

NIEHS National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training

Working with hazardous waste can be dangerous. The nation has hundreds of thousands of sites to cleanup, and many operating plants and facilities that contain hazardous materials. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' (NIEHS) Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) supports the training and education of workers engaged in activities related to hazardous materials and waste generation, removal, containment, transportation and emergency response. The WETP conducts training through a network of cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations. The WETP includes basic hazardous waste worker, minority worker, Brownfields, Department of Energy nuclear weapons complex, and national emergency preparedness training components. Since the program's inception in 1987, more than one million workers have been trained.



The National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training, funded by the NIEHS WETP, is the national resource for hazardous waste worker curricula, technical reports, and weekly news on hazardous materials, waste operations and emergency response. Operated by MDB Inc., the NIEHS WETP National Clearinghouse supports the efforts of NIEHS WETP staff and grantees in providing health and safety training to workers engaged in activities related to hazardous waste removal, containment, and emergency response. The National Clearinghouse provides the following services for NIEHS WETP staff, program grantees, and the public:

- » Facilitates the dissemination of technical information related to the development of safety and health training.
- » Arranges, manages and documents NIEHS WETP technical meetings and workshops related to scientific, administrative, and regulatory issues associated with training for hazardous waste workers and emergency responders.
- » Develops, analyzes, and compiles NIEHS WETP research products to enhance on-going initiatives, support new training initiatives, and the continuation of program efficiency.

The NIEHS WETP National Clearinghouse Weekly eNewsbrief

The National Clearinghouse weekly eNewsbrief serves as a unique resource for staying abreast on issues surrounding worker safety, health, and training. It features current news articles, research studies, government reports, and upcoming events within the topic areas of emergency preparedness and response, homeland security, environmental cleanup, and chemical safety as they relate to worker training and worker safety. The eNewsbrief is unique for two reasons: it is the only news brief distributed by a federal government agency solely devoted to worker training and safety in the areas mentioned, and it features articles and documents that don't normally make front page news, rather than frontline articles. For more information on how to subscribe to the weekly eNewsbrief, please visit the National Clearinghouse website, <http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/>.

The National Clearinghouse Health and Safety Library

The National Clearinghouse has compiled massive information related to worker safety and health training into the Health and Safety Library (HASL). The Health and Safety Library has well over 900 reports, guidance documents, and research articles pertinent to the protection of hazardous waste and emergency response worker communities, accessible to the public on the Clearinghouse website, <http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/>.

The National Clearinghouse Curricula Catalog

This unique provision by the National Clearinghouse is a digital resource that offers the public access to free electronic curricula, in most cases, available for immediate downloading. Currently the catalogue houses over 2,000 files containing curricula material for both hazardous waste and emergency response training developed by NIEHS WETP grantees.

Responding to National Emergencies

Within the National Response Plan, the Clearinghouse is tasked to provide technical information through the Worker Safety and Health Training Annex to the Worker Safety and Health Annex.

The NIEHS WETP responded to the September 11th attacks and the Gulf Coast hurricanes by training workers to undertake cleanup of environmental problems stemming from the disasters.

- » In response to the attacks on the World Trade Center, the National Clearinghouse sent personnel to: assist in coordination of NIEHS WETP awardee activities at the WTC site, to assess the safety and health status at the WTC site, to evaluate the site safety and health plans, and to conduct a preliminary assessment of training needs.
- » In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the NIEHS WETP, its awardees, and the Clearinghouse developed a PowerPoint Presentation covering the pertinent government guidance available about safety and health hazards. This presentation "Protecting Yourself While Helping Others," was posted on the NIEHS Clearinghouse website, translated into Spanish and Vietnamese by NIEHS grantees, and turned into a pocket guide available in all three languages. Thousands of copies of the pocket guide have been downloaded and distributed.

Following Hurricane Katrina, the Clearinghouse opened a temporary Katrina Field Office in Baton Rouge, LA to provide information related to post-Katrina cleanup to NIEHS awardees, other federal agencies, contractors, workers and the public. The field office acted as a liaison between these stakeholders to facilitate the development of training partnerships.

NIEHS WETP Workshops and Technical Meeting Facilitation

The planning and implementation of NIEHS WETP workshops and technical meetings has always been a significant aspect of the National Clearinghouse operations. After facilitating the workshops, the Clearinghouse documents its proceedings in a workshop report. A large number of essential NIEHS Worker Safety and Health Training documents are products of this workshop process.

Reports on NIEHS WETP Accomplishments

Reports that highlight the accomplishments of the NIEHS Worker Education and Training Programs and its grantees can be downloaded from the National Clearinghouse website.

Research Products

One critical mission of the Clearinghouse has always been to research and analyze breaking issues that may affect hazardous waste and emergency response worker training. This research provides recommendations and guidance for NIEHS WETP and its grantee community in determining the program's direction. The National Clearinghouse has conducted a number of research studies at the request of the NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program that are available online at the NIEHS WETP National Clearinghouse website.

Discover What the National Clearinghouse Has to Offer

Visit the **NIEHS National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training** website at <http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/>.

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