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Briefing on Health & Safety Training Issues

**DHHS Secretary's
Council on Public Health Preparedness
May 3-4, 2004**

**Joseph T. Hughes, Director
NIEHS Worker Education & Training Program**



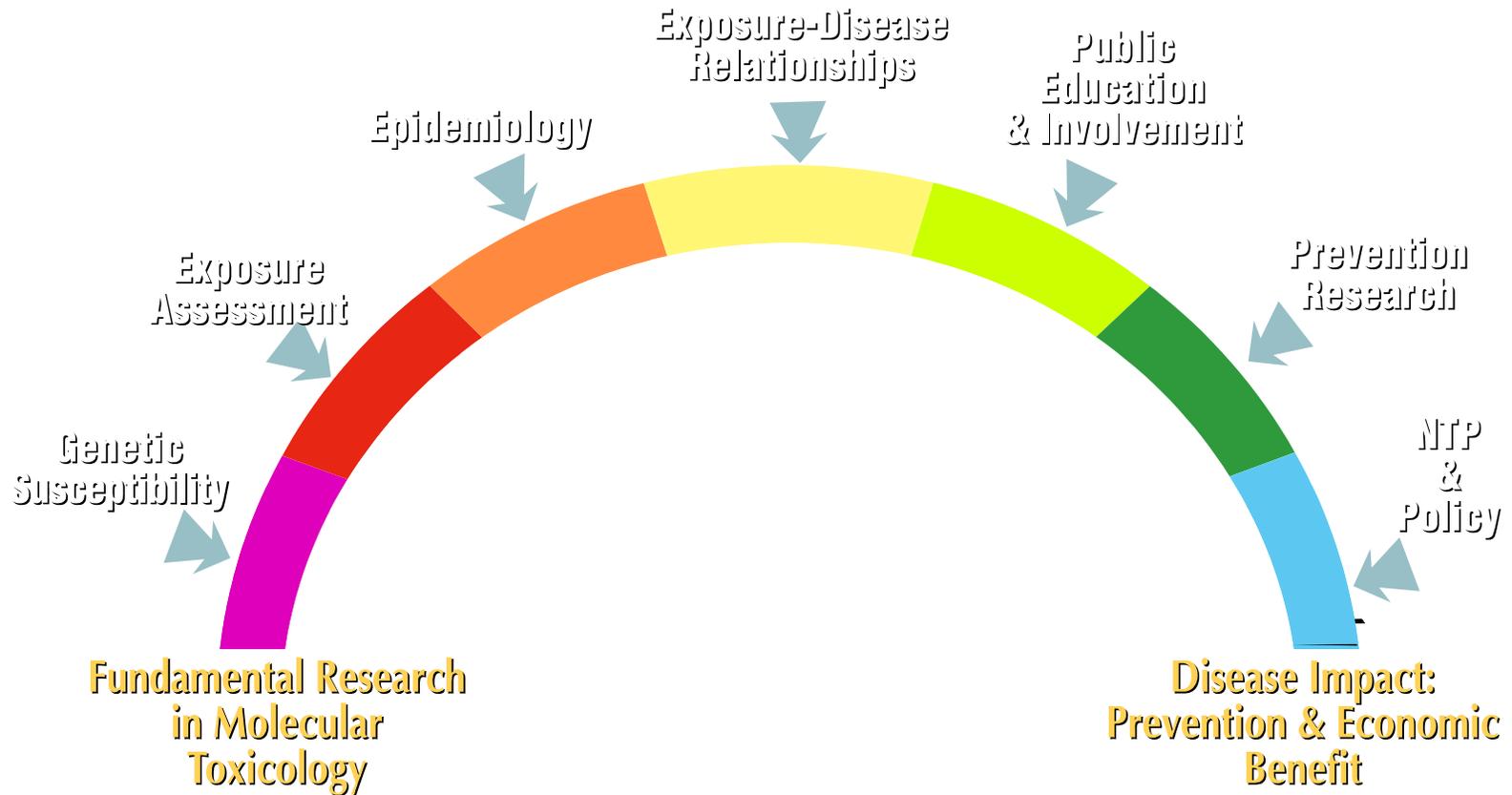
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National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences



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Worker Education and Training Program (WETP)

