

Register Online Now!

CONTINUING CHALLENGE

The 37th Annual

2026

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 8-11, 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel—Sacramento CA



CONTINUING CHALLENGE

HazMat Emergency Response Workshop

The nation's leading Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Workshop

The specific purpose for the Committee is to educate, encourage and promote safe inspection practices, response, intervention, mitigation and investigation of hazardous materials incidents in a manner that safeguards and protects the health and safety of the emergency responder and the general public. This purpose is achieved by conducting an annual hazardous materials workshop known as the "Continuing Challenge Hazardous Materials Workshop." The Committee is comprised of government and industry emergency response organizations promoting timely and appropriate response to hazardous materials incidents that might occur within the community.

The Continuing Challenge Hazmat Workshop

It is amazing that we are going to celebrate the 37th year of the Continuing Challenge Hazardous Material Workshop this year. Since the very first Workshop in 1990, the Challenge has been providing a variety of Haz-Mat classes to expand the knowledge of the students. This year is no different. The classes will include lectures, hands-on and off-site training.

One of the issues the first responders are facing today is lithium-ion batteries, from cell phones, laptops, scooters, bicycles, vehicles, buses, big trucks and large battery storage facilities. There have been many fires across the country from these different items. The Challenge will be providing several classes on lithium-ion batteries this year to expand your knowledge on how to deal with lithium-ion battery incidents.

Again this year you will have plenty of time to visit the Exhibitors Gallery and see all the new equipment and instruments that are available today. This is a good time to meet the different Exhibitors face to face and learn about their products.

The General Store will have many different items for sale this year so you can take home a memory of the great time you had at the Workshop.

Classes start on Tuesday with 8-hour classes, Wednesday will be Opening Ceremony, then time to visit the Exhibitors and lunch, classes will fill the rest of the afternoon. Wednesday evening there is a buffet dinner and the "Name That Unknown" contest. On Thursday and Friday there are classes and lunch. After Friday classes, at noon, we will have lunch and the Closing Ceremony.

One of the most important parts of the Challenge is networking, time to see old friends and meet new people with the same interests. Make sure you get names and phone numbers of new contacts because you never know when someone might be able to help you with an incident that you are dealing with.

On behalf of the Continuing Challenge Hazardous Material Workshop Committee I want to invite you to this year's Workshop. Please join us on September 8th – 11th to be part of the best Haz Mat Workshop in the nation.

See you in September.

Dennis Smith
Chairperson

Follow us on
Linkedin:
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-continuing-challenge-77047631b/>

Save the Date
for September 2027 The 38th Annual
Hazmat Workshop
September 7-10, 2027
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sacramento, California



Welcome to our 2026 Workshop

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Equipment Demos and Static Equipment Displays are located in the Front Parking Lot

Z812 Live Propane Fire / Propane Emergency off site Instructor Rob Scott Tuesday 7:30a.m. to 5:00p.m.

The WPGA Live Fire Training school is self-contained. Certified, experienced WPGA firefighters teach the course. We bring the propane tank and all required equipment to train the local fire departments. Each course takes about three hours; this session covers propane's combustion characteristics, system safeguards, valving, and firefighting technique information. The Propane Emergency Class: Is a comprehensive training program and has been adopted by 27 state firefighter training agencies and propane marketers. It is designed to help emergency responders develop the skills necessary to manage a propane emergency in transportation or at fixed facilities.

Workshop At-A-Glance

Monday September 7	Tuesday September 8	Wednesday September 9	Thursday September 10	Friday September 11
	Check in: Exhibitor Instructor Student Room - Maxi's 6:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Check in continues after lunch	Check in: Exhibitor Instructor Student Room - Maxi's 6:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Check in continues after lunch	Check in: Exhibitor Instructor Student Room - Maxi's 6:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Check in continues after lunch	Check in: Instructor Student Room - Maxi's 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
	General Store by Registration (Maxi's) 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 8-hour Classes begin 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Morning Break 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. (Classes continue after lunch). Lunch is on your own.	General Store Exhibitor Area 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Opening Ceremony • Keynote Speaker • Awards Presentation Grand Ballroom 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Morning Break & Exclusive Exhibitor Time Exhibitor Area 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	LAST DAY General Store Exhibitor Area 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. 4-hour Classes begin 2-hour Classes begin 7:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Exhibitor Displays Open Exhibitor Area 9:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Morning Break Exhibitor Area 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. 4-hour Classes continue	General Store - Closed 4-hour Classes begin 2-hour Classes begin 7:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Morning Break 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. 4-hour Classes continue
	Lunch (on your own) 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Lunch & Exhibitor Showcase Grand Ballroom 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Lunch Grand Ballroom 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Lunch Grand Ballroom 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
	Check in: Exhibitor Instructor Student continues Room: Maxi's 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. 8-hour Classes continue 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Afternoon Break 2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Check in: Exhibitor Instructor Student continues Room: Maxi's 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Exhibitor Displays Exhibitor Area Open until 6:00 p.m. 4-hour Classes begin 2-hour Classes begin 1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Afternoon Break Exhibitor Area 2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. 4-hour Classes continue 2-hour Classes begin 3:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Wed Evening Dinner & "Name that Unknown" Contest Grand Ballroom 5:30 p.m.	Check in: Exhibitor Instructor Student continues Room: Maxi's 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Exhibitor Displays Exhibitor Area Open until 3:15 p.m. 4-hour Classes begin 2-hour Classes begin 1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Afternoon Break Exhibitor Area 2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. 4-hour Classes continue 2-hour Classes begin 3:15 pm - 5:00 p.m.	Closing Ceremony Grand Ballroom 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
	Exhibitor, Instructor, & Student Check in Room - Maxi's 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.			

