Training Partners

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 http://www.trainex.org and select the CIU.

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 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 http://www.trainex.org and select the ERTP.

More Information

For information about the CERCLA Education Center and the schedule of course offerings, visit EPA’s Training Exchange Web site at www.trainex.org.

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.

Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection

Course Description and Objectives

Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI) provides an introduction to the Superfund site assessment process and describes the preliminary assessment and site inspection phases of this process.

By taking the course, participants will achieve the following objectives:

- **Explain when, where, why, and how site assessments are performed under the authorities of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).** The course provides an overview of key provisions of CERCLA and the response process established by the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). The purpose, scope, and requirements for performing a remedial preliminary assessment (PA) and remedial site inspection (SI) at sites regulated by CERCLA are explained as well as determining whether a removal action is warranted.

- **Prepare for, conduct, and report the results of a remedial PA.** The course identifies and explains procedures for performing a remedial PA, including determining whether a PA is appropriate, planning for and conducting the remedial PA, preparing a preliminary Hazard Ranking System (HRS) score for the site, using checklists, and documenting results so that a decision can be made about the site.

- **Determine the need for, conduct, and report the results of a remedial SI.** The course identifies the step-by-step activities for conducting a remedial SI, including discussion of health and safety considerations for field activities, establishing data quality objectives and developing sampling strategies to obtain data for HRS scoring, validating data, and preparing a final report to document the decision making process.
Identify and use guidance, software, and other tools to successfully meet the requirements for conducting a remedial PA and SI. The course will identify guidance and policies issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) applicable to conducting a remedial PA and SI, explain the basic structure and scoring factors of the HRS, and introduce site investigators on how to use EPA’s Quickscore, an automated method of scoring, to prepare a HRS score for a site.

Course Outline

I. Introduction to Site Assessment under CERCLA
II. CERCLA Statutory and Regulatory Background
III. Overview of Site Assessment Process under CERCLA
IV. Basics of Performing CERCLA Site Assessments
V. Conducting the PA
VI. Site Evaluation and Scoring for a PA
VII. PA Scoring Exercise Using Quickscore
VIII. Conducting the SI
IX. Sampling Strategies for Scoring Sources and Pathways
   A. Sources and Demonstrating a Release
   B. Ground Water Pathway
   C. Surface Water Pathway
   D. Soil Exposure Pathway
   E. Air Pathway
X. Summary

Target Audience and Registration Information

The PA/SI course is a 3-day workshop held at various locations in the continental United States. Visit www.trainex.org and select the CERCLA Education Center to view the current schedule of offerings and register to attend.

There are no tuition costs for this training course.

The course is designed for personnel who are required to compile, draft, and review preliminary PA, SI, and HRS documentation records and packages submitted for sites proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL). This course is open to EPA, federal, state, and tribal personnel who support site investigation programs.

Participants will receive reference material, including a detailed manual to continue their education after the course ends.

Other CERCLA Education Center Courses

- **Hazard Ranking System** - Provides a detailed review of the HRS model and how the model is applied to various site conditions. The course is designed for personnel who are required to compile, draft, and review PA, SI, and HRS documentation records and packages submitted for sites proposed for the NPL.

- **Fundamentals of Superfund** - Provides an overview of the purpose, legal framework, and implementation of CERCLA and the NCP for newly hired Remedial Project Managers (RPM) and On-Scene Coordinators (OSC).

- **Remedial Process Course** - Provides a comprehensive examination of the technical and regulatory issues that must be addressed during remedial response efforts at Superfund sites. This training is designed primarily for RPMs and other environmental professionals in the Superfund program who are responsible for or need to know about remedial activities under CERCLA.