- **Created by the Superfund law in 1987 with research and training components based in NIEHS/NIH/DHHS. Annual budget of approximately \$35 million.**
- **Health and safety training programs designed to meet OSHA requirements under Hazardous Waste Operations & Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) rules.**
- **Focus: to provide awards to develop model safety and health training programs for workers engaged in hazardous waste removal or containment or chemical emergency response**
- **17 non-profit organizations at 80 universities, labor-based safety programs, and other institutions. 1 million workers trained over the past 14 years, accounting for over 14 million contact hours of actual training.**

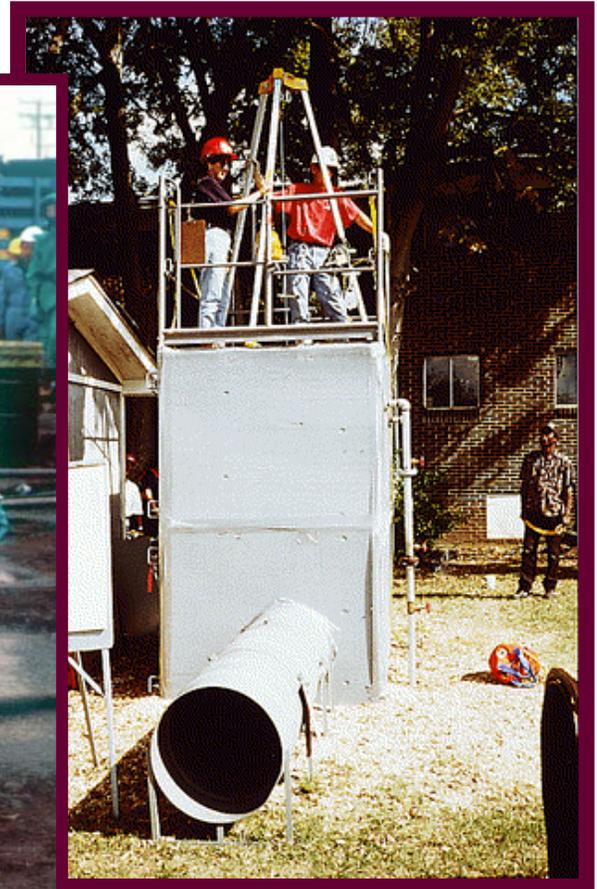
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Upgrade Work Practices & Technical Skills Simulation of Hazards



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WETP Training Programs

- **Hazardous Waste (HWWTP)** – This \$20M training program provides model occupational safety and health training for workers who are or may be engaged in activities related to hazardous waste removal or containment or chemical emergency response.
- **DOE Nuclear Weapons Cleanup Training** – This \$8.5M training assistance program is targeted for workers engaged in environmental restoration and emergency response activities at sites in the DOE's nuclear weapons complex.
- **Minority Worker (MWTP)** – This \$3M program focuses on delivering comprehensive training to disadvantaged minority inner city young adults in order to prepare them for employment in the environmental restoration and hazardous materials fields.
- **Brownfields Worker (BMWTP)** – This \$3M program focuses on the providing training to disadvantaged residents surrounding Brownfields sites.