History & Exhibitor Information

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS THROUGH THE YEARS

1990	John Eversole	Chicago Fire Department
1991	Capt. Michael Callan	Wallingford Fire Department
1992	Ron Coleman	California State Fire Marshal
1993	Greg Noll	Reading Fire Department, Pennsylvania
1994	Mr. Al Smith	Law Firm of McRae, Secrest, and Fox Atlanta, Georgia
1995	Gordon Graham	California Highway Patrol
1996	Cliff Harvison	President, National Tank Truck Carriers, Inc.
1997	Commander Shane Ishiki	Commanding Officer National Strike Team, U.S. Coast Guard
1998	Robert Born	Special Agent FBI
1999	Mike Callan	Fire Training Associates
2000	Dwight Williams	Williams Fire Suppression
2001	Michael Pritchard	Motivational Speaker
2002	Phil McArdle	New York City Fire Department
2003	Harry Cusick	Philadelphia Fire Department
2004	Michael Callan	Callan and Company Response Training
2005	R. David Paulson	Director U.S. Fire Administration
2006	James Lee Witt	James Lee Witt Associates
2007	Rem Gaade	Toronto Fire Department
2008	Matt Krimsky	San Francisco Police Department
2009	Michael Callan	Callan and Company Response Training
2010	Chief Richard Brooks	Director of Emergency Services Cecil County Maryland
2011	Nick Vent	County of San Diego
2012	Harold Schapelhouman	Menlo Park Fire Protection District
2013	Mark Neveau	Federal Coordinating Officer FEMA
2014	Michael Callan	Callan and Company Response Training
2015	Timothy Butters	USDOT/Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
2016	Michael Pritchard	Motivational Speaker
2017	Jamie Hyneman	American Special Effects Expert
2018	Matt Krimsky	Cal OES, California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI)
2019	Michael Callan	Callan and Company Response Training
2020	Tina Casola	First Alarm Wellness CANCELLED DUE TO Covid-19
2021	Tina Casola	First Alarm Wellness CANCELLED DUE TO Covid-19
2022	Jeff Dill	Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance (FBHA)
2023	Robert Rezende	San Diego Fire-Rescue
2024	Mark Durno	Homeland Security Advisor U.S. EPA Region 5
2025	Robert Dunivin	Los Angeles Fire Department
2026	Michael Callan	Callan and Company Response Training

Exhibitor Index (as of 6/13/26)

American Safety Service, Inc.	First Line Technology	Patriot Environmental Services
Arista Tek, Inc.	GrayMar Environmental LLC.	Ponder Environmental Services
Bauer Compressors	Hazmat Resource, Inc.	State Fire Training
CalOES CSTI	Industrial Scientific	Thermo Fisher Scientific
Center for Domestic Preparedness	Mirion Technologies	ZUMRO by Air Shelters USA
CP Lab Safety	Micro-Blaze	
Don Wolf & Associates, Inc.	National Association of State Fire Marshals	
Farrwest	OHD	
	ORTEC	

8-Hour Classes

7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.,

Lunch is on your own

Z801 Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) in Contaminated Environments

Philip White, Gary Kibbee,

This instructor-led class is designed to teach hazardous materials team personnel how to apply the concepts of Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) to treat preventable causes of death in contaminated, high-threat civilian environments. Hazardous materials teams often encounter diverse threats when investigating clandestine labs, marijuana cultivation sites, abandoned, dangerous locations or when responding to WMD incidents. These threats, designed to injure or kill, range from improvised explosive devices and fire starting mechanisms to mechanical hazards like hidden pits, punji sticks, and tripwire-activated fire arms.

Intermediate. Participants must be able to perform sustained, intense physical activity for short periods of time. Must have good core strength, grip strength, and upper/lower body power for lifting, pulling, and carrying. Ability to navigate obstacles and work in cramped spaces while wearing respiratory protection and chemical protective clothing.

Z802 Everything You Wanted to Know About Radiation But Were Afraid to Glow

Carl Palladino, Evan McKenzie, Zhi Zang, Joe Hurtado

This course consists of three sections, lecture, hands-on exercises and review of case studies. The lecture provides a primer on nuclear radiation, exposure health effects, protection methods, decontamination, instrumentation, site investigation protocols, and a discussion of radiation misconceptions. The hands-on exercises include the proper use of radiological instrumentation and interpretation of readings while conducting experiments to demonstrate nuclear radiation concepts. Finally, several fascinating radiological emergency case studies are reviewed.

Basic.



Z803 HAZWOPER 8hr Refresher

Nick Vent

To provide HazMat personnel and responders with the necessary information to safely and competently respond within the typical resource and capability limits at the HAZWOPER level. Meets the OSHA HAZWOPER training standard requirements of 29 CFR 1910.120 & Cal OSHA Title 8 CCR 5192. Also meets OSHA's requirement for qualifications as a first responder within the 29 CFR 1910.120(q)(8) & Cal-OSHA T8 CCR 5192(q)(8). Refresher certificate will be issued by Sustainable Workplace Alliance. Emergency case studies are reviewed.

Basic. Must have taken Basic HAZWOPER or a HAZWOPER emergency response course.

Z804 PEAC Software Suite - Complete Training

C Scott Bunning, Kristina Escalate

This hands-on workshop will educate students on how to most effectively use PEAC software platforms during incident response and planning. This class is our complete PEAC training class for new users and existing users alike. Everyone will come away with new skills. We will dive deeply into the 4 main functions of PEAC software - Technical Reference/Research, Facility Inventories, Hazard Modeling and ICS/NIMS-Incident Management. Following the class, students will likely have enough knowledge to teach their own condensed PEAC classes at their departments.

Basic. It is encouraged (but not necessary) that students bring their team laptops with PEAC installed to follow along.

Z805 Radiation is Everywhere!

Paul Christensen, Chris Scheil

Session Description: Classroom: Beyond the ticks and beeps: Navigating Radiological Realities; Radioactive materials are a high-consequence reality for modern responders. Join us for an in-depth look at the isotopes driving current radiological threats and the 'hot' topics facing your AHJ today. We will strip back the mystery of your detection gear—discussing which instruments to trust and where they fail—and conclude with a deep-dive case study on the Chernobyl exclusion zone to understand the lasting impact of large-scale nuclear incidents.

Intermediate.

