

**NIEHS HazMat Training Priorities for Emergency Responders and Remediation Workers
in the Aftermath of the WTC Terrorist Attack**

During past week, hundreds of workers who have been trained by the NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) have been involved in rescue and recovery operations at the NY World Trade Center (WTC). In addition, many of our organizations have lost their members in the explosion. These are the current NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program's (WETP) priorities to assure the protection of emergency response and site remediation workers in the WTC.

1) Immediate Re-establishment of Training Capacity for the NYC Fire Department (FDNY) HazMat Teams: There is an immediate need to assist the FDNY and the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) to initiate required OSHA HAZWOPER Training at the Technician and Specialist Levels; Just to re-train and train-up new Hazmat teams for the FDNY to replace those who perished in the disaster could take months to complete required training under 1910.120 (q);

2) Health and Safety Training for Site Cleanup Workers in WTC/Ground Zero: It is clear that site rescue and remediation work will continue for months at the WTC location and will be manned by hundreds of construction craft workers with the NY Building Trades unions and others. Hundreds of these workers have already worked around the clock with almost no protection in bucket brigades, cutting steel girders, crane operations and coordination with the urban search & rescue teams. As this location becomes a full scale Superfund site and a variety of pathogenic and physical safety and health risks more clearly emerge, the need for higher levels of protection, environmental monitoring, medical surveillance, and more advanced training will become acute.

3) Health Care and Hospital Personnel Training to support Ongoing Cleanup and Remediation Efforts at WTC: It is clear that there will be an ongoing need for health care and medical support for the WTC disaster site; Required 1910.120 Hazwoper training will be needed to assure ongoing capacity for worker decontamination, first aid, and ongoing medical surveillance. An immediate priority should be an ongoing medical surveillance program for all of the construction workers and emergency responders who have been working in the WTC/Ground Zero site during the past week with minimal levels of personal protection.

4) Training and Certification in the Use of Personnel Protection Equipment in the Cleanup Effort: Needed personal protection equipment (SCBA's, respirators, suits and ensembles) are being rushed to the WTC site from across the country to begin to provide a minimal level of protection for response and remediation workers. Immediate resources to provide OSHA-required training under the Hazwoper Standard and Respiratory Protection standards will be required as higher levels of protection are deployed at the site. In addition, there is a need for expertise and supervision in the deployment of Superfund type workers in a restricted environment.

5) Weapons of Mass Destruction Training (WMD/T) for the HazMat and Hazwoper Workforce in all Chemical Operations: Thus far, formal WMD Training has been extremely restricted to limited teams in state and local governments. It is clear from this week's attack that the need for the specific health and safety issues covered in WMD/T must be provided to a much larger audience of chemical emergency responders and hazardous materials workers. Heightened protection and training for all our nation's current hazardous materials shipments and chemical operations must be implemented immediately to protect the nation's infrastructure from other potential terrorist attacks on both fixed and mobile chemical-intensive operations.

6) Cross Training in Craft Skills and Safety/Health for WTC demolition and remediation workers: As the rescue effort at the WTC is transformed into a more traditional construction demolition operation, there will be an urgent need for cross-trained environmental remediation workers that will have a wide range of environmental certifications (Hazwoper, lead and asbestos) as well as requisite construction trade

and craft skills. The NIEHS Minority Worker Training Program has pioneered this approach in training young minority workers for participation in Superfund cleanups and Brownfields remediation and has had operations in New York City which will need to be significantly expanded.