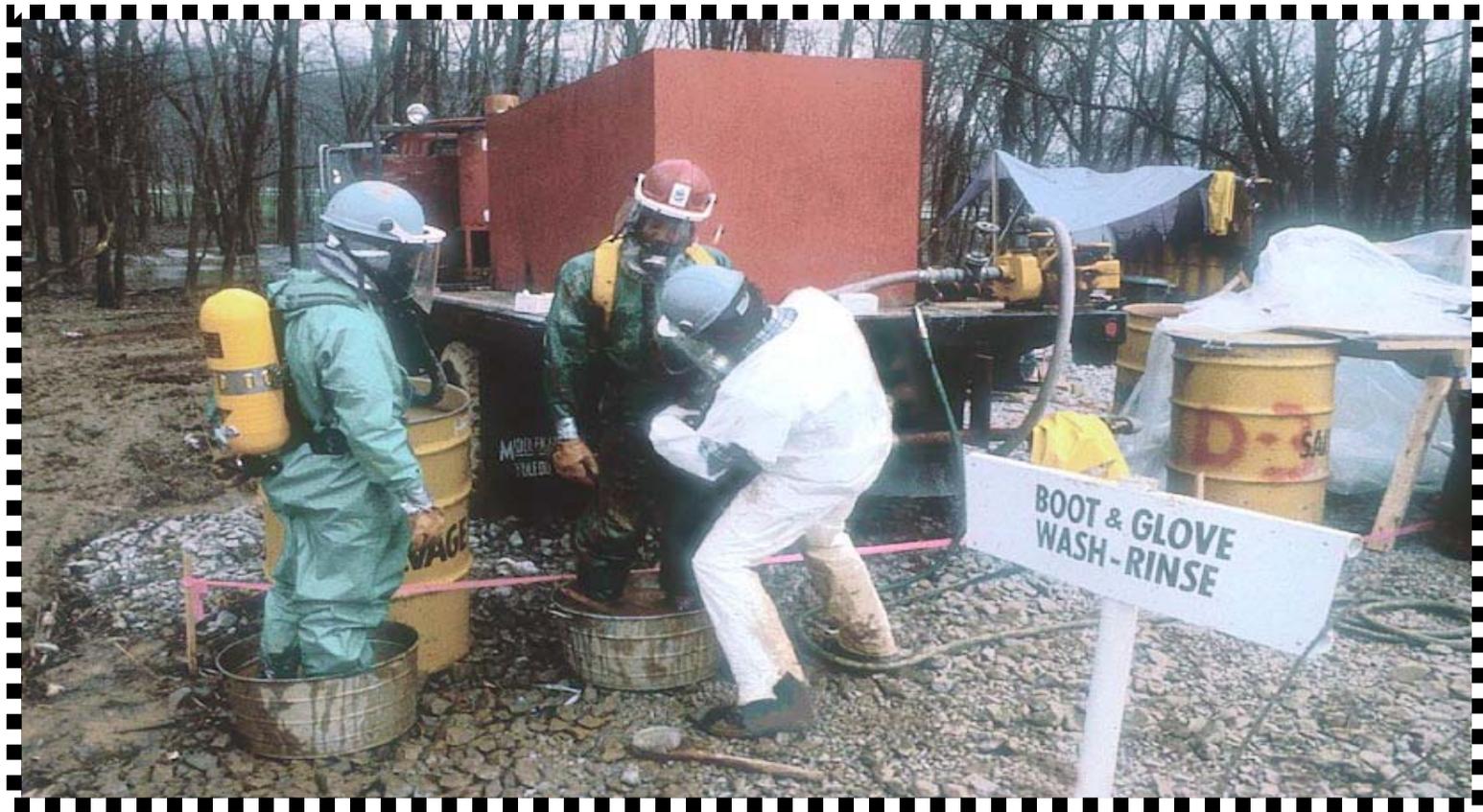
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Health & Safety Hands-On Training



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NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM IMPACT

- **Develop model curricula & training techniques**
- **Expansion of training resources to new sectors**
- **Upgrade work practices and technical skills**
- **Diffusion of occupational safety and health knowledge**
- **Creation of new national benchmarks for quality worker safety and health training**

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WTC Response Activities



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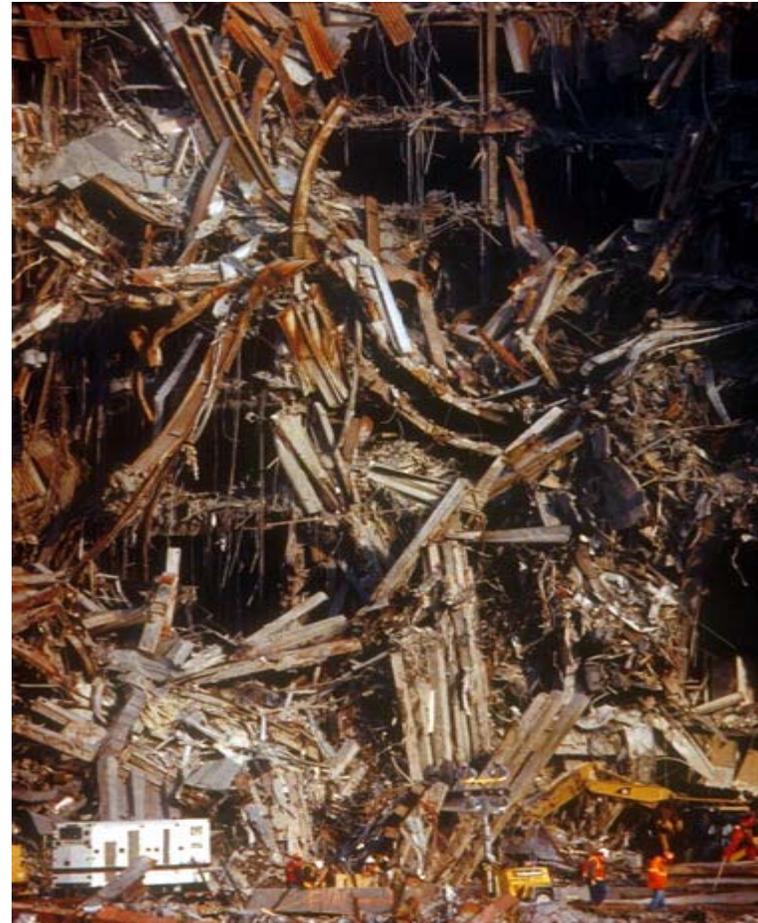


