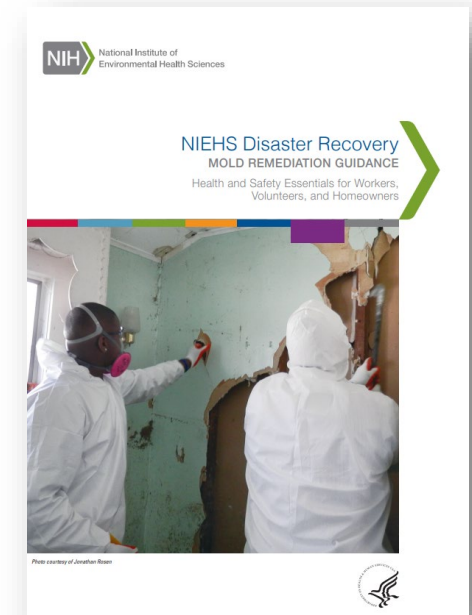
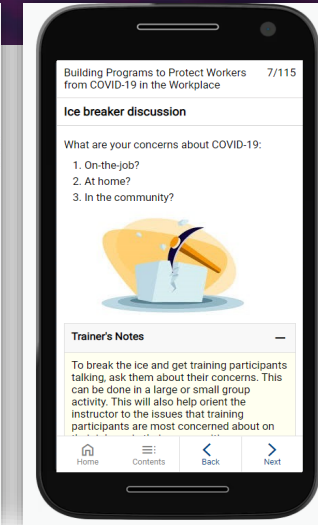
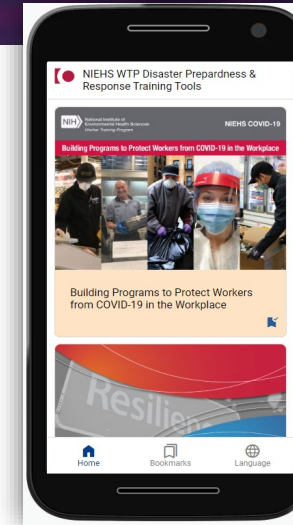
Building materials used in tropical environments require special attention.

WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM

Reminder: Existing Training Tools & Resources

- **Mobile app:** Allows easy access to all training tools, especially in areas with limited internet service.
- **Curricula, booklets:** Trainers use these to deliver H&S training to workers and communities.
- **Fact sheets:** Share information about specific topics, like urban flooding, debris cleanup, and more.
- **Reports:** Share state of science, policies, and worker training gaps for specific topics.
- **Other tools:** Provide checklists and guidelines for workplace training or prevention programs.

Committed to developing resources that consider diversity, equity, and accessibility needs of all workers.



Extreme Heat & Climate Resilience Webpage

- Adapted a previous webpage to include resources on extreme heat and climate resilience
- Page includes several resources, including:
 - Building Blocks for a Heat Stress Prevention Training Program
 - Climate Vulnerability Assessment Report
 - WTP award recipient resources
 - Federal links and resources



Current and Upcoming Activities (Clearinghouse)

- Submit comments for OSHA heat rule (due Dec. 31)
- Participate in March 2025 DOE EFCOG Training Working Group conference
- Defining our niche for white paper on artificial intelligence and impacts on worker health and safety
- Develop peer-reviewed article on occupational health disparities
- Plan Spring and Fall 2025 workshops
- Disseminate resources for succession planning

Current and Upcoming Activities (Disaster Supplements)

- Complete the heat training tool
- Complete the voluntary respiratory protection program for disaster workers not covered by OSHA
- Finalize the disaster supplements video
- Develop slides focused on chemical hazards in floodwaters
(will be integrated in Hurricane and Flooding Training Tools)

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2025 Operational Matrix

NIEHS WTP FY 2025 Operational Matrix

	2025	2026	2027	2025	2026	2027	2025	2026	2027
Activity	Award Recipients			WTP			Clearinghouse		
Goal 1: Improved Safety Culture in the Workplace									
1a. Increased worker empowerment									
Encourage diversity in trainer cadre and advisory boards and highlight these efforts in progress reports	AE	AE	AE	*	*	*	*	*	*
Encourage DOE award recipient instructors to become certified Technical Leadership Program (TLP) instructors	D	D	D	*	*	*	*	*	*
1b. Trained workers who can identify workplace hazards									
Develop/update/disseminate materials around climate related disasters (infectious diseases, heat, etc.)	*			*			AE		
Update infectious diseases information on the Clearinghouse webpage (H5N1, Mpox and other biohazards)	*			*			AE		
Develop the voluntary respiratory protection program for disasters workers not covered by OSHA	*			*			AE		
Develop supplemental slides for chemical hazards and pathogens in flood waters	*			*			AE		
1c. Trained workers who understand how to take action									
Focus on continual engagement with National Training Center, DOE Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG), and Labor Training Group, with a focus on contractor relationships	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE
Explore new workforce development models across programs; focus on engagement to discuss occupational health disparities (e.g., Tribal/Indigenous groups)	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE
1d. Safer company practices and policies									
Promote tools and resources to encourage worker well-being and resilience	AE	AE	AE	*	*	*	*	*	*
Encourage diversity, inclusion, and cultural competency training with a focus on Tribal and environmental justice communities before or during the Spring 2025 workshop	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE
Goal 2: Reduced Morbidity and Mortality									
2a. Improved policies and regulations/ Improved enforcement of health and safety practice/policy/regulation									
Develop a peer-reviewed article to share the impact of using an occupational health disparities lens for safety and health training programs	*			*			D		
2b. Updated policy and regulation									
Provide comments on relevant standards when one is issued (e.g., heat standard)	AE			*			*		

Spring 2025 Workshop

- **Location:** Anchorage, Alaska
- **Dates:** May 6-8, 2025
- **Stay tuned for more info about:**
 - Stakeholder engagement webinars
 - Cultural competency training
 - Logistics and agenda



APHA 2024 Presentations

Disaster Preparedness and Response Training: Building Partnerships Before Disaster Strikes (poster)

- Monday, Oct. 28 | 2:30 – 3:30 PM
- Presenter: Allison Weingarten, National Clearinghouse

Impact Evaluation of Workforce Development in Disadvantaged Communities: NIEHS ECWTP (oral presentation)

- Monday, Oct. 28 | 3:15 – 3:30 PM
- Presenter: Eric Persaud, Dr.P.H., NIEHS WTP

Beat the Heat: A Foundation for Heat Stress Prevention and Training (oral presentation)

- Wednesday, Oct. 30 | 8:30 – 8:45 AM
- Presenter: El'gin Avila, National Clearinghouse