



Worker Training Program: New Jersey

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

The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) annually funds training for more than 9,000 workers through nearly 500 health and safety courses in New Jersey. 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
- Disaster Site Worker
- Emergency Response
- General Construction and General Industry Safety
- Hazardous Material Transportation
- Infectious Disease Awareness
- Resiliency for Disaster Workers and Volunteers
- Training Methods/Trainer Development

Training Highlights

Training for Hazardous Waste Cleanup

The New Jersey/New York Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center, funded through Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, offers training to more than 2,500 New Jersey workers each year. This center provides hazardous materials



Photo courtesy of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

and emergency response training for small businesses, as well as municipal and federal organizations in the region. Employers who use the center for training include the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The training center also provides workers with the skills and certifications needed to work at Superfund sites, such as Standard Chlorine Chemical Company in Kearny, New Jersey.

The Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Training and Education Fund annually trains about 1,800 New Jersey workers for jobs in environmental cleanup, demolition, construction, and energy, where they may encounter hazardous waste, lead, asbestos, mold, and other contaminants. LIUNA provides Superfund site worker training, as well as training on CPR, first aid, and general construction safety.

Job Training and Economic Impact

The Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP) offers job training for disadvantaged and underrepresented workers. The New Jersey/New York Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center implements ECWTP for residents of the New York City boroughs, as well as Essex and Hudson counties in New Jersey, in collaboration with the New York City District Council of Carpenters. Since 1996, the council has trained more than 1,000 at-risk individuals through a pre-apprenticeship training program called BuildingWorks. The program has maintained a graduation and placement rate of more



Photo courtesy of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

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.

than 80 percent. A recent cohort of students went from making less than \$10,000 a year prior to enrollment in the program, to an average of \$50,000 annually afterward. The center has also [provided training for veterans under ECWTP](#) through a program called NJ Jobs4Vets.

ECWTP has a nationwide [economic impact](#) through delivery of pre-employment and health and safety training in underserved communities.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Training

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) recently worked with the Bergen County Law and Public Safety Institute (LPSI) in Mahwah, New Jersey, to train career and volunteer firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, and law enforcement officers across the state.

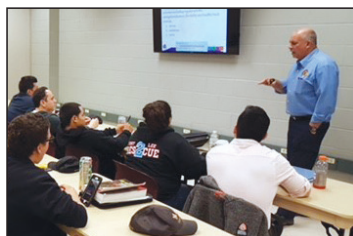


Photo courtesy of IAFF

The Bergen County LPSI trains nearly 10,000 responders annually. IAFF emergency response courses are an important part of the Bergen County LPSI firefighter certifications and have been recognized by the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety.

The New Jersey State Police, funded for more than 25 years through the New Jersey/New York Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center, provides extensive hazardous materials training to the entire state emergency response community. The training is required for all employees who will be responding to hazardous material or weapons of mass destruction incidents.

Additionally, the New Jersey/New York Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center has been at the forefront of disaster response training and policy development for many years, both locally and nationwide. For example, the center facilitated training for the New Jersey Department of Health, and responded to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

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 for workers in health care and non-health care settings. Since the program started in 2015, more than 580 workers have attended courses conducted in New Jersey, and nearly 925 workers have completed online courses offered through the New Jersey/New York Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center.

Several grantees have offered training in infectious disease awareness, infectious disease operations, and personal protective equipment awareness to workers in a variety of sectors. For example, LIUNA Training and Education Fund has delivered training to construction workers in Matawan, New Jersey; and the United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center for Health, Safety, and Environmental Education has provided training to health care workers in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

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 this three-year program.

Nuclear Worker Training

Several grantees facilitate health and safety training for cleanup activities, waste management, and emergency response at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapon and nuclear waste sites, with funding from the [NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program](#). In New Jersey, workers at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory and the Brookhaven National Laboratory receive training from CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training, IAFF, or the International Union of Operating Engineers National Training Fund. Course topics include hazardous materials emergency response, asbestos abatement, and confined space entry.

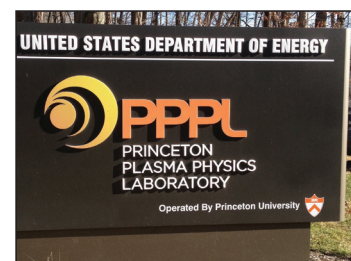


Photo courtesy of DOE

Overall Training

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

- 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
- LIUNA Training and Education Fund
- New Jersey/New York Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center
- United Steelworkers Tony Mazzocchi Center for Health, Safety, and Environmental Education