

Waste Isolation

Pilot Plant

... a critical step toward solving the nation's nuclear waste disposal problem

Emergency Response Training

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's (WIPP) States and Tribal Education Program (STEP) has trained more than 23,000 emergency response professionals along WIPP routes. This U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) training, begun in 1988, focuses on all emergency responders who may potentially respond to accidents involving WIPP waste shipments. Classes address caring for accident victims, guarding the public welfare, protecting the environment, and ensuring the safety of responders. As required by the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act, in 2002 the Occupational Safety and Health Administration re-reviewed and concurred this program to meet their current standards.

Five courses are offered in the STEP curriculum:

- Ž **Modular Emergency Radiological Response Transportation Training (MERRTT)** is a course provided and developed in conjunction with the WIPP External Emergency Management staff and the DOE's Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) as a nationwide effort to ensure training consistency in responding to incidents involving radiological materials. It provides assistance to state, tribal, and local authorities to help prepare them for response to a transportation incident involving DOE shipments of radioactive material. MERRTT was developed with one goal in mind — to provide real-world training for real-world issues. MERRTT has a modular design, consisting of 21 concise and easy to understand modules that can be integrated into existing programs for hazardous material training. MERRTT exclusively covers Hazard Class 7 radioactive material and builds on information received in other hazardous material courses. MERRTT modules range from an overview of radioactive material and response issues to the more complex topics of radiological instrumentation and offensive actions used at radioactive material incidents. MERRTT will provide Emergency Responders with fundamental knowledge and skills required to respond with confidence to incidents involving radioactive material. This program can be offered as a one-day course consisting of the first 12 MERRTT modules or the complete two-day course including instrumentation and/or a practical exercise.
- Ž **Command and Control** is an additional eight-hour course intended for those individuals who will be overall or partially in charge at the scene of a WIPP-related accident. The course consists of topics that include a review of emergency actions for first responders plus a general overview of the Incident Command System (ICS). An overview of TRUPACT-II recovery and the U.S. DOE Radiological Assistance Program Team activities at the scene of an incident are included. The students then participate in table-top exercises, using scale models of urban and rural highway transportation environments to demonstrate their ability to adapt concepts introduced in the lecture to their own local procedures and requirements. Successful completion of this course provides the potential Incident

Commander with the knowledge to safely respond, establish command, and protect the public and environment. Persons that have completed the MERRTT day-one material or an equivalent course may attend this course.

- Ž **Incident Command System (ICS)** is a 16-hour course of instruction based on training curriculum from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group in Boise, Idaho. This course has been officially adopted by many state, county, and city governments as the standard for Incident Command. Five major functions of organizational development are discussed in addition to a section on Radiological Response Teams (RAP) and TRUPACT/HalfPACT recovery.

- Ž **Train-the-Trainer**, a 24-hour program, is generally taught in Carlsbad, New Mexico, so that students can tour the WIPP site and see – firsthand – why the facility was selected for a permanent nuclear waste repository. Students should be certified instructors within their appropriate state or local jurisdiction and have a background in emergency response and hazardous materials. The WIPP tour and part of the MERRTT course completes the first day. The MERRTT course is completed the following day and frequently asked WIPP questions are discussed. Each student is provided with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration recognized training materials as required under the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act.

- Ž **Medical Management** is an eight-hour course intended for hospital emergency room doctors and nurses who may be required to treat a patient potentially contaminated with transuranic material from a WIPP transportation accident. Field experts introduce students to the concepts of radiation physics and radiobiology, which prepare them for the detailed explanation of exposure, contamination, internal contamination, and radionuclide incorporation. Upon completion, students will be able to properly select and prepare an appropriate treatment/decontamination area within the hospital and perform necessary decontamination of a patient. They are also provided with response and assistance source information for a real or suspected radiation accident.



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For more information:

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