Z806 Classify, Identify and Verify using Wet Chemistry with the Hazcat Kit

Daniel Keenan, Maria Duazo, Jon Poganski, Maria Porciuncula Duazo

Wet Chemistry - Your best tool to assess Hazard Classifications, RCRA Waste Characteristics and determine

compatibility of hazardous wastes prior to bulking. With the Hazcat Kit you can Classify, Identify and Verify Hazardous Materials. Learn a strategy to identify components of commercial formulations and mixed wastes. Attendees will use the HazCat 2.0 System. You can learn how to Hazcat in one day; and if you already know your stuff, here is an opportunity to see what is on the horizon for Field ID of unknown substances. Get a primer for the Name That Unknown Contest - All Hands-On & Fun!

Basic.

Z807 Masters of Gas Detection

Chris Wrenn

A comprehensive course in the fundamentals of handheld gas detection for use in confined space entry and HazMat. It explains why we need gas detection, a short discussion of chemical properties, how gas detectors work and an understanding of exposure limits is included. Trainees are taught to look through the "eyes" of the gas detector to better solve gas detection problems by using all the detection "angles" available to them. Detection options (tubes, O2, LEL, electrochemical, NDIR, PIDs, FIDs, MOS), sensor specifications, sampling techniques, calibration, intrinsic safety requirements and datalogging may be discussed.

Advanced. Basic understanding of gas detection

Z808 LIBs and BESS: Case Studies and Recent Emergency Response What we know so far

Karen Riveles, Chuck Tobias

How much do you know about lithium-ion batteries? This course will introduce you to the hazards of LIBs and will explore recent case studies involving LIBs and BESS facilities. Let's look at what research is showing us with regards to how these fires impact our health and the environment. Finally, we will explore lessons learned on response and cleanup.

Basic.

Z809 Entry Team Extraction of Our Own!

Daniel Casner, Ryan Bingham, Quang Leba

Mayday, Mayday, Mayday, Entry Team Leader from Entry Team. We have had a medical emergency, activate the backup team. Are you ready for an Exclusion Zone extraction? What is your plan? Do you have a plan? Most of us do not have a plan. Let us discuss "how" we are going to do this rescue process for that future rescue. Contribute to the conversation, bring your ideas and let us try them out. Half classroom/discussion and half hands-on with in-suit drags/extractions, suit removals and lifesaving processes.

Intermediate. First Responder Decontamination and above.

Z810 Tactical Technician

Chris Weber, Dana Von Kolen

Tactical decisions at hazardous materials emergencies are heavily influenced by the released chemicals and their properties. Using NFPA 470 as the framework, we will make tactical decisions as hazardous materials incidents fall into place using chemical demonstrations, scenario-based and hands-on chemical identification exercises using a variety of air monitoring and sample identification equipment. We will examine the effect of chemical class, concentration, and complexity of mixtures on detection, identification, and product control. The class is highly interactive with students leading the direction of the class as we discuss scenarios culled from the news to illustrate the chemistry of hazmats.

Intermediate.**Z811 First Responder Operations Refresher.**

Albert Nick Cadena, John Command

The students will be able to reinforce their previously required Title 8 Haz-Mat C.S.T.I. Hazardous Materials training.

Basic. First Responder Operations, CSTI preferred.**Z812 Live Propane Fire / Propane Emergency**

Rob Scott

The WPGA Live Fire Training school is self-contained. Certified, experienced WPGA firefighters teach the course. We bring the propane tank and all required equipment to train the local fire departments. Each course takes about three hours; this session covers propane's combustion characteristics, system safeguards, valving, and firefighting technique information. The Propane Emergency Class: Is a comprehensive training program has been adopted by 27 state firefighter training agencies and propane marketers. It is designed to help emergency responders develop the skills necessary to manage a propane emergency in transportation or at fixed facilities.

Basic.**Z813 Rail 101 and Tank Car Safety Manipulative Training**

Kevin Cullison, Chaz Mosley

Introduction/ refresher to rail responses. Topics include Safety & Hazard Identification, Car Types, Resources, Incident Command, Damage Assessment, Leak Control & Repair, and Product Transfer. Case studies will be included. Course taught by Union Pacific Hazmat managers, BNSF Hazmat Managers, Transcaer, and Roseville Fire instructors. Course offsite at the Roseville Fire Training Center Derailment Prop. Lunch included offsite.

Intermediate. Hazmat Tech/Specialist preferred but not required.

Shop the Continuing Challenge General Store

Hours:

Tuesday,

7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

In front of registration

Wednesday & Thursday

7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Near the indoor Exhibitors

Get the latest and greatest

Exclusive
Memorabilia

Only available at this
year's workshop!



Awards Nominations
are being accepted now
at www.hazmat.org,
under the "About Us"
tab. Nominate someone
you know today for that
special award.

Our Purpose

The specific purpose for the Continuing Challenge Hazmat Committee is to educate, encourage and promote safe inspection practices, response, intervention, mitigation and investigation of hazardous materials incidents in a manner that safeguards and protects the health and safety of the emergency responder and the general public. This purpose is achieved by conducting an annual hazardous materials conference known as the "Continuing Challenge Hazardous Materials Workshop." The Committee is comprised of government and industry emergency response organizations promoting timely and appropriate response to hazardous materials incidents that might occur within the community.

Wednesday Morning



Opening Ceremonies 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Keynote Speaker Michael Callan

Two Centuries of Hazardous Materials Response

Are We Smarter, Wiser or still just Lucky!

If you are old enough to ask how has emergency response in the 20th century and now 26 years into the 21st changed us? Seriously think about it. After 50 years of Response, Training and Planning Mike Callan will discuss are we better as responders? What made the difference, what changed our perspective on response to HazMat or are we still just hoping to be “Lucky”?

There are several lessons, regulations and instructors that have impacted Hazardous Materials Responders over the years, often, referred to as “Incidents of Significance”. The Persons and Experiences have shaped how we look at response and how we should proceed in the future. We learned we need a plan, but our most powerful lessons haven’t come from books, they were born out of experiences what people call today “Street Smart” or “Experienced based” learning. Wisdom does come experience, but without the right knowledge most can’t process those incidents productively or even wisely. What’s more important; in the years to come will this 21st century generation of responders be able to pass it along, given the powerful new A.I. tools that will be imbedded in training and education.

9:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.
Break Time and
Exclusive Exhibitor
Time,
Both Inside and Static
Display Areas Outside

Please join our exhibitors as they display and demonstrate the latest and greatest equipment and techniques available.

