

Chapter 20. Training Resources

Training and funding opportunities are available to assist first responders, as well as other members of LEPCs and TEPCs. This chapter provides references to various web-based training resources and funding opportunities.

Your state or tribal agency may provide additional training for first responders.

20.1 Emergency Response Training

It is important—and required by regulation—for emergency responders to have the proper training to ensure that they are ready to respond to emergencies involving chemicals.

Under OSHA and EPA standards and regulations, any person who will respond to a chemical incident must have the appropriate training for the level of response they are undertaking, whether it be awareness, operational or technician-based training.

Organizations at all levels make training available for local and state first responders either at no cost or for very reasonable costs. States offer training to their local responders using Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) training funds, other grants or state supported fees. Additionally, many trade associations offer free training for local agencies and emergency responders.

Two such training opportunities, which have been offered for years, are available for responders nationwide. The annual HOTZONE Conference & Workshops held in Houston, Texas, and the annual Continuing Challenge conference held in Sacramento, California, both offer comprehensive training opportunities for first responders. These events bring in subject matter experts from around the country (and even international trainers) to provide the best available training for responders. Many responders attend these conferences for no cost because of available scholarship opportunities offered by the conference itself, their states, associations or other entities.



Houston and Sacramento host annual conferences.

Under the OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) Standard (29 CFR 1910.120), as well as the corresponding EPA regulation (40 CFR Part 311), both private and public employees (including volunteers) must be trained to the appropriate level.

There are five levels of training, which are designed to ensure responders can protect themselves. The training levels and content required for these workers is dependent on the workers' expected duties during the emergency response. For example, workers who are likely to witness or discover a release and are expected only to initiate an emergency response by notifying the proper authorities must be trained to the first responder awareness level.

A fact sheet developed by EPA Region 6 on the implementation of the HAZWOPER program at the state and local levels is located in Appendix Q.

20.2 Training Resources

The following is a list of some of the training programs offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, DOT, DHS, and Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response (TRANSCAER) for emergency planners and first responders. Your state or tribal emergency management may offer additional training programs. Industry trade associations may also offer free training for first responders.

- **National Preparedness Training**

FEMA offers a variety of training and education for first responders, emergency managers and other members of the community.

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/training>
<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/exercises>

- **National Incident Management System**

The [National Incident Management System \(NIMS\)](#) guides all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from incidents. Local, state, territorial, and tribal nation jurisdictions are required to adopt NIMS in order to receive federal preparedness grants.

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims>
<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims/components>

- **NIMS Implementation and Training**

Local, state, tribal and territorial jurisdictions are required to adopt NIMS in order to receive federal [Preparedness Grants](#). FEMA has defined implementation objectives to guide jurisdictions in their implementation of NIMS.

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/nims/implementation-training>

- **Chemical-Terrorism Vulnerability Information Training**

CVI Authorized User Training provides an overview of a sensitive but unclassified designation titled, “Chemical-Terrorism Vulnerability Information” (CVI). CVI is used to protect information developed under the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) regulation that relates vulnerabilities to terrorist attacks of high-risk chemical facilities manufacturing, using, storing or otherwise possessing certain explosive, reactive, flammable or toxic chemicals of interest. Completion of this training will prepare you to successfully handle and safeguard CVI.

<https://www.cisa.gov/cvi-authorized-user-training>

- **Emergency Response Guidebook Training**

Provided through PHMSA, these trainings are available throughout the year and across the United States.

<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/erg/emergency-response-guidebook-erg>

- **Federal Emergency Management Institute**
Training resources focused on all hazard preparedness education.
<https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx>
- **First ResponderTraining.gov**
A FEMA website offering more than 150 courses to help build critical skills first responders need to function effectively in mass consequence events.
<https://www.firstrespondertraining.gov/frts/>
- **PHMSA One-Day Hazmat Transportation Workshops**
PHMSA's Hazardous Materials Safety Assistance Team conducts workshops specialized to meet the needs of industry or the public safety community. These free one-day events are scheduled across the nation to help meet the needs of the local community.
- **PHMSA Online Training**
This training system provides training from the PHMSA Pipeline Inspector Training and Qualifications Division and HAZMAT Certification and Standards Branch. It provides training for PHMSA personnel, federal and state pipeline safety inspectors, and HAZMAT Investigators.
- **PHMSA Two-Day Multimodal Training Seminars**
DOT provides training on hazmat transportation and includes the Federal Aviation Administration, PHMSA, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, and State Hazmat Enforcement.
- **TRANSCAER Online Hazmat Training Courses**
TRANSCAERSM (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) offers a variety of online hazmat training videos for emergency responders and community leaders who cannot attend classroom events. You can take the courses at your own pace and at a time and location that is convenient for you.
<https://www.transcaer.com/training/online-training-courses>