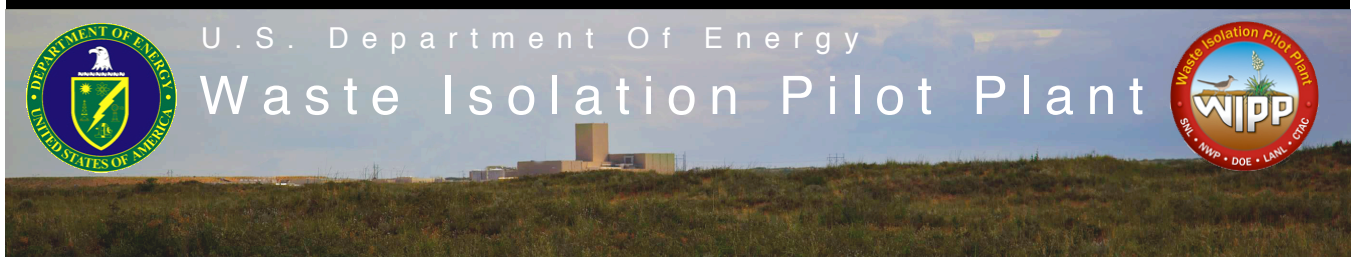


## WIPP EDUCATION PROGRAM



The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's (WIPP) has trained more than 32,000 emergency response professionals along WIPP routes since 1988. The training courses sponsored by the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) focuses on all emergency responders who may potentially respond to accidents involving WIPP waste shipments. The following classes address incident command, caring for accident victims (both on scene and in the hospital), guarding the public welfare, protecting the environment, and ensuring the safety of responders.

The courses offered are:

### **Modular Emergency Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT)**

First Responder training is accomplished with the Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT). This course is developed in conjunction with the WIPP External Emergency Management staff and the DOE's Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) as a nationwide effort to ensure training consistency in responding to incidents involving radiological materials. MERRTT was developed with one goal in mind: to provide real-world training for real-world issues. MERRTT has a modular design consisting of 16 concise, easy-to-understand modules and five hands on practical exercises that can be integrated into existing hazardous material training programs. Topics presented in the two-day, 16-hour course include definition and physical characteristics of TRU waste, shipment configurations for the TRUPACT-II, the HalfPACT, the RH-TRU 72-B, and the TRUPACT-III shipping packages, an explanation of radiation and radiation protection principles, transportation regulations, Transportation Tracking and Communication System, packaging design integrity and performance testing of Type "B" Packages, emergency response actions at the incident/accident site, and field decontamination of emergency responders. The course is accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board of Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS) for 10 Continuing Education Hours (CEHs). As required by the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act (LWA), as amended, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration reviewed and concurred that this program meets the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.120(q) as it pertains to radioactive material. This training supplements other Hazardous Materials emergency response training offered by the states and tribes.

### **Train-the-Trainer**

#### **WIPP Modular Emergency Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT)**

WIPP MERRTT Train-the-Trainer is a 24-hour program, and is taught in Carlsbad, New Mexico, so that students can tour the WIPP site and see firsthand why the facility was selected for a permanent nuclear waste repository. Students should be certified instructors within their appropriate local, state, or tribal jurisdiction and have a background in emergency response and hazardous materials. The MERRTT Train-the-Trainer consists of the above MERRTT and an additional module on course administration.

### **Compressed MERRTT**

Compressed MERRTT is a one-day, 8 hour course, and includes the basics of radioactive material transportation and the dangers to responders as well as response actions. This course can be used as a refresher class or as a stand-alone class for experienced Hazardous Materials Response Teams.

## WIPP EDUCATION PROGRAM

### Command and Control

Incident Command System (ICS) is a series of courses developed by the National Incident Management System (NIMS). It is intended for persons capable of becoming the on-scene commander and individuals who will be functioning under the command structure of the major elements of the command system. The STEP training curriculum was expanded to include ICS training along WIPP routes in order to meet the need of emergency response personnel, particularly in rural areas of the country. The WIPP External Emergency Management instructors are available to teach ICS 300 & 400. Please see a detailed description of the courses below. The FEMA Emergency Management Institute offers online prerequisite courses (self-paced) that include **IS-700** Introduction to the National Incident Management System, **IS-800** Introduction to National Response Plan (NRP), IS-100, Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS-100), and **IS-200**, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents (ICS 200). ICS-100 and ICS-200 can also be instructor-led.

**ICS-300**, (24-hour) Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents course provides training on and resources for personnel who require advanced application of the ICS. The course expands upon information covered in the ICS 100 and ICS 200 courses.

**ICS-400**, (16-hour) Advanced Incident Command System, Command and General Staff-Complex Incidents course provides training on and resources for personnel who require advanced application of the ICS. This course expands upon information covered in ICS 100 through ICS 300 courses.

### Radiological Training for Hospital Personnel

Medical Management is an 8-hour course intended for hospital emergency room doctors, technicians, and nurses who may be required to treat a patient who is potentially contaminated with transuranic radiological material. This course follows the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) course, *Hospital Emergency Department Management of Radiation and other Hazardous Material Accidents* (FEMA course #G346). The students are introduced to the concepts of radiation physics and radiobiology, which prepares them for a more detailed explanation of exposure, contamination, internal contamination, and radionuclide incorporation. The course enables students to properly select and prepare an appropriate treatment/decontamination area within the hospital and perform necessary decontamination of a patient. This course is taught by emergency response professionals. The Emergency Nurses Association approved 7.5 contact hours, the American Society for Radiological Technologist approved 8 credits category A+, and the CECBEMS approved 7 Advanced (CEHs) for this class.

### Medical Examiner/Coroner

Medical Examiner/Coroner course provides techniques for identifying the hazard to persons that may handle a radiologically contaminated body, and how to prevent further contamination. Finally, the techniques and proper processes for documentation of the event and successful decontamination of the body will be demonstrated. The students will participate in hands-on practical exercises using instruments. The recommended actions as provided by the Centers for Disease Control and the DOE will be provided to the students. The Board of Medico-legal Death Investigators, Inc. has awarded 6 continuing education credit hours for this course that is intended for coroners, medical examiners, medical investigators, and crime scene investigators.

### Emergency Communications 911 Dispatcher Briefing

Emergency Communications 911 Dispatcher Briefing is a two-hour briefing and awareness session to introduce the dispatch staff to the terminology and units of measure for radioactive materials. Of special note, it gives them a set of questions to ask whenever a caller uses the word "radioactive."