It is important that you visit with the Exhibitors so you can see, touch, and handle the products that the Challenge instructors are telling you about.



Exhibitors will be
both inside and
outside in the
parking lot.



4-Hour Classes 1:00-5:00

W451 Practical HazMat Chemistry for First Responders

Patrick A. Ryan, Brian Carroll

Regardless of experience level, team size, or equipment inventory, having a solid, deployable understanding of practical HazMat chemistry is necessary to succeed as a HazMat team member. Having a street-smart, practical, real-world understanding of HazMat chemistry gives you an edge over the book-smart only crowd. Such an understanding enables you to recognize what makes instrumentation work and be able to generate actionable information using simple, rapid tests, and procedures during a HazMat incident. You will leave this class with immediately deployable HazMat chemistry skills to take home to your team, along with a confidence you did not have when entering.

Basic.

W452 HazMat Officer- Strategies and Tactics- Are you Ready?

Toby Frost, Gary Sharp

From the initial IAP to Site Safety plan and everything in between, a lot has to happen quickly. HazMat Officers need to develop a quick, street-level, incident action plan (IAP) for small to large HazMat incidents. Topics include gaining situational awareness, analyzing the incident, setting incident priorities, establishing response objectives, recommending a strategy to the IC, and selecting tactics. From the initial IAP, to research, through successive IAPs you will have the battle board, forms, and tools to make it successful, and the practice to make them work with a simple repeatable process. Are you ready for the next one?

Intermediate.

W453 HazMat Command-Setting Up for Success, Avoiding Pitfalls & Leading From the Front

Daniel Talbot, Charles Tobias

The goal of the class is to provide students with real-world information concerning the management of hazardous materials incidents. The course will cover pre-incident preparation, managing the event, and avoiding common pitfalls. The points illustrated during the lecture will be reinforced during multiple case studies based on actual hazardous materials emergencies. The instructors combined have over 60 years of experience in the fire service. In addition, each instructor has managed multiple significant hazardous materials events.

Basic.

W454 WTF happened and why does it keep happening?!

Paul Christensen, Heather Christensen

Discover the humor in harmonizing your personal relationships. If you feel you are always "In the Hot Seat", this course helps to transform your relationship handling skills into a laughter-infused adventure. Learn to navigate emotional flare-ups, while using humor as your extinguisher. Discuss ideas on how to sync up with your partner through fun activities and gain skills to manage scorching moments with ease and rekindle romance. Embrace this heartwarming ride and strengthen your "thin line" bond with love and laughter! Humor required, helmets are optional.

Basic.

W455 An Introduction to Indoor Radon Gas Exposures for Emergency Responders and Environmental Health Specialists

Brian Hanson

This 4-hour course will provide an introduction to the major topics associated with indoor radon gas exposure, including 1) radiological dose and lung cancer risk issues, 2) radon entry behavior into indoor environments, 3) radon measurement and assessment processes and 4) the mitigation of indoor radon gas for buildings.

Basic.

W456 Expanding Your Gas Toolbox for HazMat Response

Brandon Gayle

In this session, we will discuss our existing gas toolbox and all the strengths and limitations of our current technologies. Through this discussion, we will see that there are large gaps in gas detection technology that could potentially pose a safety risk. We will discuss the addition of newly developed technologies in our industry that effectively fill those gaps using Fourier Transform Infrared and High-Pressure Mass Spec. We now have tools at our disposal to better identify our atmosphere and the hazards within. With the addition of these tools, we can identify gases, vapors, and aerosols in a downrange posture.

Basic.

W457 Advanced Air Monitoring and Hazard Characterization in Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Responses

Justin Marquez, Christopher Myers

This course examines advanced air monitoring and hazard characterization during lithium-ion battery fire responses, with a focus on real-world data correlation. Findings from recent studies validate the presence of hazardous gases and, perhaps more critically, extraordinary concentrations of metal particulates generated during thermal runaway. These results reinforce the need for respiratory protection and support current

EPA-led response strategies, including site control and monitoring practices implemented in the field. Participants will gain practical insight into interpreting monitoring data, understanding exposure risks, and applying advanced response and safety protocols.

Intermediate. Basic battery hazards

W458 The Challenges of Complex Plugging and Patching

Jon Poganski, Pat Johnson

This class is designed to mitigate the most commonly used components for emergency and temporary leak stoppage of liquid or bulk hazardous materials due to punctures, gashes, cracks or surface rotting in most of the common containers. Each student will receive hands-on training on at least five different kits.

Intermediate. HazMat Technician or Specialist

W459 Explosives Demo

Sheldon Fung

Explosives Demo put on by the Sacramento Area EOD Unit at the Sacramento Sheriff Bomb Range located near RCCC.

Basic: Must sign up for the Improvised Explosives Devices Course T255, as this is a demonstration of what is taught in the class.

2 Hour Classes 1:00-2:45

W251 Understanding Legal Indoor Cannabis Cultivation Facilities

Chris Wrenn

With the medical and/or recreational legalization of cannabis in over half of the US states, legal cultivation sites or "grows" are becoming more and more common. The threats of poorly executed butane extraction and poor wiring in illegal grows have been addressed in a number of classes. This presentation will help to set expectations for first responders entering a state of the art legal cannabis cultivation space. It will discuss lighting, HVAC, CO2 enrichment, extraction and grow styles amongst other topics.

Basic.

W252 Getting the Word Out: Providing Critical Communications Support for Lithium-Ion Battery Fires

Kellen Ashford

This course is designed to be a case study from the eyes of a public information officer that examines the importance of public information and positive press interactions when working at lithium-ion battery fires. The course will be built on experiences and lessons learned from the Critical Mineral Recovery fire in Fredericktown, Missouri and the Pacific Palisades fire responses. Students taking this

Wednesday Afternoon (continued)

course should take away the importance of clear and concise communications with the public and the press; assisting state and local partners with science and health communications; and being proactive with communications and social media.

Basic.

W253 CSTI Instructor Recertification

Daniel Casner, Krystal Masalta

Are you a CSTI certified instructor who has been de-certified because you didn't teach the required 4 hours a year? If so, you can get re-certified by taking this class.

