



## Worker Training Program: Alabama

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

The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) annually funds training for more than 3,700 workers through about 275 health and safety courses in Alabama. 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
- Emergency Response
- General Construction and General Industry Safety
- Hazardous Material Transportation
- Infectious Disease Awareness and Operations
- Oil Spill Response
- Respiratory Protection

## Training Highlights

### Preparing Native Americans and Public Safety Personnel for Emergency Response

The Alabama Fire College Workplace Safety Training (WST) program provides training to members and employees of Native American tribes nationwide, and to public safety personnel within the southeastern United States. Trainees face significant health and safety risks when responding to emergencies involving hazardous materials.

In Alabama, WST has delivered training to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians for two decades. When Hurricane Katrina hit, prior training gave them skills to respond to needs within their own tribe, as well as coordinate activities for nearby tribes along the coast. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians are now a strong regional responder for hazardous materials incidents.

WST also trains firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics, police, and sheriff's patrol officers in towns across the state. The program meets the training needs and schedules of volunteer and rural firefighters, by bringing classes to their locations.

### Community Colleges

Community college students across the state are taught skills that prepare them 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. The Alabama Technology Network (ATN) is a



Photo courtesy of WST



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### 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](http://www.niehs.nih.gov/wtp).**

consortium member that delivers training at community colleges in Birmingham, Enterprise, and Muscle Shoals. CCCHST also trains instructors to deliver courses at the Alabama Southern Community College in Monroeville and the Alabama Productivity Center at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

### Supporting Safer Worksites Through Union Training

United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center for Health, Safety, and Environmental Education provides training to local union members and management throughout Alabama. The center has trained workers in high-hazard industry sectors, such as paper, rubber, oil, and chemical. For example, International Paper in Pine Hill and Prattville collaborated with the union in a safety initiative. Also, the center continues to work closely with a tire manufacturer in Gadsden, providing general industry safety training.

Essity in Cherokee, Alabama, and 3M in Guin, are two facilities that are part of the union's labor-management cooperative health and safety program called the Triangle of Prevention. Through the program, 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. The 3M facility initiated the program in 2003 and has completed more than 6,700 corrective actions since that time.



### Nuclear Worker Training

CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training prepares workers for jobs at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapons sites and nuclear waste sites, with funding from the [NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program](#). In Alabama, CPWR, through consortium member International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers (HFIAW), provides courses to DOE workers on asbestos abatement, to prepare them for work at the Savannah River Site, a nuclear industrial complex in South Carolina. HFIAW also teaches courses on general construction safety and lead abatement. The HFIAW training for Alabama resident union members fills the job training requirements that allow them to work at the Savannah River DOE Site.

### Biosafety, Biosecurity, and Infectious Disease Response Training

WTP also provides training under the [Ebola Biosafety and Infectious Disease Response Training Program](#), a national effort to deliver infection control practices and

hazard recognition training to workers in health care and non-health care settings. Since the program started in 2015, more than 1,200 workers have attended 80 courses in Alabama.

The training in Alabama is targeted toward health care and public safety workers. Courses are conducted by The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), lead institution for the Deep South Biosafety Worker Training Program, and consortium member WST.

The training has reached across the state, including workers from UAB, Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan, Tuskegee University School of Nursing and Allied Health, Regional Medical Center in Anniston, the Alabama State Mortuary Operations Response Team, and several fire departments surrounding Birmingham, such as Vestavia Hills, Calera, Pelham, and Hueytown.



Photo courtesy of UAB

NIEHS received \$10 million, from emergency Ebola treatment and prevention funds provided by Congress to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to develop the three-year program.

### Overall Training

In recent years, the following [WTP grantees](#) trained workers in Alabama:

- Alabama Fire College Workplace Safety Training
- Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training/National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education
- CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training
- International Chemical Workers Union Council Center for Worker Health and Safety Education
- International Union of Operating Engineers National Training Fund
- LIUNA (Laborers' International Union of North America) Training and Education Fund
- OAI, Inc.
- United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center for Health, Safety, and Environmental Education
- The University of Alabama at Birmingham