



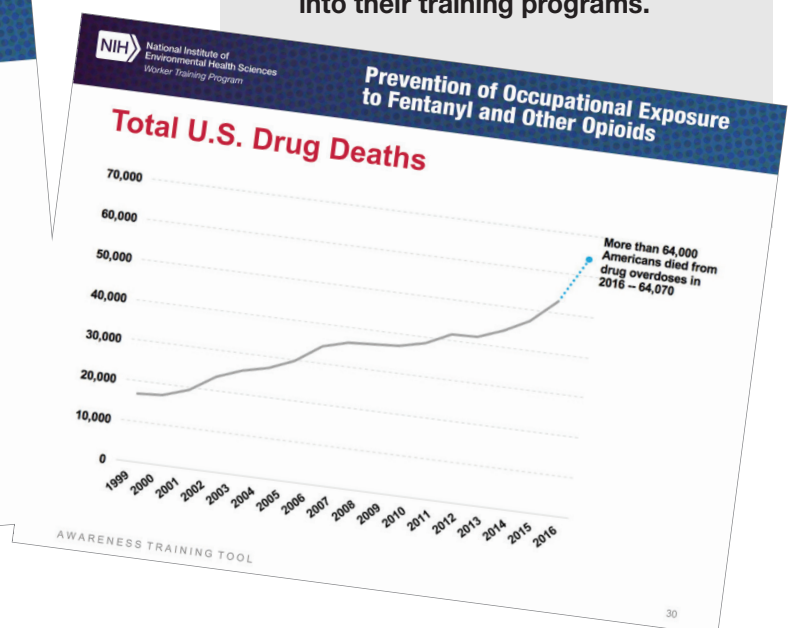
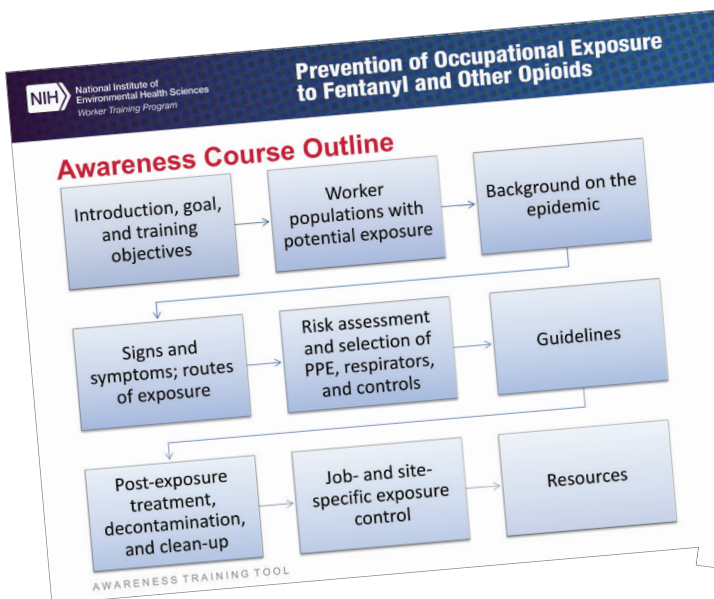
Training Tool

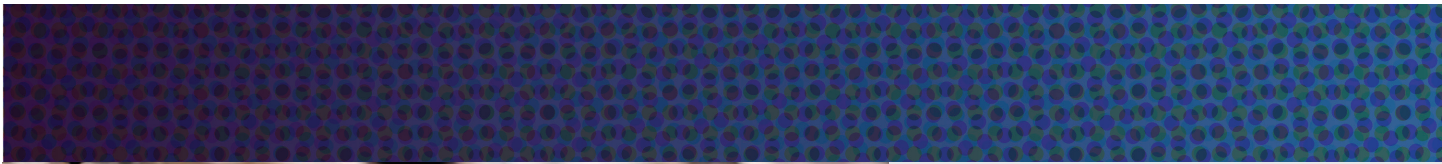


Prevention of Occupational Exposure to Fentanyl and Other Opioids

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Worker Training Program has developed a training tool to provide awareness-level training to workers who have potential for occupational exposure to fentanyl and other opioids. Exposure to fentanyl and other opioids can cause respiratory failure and death.

- The tool is designed as a four-hour interactive course.
- The tool is in PPT format and includes three small group activities. The PPT may be downloaded from the NIEHS National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training [website](#).
- Organizations and trainers may integrate or adapt these materials into their training programs.





Every day 115 people die from opioid-related drug overdoses. In 2016, 42,249 people died from opioid drug overdoses, 2.1 million people had an opioid misuse disorder, and 886,000 used heroin. More than 11 million people misused prescription opioids. This crisis has had a profound impact on first responders. It is critically important that personnel are trained to protect themselves while carrying out their essential duties.

The training tool is designed for emergency medical services, law enforcement, crime laboratories, environmental cleaners, and health care workers. These are some of the occupations and industries that are affected. Responding to overdoses, investigating drug crimes and labs, analyzing contraband, and cleanup are just some of the tasks that workers perform that put them at risk for exposure to opioids. This is an awareness-level training tool. Operations-level training requires hands-on activities with personal protective equipment, respirators, and other site-specific worker protections.

Although this tool is designed for emergency responders, the background information may be useful for a broad range of workers. The NIEHS Worker Training Program is developing a training tool intended for a broad range of occupations affected by the opioid crisis that focuses on primary prevention of workplace injury, avoidance of opioid misuse and addiction, and effective treatment and recovery programs. Expected completion: spring/summer 2019.

NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Worker Training Program

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Course Objectives

After completing this course, participants will be able to:

1. **Recognize** occupations with potential exposure to fentanyl and other opiates.
2. **Describe** signs and symptoms and treatment post-exposure.
3. **Explain** use of control measures for worker protection.
4. **Detail** methods for decontamination and clean-up.

AWARENESS TRAINING TOOL

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The PPT may be downloaded from the NIEHS National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training website at <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2562>.

NIEHS grant recipients may be contacted to provide hazardous materials training, including training for prevention of occupational exposure to fentanyl and other opioids. Contact information is available at <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/awardees/>.