Basic. Must have been a CSTI certified HazMat instructor.

W254 Seaside Incident Battery Energy Storage System Accident and Fire in the Port of Los Angeles Overview

Robert Dunivin

On September 26, 2024 the Los Angeles City Fire Department responded to a vehicle accident involving a truck in the Port of Los Angeles. The crews found a semi truck that had rolled over with a Battery Energy Storage System in transport on the trailer and subsequently went in to thermal runaway and caught fire. The students will gain knowledge of the hazards faced during the incident, challenges during the initial phases of the incident, challenges working with internal and external partners during the mitigation of the incident and lessons learned moving forward.

Basic.

W255 PTSD vs Moral Injury

Jeff Dill

This is an interactive power point presentation, in which PTSD is explained on how it affects members of the first responder world. Explanation of how Moral Injury plays a role and how the two compare to each other. We will be reviewing the suicide data FBHA has collected and explain why the presenter believes moral injury plays a larger role than PTSD in the first responder culture.

Basic.

W256 Saving the World from Ourselves

Carl Palladino

Nuclear reactors have been generating power since the 1950s. There are now over 400 operating fission reactors in the world. Now fusion reactors are a promising technology that could generate unlimited energy (maybe for free). Although fusion is many years away, Small Modular Reactors (fission reactors) are all the rage, and some are under construction. Both of these technologies pose challenging hazards—are you prepared?

Basic.

2:45-3:15 Afternoon Break

in the Exhibitor Area both
inside and outside

2-Hour Classes 3:15 - 5:00

W271 MacGyver Gas Detection: Getting out of “sticky” gas/ vapor detection situations using the sensitivities and cross-sensitivities of common sensors

Chris Wrenn

This course reviews the sensitivities and cross-sensitivities of the most common sensors used in confined space entry and HazMat including O₂, LEL, CO, H₂S & PID. It discusses how to overlay the responses of ALL your sensors to come to the right conclusion because sometimes the clue to what is really going on is shown in unexpected places. It uses simple examples of real-life incidents to show how sensors can be “fooled” and how to interpret this “incorrect” data and reach a correct conclusion using all of the clues present from the scene and from the sensors available.

Intermediate. Basic understanding of gas detection.

W272 You’ve Got Gas! (and the Vapors) - Now What?

Chris Weber

Come take a journey through incident response to gas and vapor emergencies. We'll take a close look at the behavior of chemicals in the air, how to detect their presence, what their various hazards are, and the importance of - and how to - identify them. We will look at actual incidents and use chemical samples to help us understand and plan for the real incidents we're bound to respond to.

Basic.

W273 How to work with your local trauma centers during a field HazMat event

Kathryn Ann Dollarhide, Matthew Wojcik

This workshop will cover how to drill and train with your neighboring hospitals. Information on meth exposure and fentanyl emergencies as well as industrial waste contamination will be discussed. CHEMPACK and antidote administration and team field decon will be a topic.

Basic.

W274 BatteryIQ: EV Response Tactics

Bob Suarez, Brett Bigger

Are you ready to take your emergency response game to the next level, rather than just talking about risks, without providing actual tactics and solutions? Enter BatteryIQ: EV Response Tactics—the 4-hour crash course that combines essential knowledge, tactical strategies, and cutting-edge gear for handling EV-related emergencies. Course Objectives: Understanding Li-Ion Battery Risks Buckle up! Lithium-Ion batteries may power the future, but they can also pack a punch in emergencies.

Basic.

W275 Risk Communication

Reginald Woodard DeCavalcante

Students will learn the basics of risk communication, which is informing people about potential hazards to their person, home or community. Students will use scenario-based learning to create messages for specific target audiences. This course will have hands on group activities to practice creating and delivering clear and concise messages to a variety of audiences especially through social media. We will also discuss how to tailor a message that acknowledges outrage factors to increase understanding.

Basic

W276 All Hazards Response to Drone Incursions

David Laub

This class will expose students to the specifics of small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) in the public safety and HazMat Environments. Through lecture, demonstration, and visual aids the students will learn what the legal situation is regarding drone usage, as well as the benefits, and costs of entering into the drone-o-sphere.

Basic.



Wednesday Evening and Thursday Morning

Thursday 4-Hour Classes 7:30-11:30

T411 MC306/DOT406 TANKER ROLLOVER RESPONSE or "What happens when they park the truck dirty side up instead of down"

Nick Vent

Class 3 Flammable liquids including Gasoline and Diesel fuel are transported daily throughout our communities. Accidents will occur and need to be handled safely to protect Life, the Environment and Property. The HazMat teams need to understand the properties of these chemicals and how to properly respond to incidents. To do this a familiarity with Cargo tanker construction is required. This course will primarily focus on the needs of the HazMat team but will also be applicable to the first in Engine Companies that will get the initial dispatch. A DOT 406 tanker will be available during the class
Basic. Good multidiscipline class

T412 Improvised Nuclear Detonation Considerations

Chuck Tobias

Do you know what to do to keep you safe during an Improvised Nuclear Detonation? Our response culture may injure or kill those tasked with being first on scene. California is on its own for up to 72 hours, our initial response actions will determine whether we survive or become an additional casualty. This four-hour presentation and discussion will introduce concepts that will give you the best chance at making life saving decisions for you and those we are sworn to protect.
Basic.

T413 Special Event Mass Decontamination

Frank Roberts

Special Event Mass Decon is designed to address the demands of potential large-scale events in which singular or multiple organizations would require a response. Special Events Mass Decon focuses on the decontamination civilian patients and casualties, along with understanding the techniques and technologies to accomplish decon efficiently and effectively. This course introduces the latest in evidence-based practices for managing and scaling decontamination operations, discusses the risks of contamination and its impact on special events, as well as Initial Action Plan development.

**Intermediate. HM Ops recommended;
ICS 3-400/7-800 recommended**

6:30pm — Grand Ballroom "Name that Unknown"

Wednesday evening following the Dinner
Show your understanding and mastery of Field Chemistry, the core of HazMat, by assembling your team and registering online NOW for the 32nd year running of the "Name that Unknown" contest.