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NIEHS World Trade Center Response

Immediate supplemental funding to support:

- **site training**
- **provision of respirators**
- **worker exposure monitoring**
- **consultation on the development of a site safety plan**



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**National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
Worker Education and Training Program (WETP)
Response to the World Trade Center (WTC) Disaster:
Initial WETP Grantee Response and Preliminary
Assessment of Training Needs**



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W O R K E R E D U



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**“Potentially the most dangerous workplace in America.”
John Henshaw, OSHA**

**NIEHS and its awardees developed the
official training course at Ground Zero
for 4,000 workers**





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World Trade Center Training Priorities

- **Re-establish training for NYC Fire Department HazMat Teams and FDNY Special Operations**
- **Cross Training in Craft Skills for Workers at Ground Zero**
- **Basic Awareness Health & Safety Training for 4000 Cleanup Workers**
- **Training & Certification in use of Personal Protective Equipment**
- **Creation of Site Safety and Health Plan for Ground Zero**

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WTC Supplemental Awards, Sept. 2001

- **IAFF** – develop immediate training for technician level and hazmat responders for FDNY hazmat operations.
- **IUOE** – provide health and safety expertise equipment and supplies, sampling and services such as fit testing.
- **CPWR** – provide OSHA general safety training and hazmat training to building trades.
- **UMDNJ** – provide training to port authority workers, police, carpenters, and other service workers.
- **L-AGC** – provide hazardous waste and hazardous awareness training to laborers and teamsters on site.

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THE LEARNING FROM DISASTERS WORKSHOP

Purpose of the Workshop:

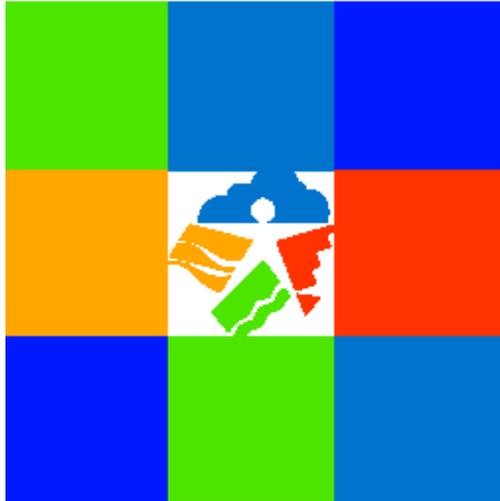
- bring together WETP awardees and other experts
- explore worker training for emergency response and cleanup involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)
- review lessons learned about training preparedness for responses to potential future terrorist incidents
- develop recommendations for further actions by NIEHS WETP

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LEARNING FROM DISASTERS: WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PREPAREDNESS THROUGH WORKER TRAINING

Report of an Expert Workshop

Sponsored by:

Worker Education and Training Program,

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Held:

April 25-26, 2002 • Nashville, TN

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New Threats and HAZMAT Training Needs

- **Workers in many industries regularly exposed to chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological hazards**
- **“New threats” are new because they have not been introduced into the workplace or the general population *intentionally or on a large scale*, though the specific hazards themselves are not new in American workplaces.**
- **The challenge for preparedness training involves new toxic substances, newly threatened workforce sectors, new definitions of responders and data from multiple disciplines.**
- **New partnerships and alliances need to be formed that cut across the public and private sectors at national state and local levels.**

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S&H Training Essential for Preparedness

- **Worker safety and health training is essential for an effective force to respond to terrorist actions**
- **The OSHA training requirements under 1910.120 (HAZWOPER) provide the best protection and would be required for most response actions**
- **Unique worker populations will be needed (e.g. heavy equipment operators with radiation training for dirty bombs)**

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Disaster Response should be conducted in compliance with OSHA HAZWOPER 1910.120

-Provides minimum levels of protection for all workers until comprehensive monitoring data and professional judgment dictate a change.

