HAZWOPER Training Tips

Finding the right Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response training can be a daunting task. Where should you begin? Our HAZWOPER training tips will help you select the best training for your needs, and help you get compliant with OSHA HAZWOPER training requirements in 29 CFR 1910.120.

Check for State-Specific Requirements
Most states follow the Federal OSHA HAZWOPER training requirements. States with an OSHA-Approved State Plan may have requirements above and beyond the Federal OSHA HAZWOPER standard. In these cases, you may be able to take Federal level training and supplement with state-specific training. See our OSHA HAZWOPER by State page or OSHA State Plans page for more information about State Plans.

Select the Correct Course
There are several levels of training under the HAZWOPER standard, based on the type of work being performed and the potential hazards the employee will face. Training topics and minimum training hours differ for each level. The HAZWOPER training levels under OSHA standards 1910.120(e)(3) and 1910.120(q)(6) cover the training requirements for workers performing: Contaminated site clean-up, Emergency response, and TSD for hazardous waste.

Select a Training Provider
• Seek out additional training any time you are not certain about your ability to safely handle a situation.
• Conduct post-incident and post-emergency reviews to determine what worked well and identify opportunities for improvement for future situations. Based on what is found, implement changes and get any additional needed training.

Select a Training Format
Find the learning environment that works best for your situation:
• 100% Online HAZWOPER Training – Look for: Audio narration; Photos &/or videos; Interactive elements: quizzes & exercises; Convenience: self-paced & 24/7 availability; Cost; and Money back guarantee.
• Traditional Classroom HAZWOPER Training – Features may include: Face-to-face instructor interaction; Student comradery; Structured environment; and Hands-on equipment training.
• Blend of Online Hours & Classroom Hours – Combines the benefits of both online and classroom training.

Select a Training Provider
• Consider the features and benefits offered by each provider.
• Look to see if the provider’s course you’re considering meets the needed HAZWOPER training requirement.
• Review company information, such as: Testimonials; Online reviews; BBB rating; Trainer qualifications; Money back guarantee; Course certificates & wallet ID cards; and Multi-student discounts.
• For online courses, look at: Course content; Course duration; and Time needed off of work.

Complete Equipment Training & Field Experience
Even if you completed equipment training with a training provider, make sure you are properly trained to use the actual equipment and PPE that you would use during an emergency at your worksite. 24- and 40-Hour HAZWOPER workers and their supervisors also require 1-3 days of field experience training under 29 CFR 1910.120(e)(3). This must be completed under the direct supervision of a trained, experienced supervisor.

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Set Reminders for Annual Refresher
All HAZWOPER workers require annual HAZWOPER refresher training. Stay in compliance and ensure your training doesn’t lapse by setting up electronic and calendar reminders to complete your annual refresher training within one year of your last HAZWOPER training. Some providers will also send out reminders if you took the initial training with them.

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Monitor Training Opportunities & Needs
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For OSHA HAZWOPER Training Courses, visit: HazMatStudent.com
Classroom, Online & Blended options available.