Establish your agency as top professionals in this field. Bring whatever identification methods or equipment you will need — e.g., your agencies field methods, 5 steps, HazMat IDs, Hapsites, etc. We will provide HazCat® Kits (for use during the contest) to all contestants that do not bring their own equipment. The unknowns will consist of 4 solids and 4 liquids of unmixed products.

Assemble your team and Register NOW!

Team registration information and forms are available online at <https://www.hazmat.org/about-us/name-that-unknown/> under the workshop tab, then down to "Name That Unknown" contest page.

T414 Bio-101: The Basics Of Biological Agent Response & Cleanup

Shannon Serre, Mark Durno

Responding to a biological agent incident presents unique challenges to responders. This half-day course will focus on the basics biological responses to guide you to the proper resources needed to navigate a site or emergency. Participants will be provided a review of biological science basics, an overview of EPA authorities related to biological agent response, related case-studies, and an overview of resources available to responders. Participants will also learn about current technologies, processes, and resources associated with all phases of a cleanup which includes, but is not limited to characterization, decontamination, waste management, verification and clearance, and transition to re-occupancy.
Basic.

T415 First Line: Grab-Sample-Go, Basic Environmental Sampling for Emergency Response Second Line: This class can be combined with the advanced sampling class for an 8-hour CEU.

Katherine Hull, Kazami Brockman

Join us for an introductory sampling class to help you size up conditions and make quick decisions: Find what's where, flag what's risky, and guide what happens next. Learn to set clear screening objectives, choose the right tools, and interpret results so people get the right information fast. We'll show you how to share data in real time and document like a pro: logbooks, field notes, and more. Join the EPA response team for an interactive training with case studies, and hands-on exercises; come ready to sample, share, and write it down.

Basic.

T416 Get to Know Chemical Processes used in Illicit Labs (Part 1 of 2)

Chris Weber

Illicit labs are complex incidents due to the presence of a variety of chemicals, glassware, equipment, and chemical processes. HazMat responders are typically unfamiliar with these situations which increases the danger to responders and the public. We will explain how these chemical processes work and show chemical processes in action. Students will have the opportunity to engage in recon, air monitoring, sampling, and chemical identification activities at simulated labs running active systems. Come join us to gain real world experience before you find yourself on such an incident. In this part we will focus on drug and CWA labs.
Intermediate.

T417 Advanced Radiation for Emergency Response

Carl Palladino, Evan McKenzie, Zhi Zhang, Joe Hurtado

Your awareness and operational level radiation training may not fully prepare you for an actual radiological emergency. You will learn advanced techniques to protect responders and the public, and how to properly respond to and control a radiological emergency. Then you will apply these tools to a simulated emergency response exercise with live, highly radioactive agents—they will make your instruments scream! Bring your radiation instruments to class, if possible.

Advanced.

Thursday Morning (continued)

T418 Hazardous Materials Incident Command: Writing the Incident Action Plan

Daniel Talbot, Timothy Murphy

This course will provide participants with the opportunity to assemble an Incident Action Plan (IAP) for a multi-operational period hazardous materials emergency. Students will receive instruction in writing SMART objectives, completing ICS forms, and conducting incident briefings. Most of the course will be dedicated to writing and reviewing the IAP.

Intermediate. ICS 200, ICS 300 and HMIC are recommended.

T419 Hazmat Special Operations

Jenna O'Brien

This class will provide an overview of Special Team assets available to "HazMat" teams. It will discuss Federal, State and local special team capabilities and how they are deployed.

Basic.

2-Hour Classes

7:30-9:15

T211 The Invisible Threat: Behavioral Health for the HazMat Responder

Richard Alamo

Hazardous materials response is high-stakes work, and the mental and emotional demands can be just as challenging as the physical hazards. This workshop explores the unique stressors faced by responders across fire, law enforcement, military, environmental health, public health, and industry roles. Participants will learn practical strategies to recognize and manage cumulative stress, build resilience, and support both themselves and their teams. Real-world examples, operational insights, and the role of Critical Incident Stress K9's will help attendees strengthen mental fitness and ensure they return home safe and ready for the next call.

Basic.

T212 Tactical HazMat Chemistry for First Responders

Patrick A. Ryan

Regardless of experience level, team size, or equipment inventory, having a solid, field-deployable understanding of tactical HazMat chemistry is necessary to succeed as a HazMat team member. Having a real-world understanding of tactical HazMat chemistry including field tests and scene stabilization chemistry gives you an edge over the book-smart only crowd. This class will teach you to generate actionable information using simple, rapid tests, and translate those into tactical chemistry procedures during a HazMat incident.

You will leave this class with immediately deployable skills to take home to your team, along with a confidence you did not have when entering.

Basic.

T213 Leadership 101

Reginald Woodard DeCavalcante

Team leaders and members aspiring to leadership are often thrust into the leadership role without any guidance. This course gives the student strategies to become a competent and respected team leader.

Basic.

T214 Preventing Mutant Ninja Humans and Protecting the Community in Wastewater Emergencies

Thaddeus Hunt, Deborah Anderson, Craig Wetherbee

What happens when mutant ninja turtle habitat invades our nonmutant, non-ninja human habitat? This session explores the operations and mechanisms of wastewater management in disasters using a specific case study from 2025. We'll explore how an Environmental Health Jurisdiction worked with multiple partners, including the local tribes, to protect the whole community and their resources from wastewater contaminants.

Basic.

9:15 - 9:45

Morning Break

in the Exhibitor Area and

Static Displays

Front Parking Lot Area

2-Hour Classes

9:45-11:30

T231 Updates! Lithium-Ion Batteries, EV and BESS- Where are we today?

Toby Frost

The longer we deal with them the more we know. From effective tactics to fire gasses what are our options beyond "let it burn". Recent studies from the US and Europe have started to identify, quantify, and adjudicate our hazards and risks. What tactics work? What are our hazards? What are the risks to responders and the public? What is next?

Basic.

T232 HazMat Meters - Instrumentation and Detection Basics

Patrick A. Ryan

Having a practical understanding of what makes HazMat instrumentation work is necessary to fully succeed as a HazMat team member. Understanding how meters work and being able to generate actionable information using meters and simple, rapid tests during a HazMat incident gives you an edge over the book-smart only crowd. What makes meters work, the limitations of commonly used meters, and what to do when they won't work as anticipated is the focus of this class. Meters and instrumentation that will be discussed include "4-gas", PID, Raman, Infrared, Multi-threat combination meters, HPMS (908 Devices) and GC/MS.

