Course Description and Objectives

Basic Overview of Superfund Online, a computer-based training course, provides an overview of the purpose, legal framework, and implementation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Throughout this interactive and easy-to-follow course, participants explore the activities performed under the Superfund program.

By taking the course, participants achieve the following objectives:

- **Understand the evolution of the Superfund program.** The course explores the origin, accomplishments, and future of the Superfund program.
- **Understand the statutory and regulatory basis for the authorities of OSCs and RPMs.** The course provides an overview of the roles of the OSC and RPM as they are defined in laws, regulations, policy, and guidance, including a comparison of authorities and liabilities.
- **Learn about the three types of response activities defined under CERCLA.** The course discusses the components of the removal, remedial, and enforcement programs and the major responsibilities of OSCs and RPMs in their work on Superfund responses, site cleanups, and enforcement activities.

Target Audience and Registration Information

The Basic Overview of Superfund Online course is intended to be an introductory-level training course that provides an overview of the Superfund process. There are no tuition costs and the course is open to any Federal, state, and other stakeholders hoping to gain a better understanding of the Superfund process. Superfund support staff, such as administrative staff, contracting officers, community involvement coordinators, enforcement personnel, and environmental professionals new to the Superfund program also will benefit from the on-line training. Newly hired U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on-scene coordinators (OSC) and remedial project managers (RPM) still are required to take the 3-day classroom overview of the roles of the OSC and RPM as they are defined in laws, regulations, policy, and guidance, including a comparison of authorities and liabilities.

The Basic Overview of Superfund Online is available at EPA’s Environmental Response Training Program (ERTP) Virtual University. Visit ERTP’s Virtual University at: www.ertpvu.org and register at the site. After registering, click “On-Line Courses” and select “All Courses” from the menu screen; then select the “Basic Overview of Superfund” course from the list of available courses and begin the training.

The course requires an internet browser (Internet Explorer or Netscape Communicator), a sound card, and the Macromedia Flash 6.0 plug-in (available for download during the course) to complete the modules.
Other CERCLA Education Center Courses

- **Enforcement Process Overview Course:** Provides an overview of the EPA Superfund enforcement process for OSCs and RPMs. This training is an Executive Order 3500.1 requirement for OSCs, RPMs, and their first line supervisors.

**Course Outline**

I. Overview of CERCLA  
II. Remedial Process  
III. Statutory and Regulatory Framework  
IV. Liability and Enforcement  
V. Discovery, Notification, and Initial Site Assessment  
VI. Community Involvement  
VII. Removal Process  
VIII. Federal Facilities

**About the CERCLA Education Center**

The CERCLA Education Center (CEC) is a unique training forum implemented by EPA’s Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. CEC courses have been developed cooperatively by the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation; the Office of Emergency Management; the Office of Acquisition Management; the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance; and the Office of Research and Development. Site managers from EPA regions provide technical advice, comment, and support. The CEC’s structured curriculum, designed primarily for EPA hazardous waste site managers and responders, enables participants to attend training that is of particular interest to them and most appropriate for their projects and workloads.

**Training Partners**

- **CIU** The Community Involvement University (CIU) provides opportunities for headquarters and regional staff from EPA’s programs to build skills needed for successful community involvement. CIU offers different community involvement, facilitation, risk communication, and cross-cultural collaboration courses each year. The CIU is managed by the Community Involvement and Outreach Branch in EPA’s Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation. For information, visit [www.trainex.org](http://www.trainex.org) and select the CIU.

- **ITRC** The Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) is a state-led coalition working together with federal partners, industry, academia, and stakeholders to achieve regulatory acceptance of environmental technologies. In conjunction with EPA’s Technology Innovation and Field Services Division, ITRC delivers training through the Internet to reach a geographically dispersed audience of regulators, consultants, and other members of the environmental community. For information, visit [www.trainex.org](http://www.trainex.org) and select the ITRC.

- **ERTP** As part of EPA’s comprehensive program for protecting the public and environment from hazardous materials, EPA’s Environmental Response Training Program’s (ERTP) courses are designed for personnel who respond to spill events and investigate and clean up abandoned hazardous waste sites. Training is provided in health and safety and various technical operations needed to identify, evaluate, and control hazardous substances that have been released. ERTP also can quickly develop technically focused courses to address current issues facing responders (such as, Anthrax, biohazards, and air monitoring for Weapons of Mass Destruction). For information, visit [www.trainex.org](http://www.trainex.org) and select the ERTP.