- Provides a framework that addresses nearly all worker and public protection issues including monitoring, medical surveillance, personal protective equipment, decontamination, training, site safety and health plans, control zones, site access, and responsible safety and health officials.

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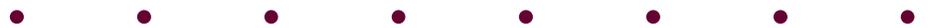
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Appropriate protection must be provided

- First-on-the-scene emergency response personnel need to be trained in and provided *appropriate* protective gear, particularly respiratory protection, during the rescue phase.
- Major urban centers should consider identifying nearby sources of appropriate protective equipment to be provided to response personnel such as first responders, SSP and similar individuals (often termed “volunteers”) during the initial response phase.



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Training input needs to be continuous

- The scientific/medical/technical aspects of WMD response are rapidly evolving.**
- WMD training materials need to be developed in such a manner that they can be kept “evergreen.”**
- Updates to instructors and train-the-trainer training materials in order to assure an integrated and timely change/update process.**
- Those developing WMD training curricula should establish a mechanism for rigorous peer review of the materials. There are currently no standards on many key points within the various disciplines associated with the WMD threat.**

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ER and Public Health must Work Together

- **Appropriate responses to major chemical incidents will require a prepared and equipped public health system and private hospital resources**
- **Coordination between Emergency Response and the medical community is key to timely and effective response**
- **The Emergency Response Community (firefighters) and those involved in Public Health Preparedness need to form partnerships, develop training and create joint exercises.**

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Worker protection standards must be enforced

Guidance needs to be developed to assist local Incident Commanders:

1. in ensuring compliance with the applicable occupational safety and health standards should State or Federal OSHA agencies choose not to enforce such standards during a protracted search and rescue phase or subsequent cleanup phase.

2. with respect to developing specific operational plans to assure the adequate and appropriate protection of skilled support personnel during the search and rescue phase. This is of particular importance as the Federal Response Plans place responsibility for safety and health (and training) on the local jurisdiction.

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2002 WTC Response Funding

- Supplemental funding to NIEHS awardees involved in WTC response due on March 1, 2002.
- The funding for the supplements is described in PL 107-117 - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS, 2002 for NIEHS which includes \$6,000,000 for carrying out worker training activities authorized by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980.
- These funds are for World Trade Center response actions, including education and training of new Hazmat teams for the New York City Fire Department, training environmental remediation workers, health and safety training for site cleanup workers, training and certification in the use of personal protection equipment in the cleanup effort, and weapons of mass destruction training for the Hazmat workforce.

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Disaster Site Worker Training Program

- Based on lessons learned at the WTC disaster, clear need for more training of skilled support personnel
- Developed jointly with OSHA and DHS
- Courses will include:
 - OSHA Construction Outreach (10 hrs)
 - Disaster Site Worker (16 hrs)
 - HAZWOPER (40 hrs)
 - Train-the-Trainer Course





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WMD Priorities for FY 2004

- (1) training for a nation-wide cadre of environmental response workers to respond to future terrorist attacks;**
- (2) a national registry of trained skilled construction personnel in relevant crafts for immediate response to national disaster,**
- (3) appropriate rescue training for workers who participate in immediate response activities but are not emergency personnel since they must work together in rescuing victims and removing debris,**
- (4) new hazardous waste refresher course modules to cover emergency response and cleanup for terrorist attacks,**
- (5) training for workers who clean up buildings contaminated with biohazards, such as anthrax**

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Next Steps/Future Goals

- **Integration of BT and WMD training development within the HAZWOPER domain for emergency response and environmental cleanup workers.**
- **Development of Interagency partnership activities on WMD response training.**
- **Blending of classroom, hands-on and on-line learning approaches for BT/WMD training delivery.**
- **Completion of on-line curricula catalog for hazmat and hazwoper training courses and resources.**

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For more information

WETP Training Resources and Curricula can be found on-line at <http://www.wetp.org> or <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/wetp> .

NIEHS WETP welcomes your input into the development of the WMD training initiative.

If you have questions, suggestions or concerns, please call (919)-541-0217 or email (hughes3@niehs.nih.gov)

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