Basic.

T233 Seeing the Whole Picture: Multi-Technology Field Analysis for Modern HazMat Response

Jeremy VanAuker

HazMat scenes rarely provide clear answers. Responders face mixed materials and evolving conditions that require multiple tools and perspectives. This session presents a practical approach to integrating data from various field analysis methods to build a more confident understanding of on-scene hazards. After a brief overview of how technologies complement one another, participants will engage in a hands-on exercise using diverse samples and collection challenges. Attendees will gather and compare data, connect findings, and develop informed response strategies. By the end, students will better understand how combining analytical approaches enhances situational awareness and supports safer, more effective decision-making.

Basic.

T234 Nutrition and REMs, Pick Your Poison

Thaddeus Hunt, Brandon Adcock, Juan Garcia

Why do birds sing? Why's the sky blue? Why am I throwing up? And why are you too? Is it your foodborne illness? Or is it radiation sickness? Or maybe you just hurl a lot? This course explores the critical roles of CDPH's Radiologic Health and Food and Drug branches preparing for and responding to large scale radiological and foodborne illness emergencies.

Basic.

4-Hour Classes 1:00-5:00

T451 Low Search Score, Now What?

Brandon Gayle

Teams have been utilizing FTIR and Raman for years. How do we confirm the results? As responders, we are taught that a high search score and a good overlay of the spectrum is a good start, but what if we do not obtain those results? This session will look more in depth at confirming the results of FTIR and Raman. Always striving for three "proofs" for confirmation is best practice with any sample. We will discuss chemical families that FTIR and or Raman cannot identify and how using the rule of three proofs will assist in properly classifying them.

Intermediate.

T452 Ultra High Pressure Water Injection! EVs, BESS and More!

Toby Frost

So far offensive attacks for EVs and BESS have been limited to high GPM, long duration operations. Ultra High Pressure Water Injection is another tactic available that has proven to be a very effective for both EVs and BESS. But it is more than a one trick pony. It has been used in the marine and aviation industries for over 20 years. In Europe it has become a mainstay for fire operations as well. What is it? How does it work? And how is it being used? Where does it fit?

Intermediate. Basic chemistry, fire fighting, and battery knowledge

T453 Get to Know Chemical Processes used in Illicit Labs (Part 2 of 2)

Chris Weber

Illicit labs are complex incidents due to the presence of a variety of chemicals, glassware, equipment, and chemical processes. Hazmat responders are typically unfamiliar with these situations which increases the danger to responders and the public. We will explain how these chemical processes work and show chemical processes in action. Students will have the opportunity to engage in recon, air monitoring, sampling, and chemical identification activities at simulated labs running active systems. Come join us to gain real world experience before you find yourself on such an incident. In this part we will focus on explosive labs.

Intermediate.

T454 CTOS AWR-140 - Introduction to Radiological/Nuclear WMD Operations

AWR-140/AWR-140-Wis designed to provide awareness and operations-level training to personnel who may be the first to arrive at the scene of a radiological or nuclear incident.

Basic. FEMA Identification Number

2-Hour Classes 1:00-2:45

T251 Respiratory Protection Standard-What it is and How to Comply

Nick Vent

This course addresses general respiratory hazards, i.e. air purifying vs. atmosphere supplying, and how to determine which is appropriate to use. Discussion includes the revised federal/state respiratory standard and an update on revisions to 29 CFR, 1910.134. Letters of interpretation from OSHA providing clarification and a fill-in-the-blank respiratory protection program both available to participants will ensure compliance. We will discuss how to get your facility into compliance if you are not sure how. This is an excellent class if you have just been "voluntold" you are in charge of your departments Respiratory Protection program.

Basic. Best suited for those that are responsible for their department or companies Respiratory Protection Programs or want to learn how to teach the material to your department.

T252 Optimizing Interactions Between Hazmat Teams and Contractors

Patrick A. Ryan

Optimal interactions between Hazmat teams and contractors do not happen overnight, or by accident. Contractor identification, capability assessment, screening, selection and relationship building are necessary components for solid outcomes. Event handoff protocols and documentation also need to be considered and optimized. You don't want to be trading names and business cards for the first time during an unresolved Hazmat event. Learn how to manage contractor interactions successfully from someone who has established such solid relationships during his 31-year Hazmat career.

Basic.

T253 Go Ask Alice- Current Designer Drugs in 2026

Kathryn A. Dollarhide

This presentation will describe the new street drugs such as pink cocaine, purple haze, vanilla wave, cheese and molly. Powder exposure will be described for field teams on meth and fentanyl

exposures. Current trends of club/designer drugs, signs and symptoms and treatment options in hospital and field will be described. Medical treatments in the hospital such as Dantralene for ecstasy and cooling measures will be discussed. Come down the rabbit hole with us as we learn about the new street drugs.

Basic.

T254 Update on Chinese Labeled Pesticides as a Nationwide Threat

Hasti Javid, Vidia Gokool

This session includes updated information on the Chinese labeled pesticides that are being smuggled into the U.S. by transnational criminal organizations. These unregistered pesticide products contain a mixture of highly toxic pesticides that are being used as fumigants at marijuana grows, resulting in the production of contaminated cannabis products being distributed nationwide to unsuspecting consumers. This presentation will also include an introduction to the research that's currently being conducted by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's (LLNL) Forensic Science Center and the various analytical techniques used to identify the chemical fingerprint associated with these illegal fumigant materials.

Basic.

T255 Improvised Explosive Devices-First Responder Awareness and Explosives Range Demonstration

Sheldon Fung, Nick Concolino

The class will briefly cover the types of explosions, the effects of explosions and their danger to 1st responders followed by the components of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and the various ways they can be initiated. Numerous inert IEDs and videos will be utilized to illustrate the above. Safety guidelines for the first responder will be discussed. An explosive range demonstrating various homemade and commercial explosives will be part of this class on Wednesday.

