

# VOLPENTEST HAMMER TRAINING & EDUCATION CENTER

With large amounts of hazardous materials at Hanford that must be dealt with safely, it is vital that workers are trained to successfully mitigate potentially threatening situations. The Department of Energy's (DOE) Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center, managed by Fluor Hanford, specializes in courses for hazardous materials workers, emergency response coordinators, managers, scientists, firefighters, law enforcement personnel and others.

HAMMER opened the doors to its new facility in September 1997 and quickly became one of the country's premier hands-on training centers. HAMMER uses realistic props and settings to provide training for the Hanford workforce and others. The training is designed to save lives, reduce injuries and increase worker productivity.

- 24,627 students trained at HAMMER in FY 1999, the majority of whom took Hazardous Waste Operations, Respiratory Protection, Rad Worker, Emergency Preparedness and other site-based courses. HAMMER's student day totals increased by nearly half, from 23,227 in FY 1998 to 33,605 in FY 1999.

- HAMMER conducted two highly successful performance-based exercises. First, an equipment-replacement mock-up was held at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) in April. That exercise identified one major safety issue, 24 necessary equipment changes and 12 critical work-sequence changes – all

changes were implemented for the actual job. For every dollar spent in staging the mock-up, PFP saved \$300 in potential corrective action. Another exercise held in June was a simulation that allowed Tank Farms employees to hone their emergency-response skills.

- HAMMER held 68 National Transportation Program Regulatory Compliance Training classes during FY 1999, as compared to 24 in FY 1998 – a 260% attendee increase accomplished at a significantly reduced cost to the program and other DOE sites. These courses make our nation's highways safer by ensuring that those who ship nuclear and hazardous materials are well-trained.

- HAMMER secured and maintained local, state, national and international

training programs, including the Northwest Public Power Association, Washington State's Transportation and Military departments, and the National Counternarcotics Center. The U.S. State Department broke ground in June for a new Port-of-Entry Building for HAMMER's international foreign border enforcement training programs.

HAMMER provides realistic, hands-on training opportunities for Hanford employees and offsite organizations. Gator Safety of Sweet Home, Ore., trains employees of Willamette Industries to safely extinguish propane fires. A HAMMER worker watches carefully, ready to shut off the flames if the need arises.