Basic. Must sign up for the Explosives Demo (W459) Course as this is a demonstration of what is taught in the class.

T256 Refinery Emergencies -Exposure to Asbestos and TAC in 2026

Michael Haynes

Emergency Response Professionals and Firefighters responding to Refinery Emergencies, Face Exposures to TAC, Asbestos and Metals from Refinery Emergencies i.e. Fires, Explosions and Unplanned releases. We now know after every Incident Emergency and Post remediation- Cleanups, Responders and Remediation personnel continue to face

Thursday Afternoon (continued)

hazards in their line of work. During this course attendees using selected Refinery Emergencies, what type of TACs, Asbestos and Metals may be released in the surrounding Ambient air and on Surface areas inside the Hot zone and local Communities. Also, post remediation-cleanup procedures will be shared.

Basic.

T257 DTSC Wildfire Phase 1 Process

Noelle Wondergem, Brian Abeel

The course is a comprehensive overview of the DTSC Wildfire Phase 1 assessment process, including mission tasking, local and state coordination, Phase 1 assessments, data collection and public dashboard, and milk-run follow-ups. This presentation will feature the 2024 Wildfire Season and 2025 Los Angeles County Wildfire Responses.

Basic.

T258 Emergency Tribal Consultations

Meagan Flier

Tribal consultation is a government-to-government process, not just a one-time meeting, requiring early and ongoing dialogue before, during, and after emergencies. Learn about proactive engagement, respectful coordination, real-time communication, recovery consultation, and after-action activities from CNRA and other experienced individuals currently working with tribes in California.

Basic.

T259 The Darkside of Skin Lightening Products: Monitoring, Detecting and Testing for Mercury Poisoning and Home Contamination

Anya Cross-James, John Beckman

Dangerous amounts of mercury have been found in cosmetics marketed to lighten skin and remove blemishes. These skin-lightening products (SLPs) are manufactured outside of the United States and make their way into California through illegal imports, individuals and e-commerce. SLPs can contain mercurous chloride, which is absorbed readily through the skin. People in the home can be poisoned through contact with the cream user, contaminated items or mercury vapors in air. Health effects range from mild to life threatening. Presenter will discuss the history of SLPs in California, challenges to recognizing the source of inorganic mercury contamination, and home decontamination.

Basic

2:45-3:15 Afternoon Break

2-Hour Classes 3:15-5:00

T271 Hazardous Communications Standard (29CFR 1910.1200) Updates and how to conduct training

Nick Vent

The Hazard Communications standard is constantly being updated. Labels do not look the same. Pictographs are now included to make the US compatible with the rest of the world to a degree. We will go over all of the changes and I will even leave you with an electronic version you can use for your own updated HazCom Plan. OSHA does cite departments for non-compliance with the standard. Come find out if you are in compliance and how to train your responders with the standard.

Basic.

T272 Abandoned University Research Lab Cleanouts - Hazmat Lessons Learned

Patrick A. Ryan, Brian Carroll

Abandoned University Research Lab Cleanouts - Hazmat Lessons Learned Large scale abandoned University research lab cleanouts pose significant Hazmat challenges. Managing the hazards posed by thousands of chemical containers and unknowns in a 30,000 SF multi-level lab building demands practical hazmat skills and street-smart chemistry capability to be successful. The classification, testing, stabilization and sorting of thousands of chemical containers and unknowns makes a structured chemical identification approach necessary. A discussion of the structured chemical identification approaches used in the successful cleanouts of over 150,000 SF of abandoned lab spaces will be presented along with a summary of lessons learned.

Basic.

T273 GAS AND VAPOR IDENTIFICATION: INTEGRATING FTIR INTO MODERN HAZMAT RESPONSE

Jeremy VanAuker

FTIR has long been used for identifying solids and liquids, but recent advances now enable real-time gas and vapor analysis in the field. Modern handheld FTIR systems overcome challenges such as water vapor and CO₂ interference while achieving sensitivity

at toxicologically relevant levels. This workshop explores how gas-phase FTIR delivers specific, quantitative identification of airborne hazards and integrates with traditional tools like PIDs, multi-gas meters, and colorimetric tubes. Through field case studies and practical examples, participants will see how FTIR enhances situational awareness, confirms unknowns, and supports critical decisions on PPE, isolation zones, and remediation during complex chemical incidents.

Basic.

T274 Large EV Vehicle fires and the Differences Between Passenger Vehicle Fires

Richard Thompson

As electric vehicle adoption grows, firefighters face new challenges—especially when incidents involve large EV platforms such as buses and commercial vehicles. This course examines the key operational differences between large EV vehicle fires and traditional passenger vehicle fires, focusing on battery size, configuration, fire behavior, thermal runaway, and suppression demands. Attendees will learn how increased energy loads affect heat release, water requirements, scene control, and incident duration. Using real-world case studies, the session highlights tactical considerations for size-up, isolation zones, suppression strategy, and post-fire monitoring to improve firefighter safety and operational decision-making.

Basic.

T275 Introduction to Lithium Battery Response

Michael Pixton

Lithium ion batteries are all over the place so knowing how to deal with them when they catch fire is critically important. This class will go over the basics of the battery chemistry, how they catch fire, and what to do when that happens. We will look at small batteries all the way up to industrial complexes of batteries.

Basic.

T276 Implementing GCMS into Fire Hazmat. Experiences and lessons learned with the FLIR G510

Kevin Cullison, Zac Graydon

Brief overview of GCMS, followed by training plans, job aids, best practices with implementation, maintenance, calibration, and management of consumables specific to the Flir Griffin G510.

Advanced. Hazmat Specialist.

Thursday Afternoon (continued) and Friday Morning

T277 DTSC Emergency Response Assistance

Brian Abeel, Noelle Wondergem

The session provides DTSC Emergency Response's process assisting local agencies in off-highway emergencies & illegal drug lab clean-ups. The session provides DTSC Emergency Response's process assisting local agencies in off-highway emergencies & illegal drug lab clean-ups.

Basic.

T278 Hidden Hazards: A Cyanide Suicide Case Study

Ernie Hernandez, Jason Murphy

This course represents an incident review of a chemical suicide at a laboratory involving hydrogen cyanide gas generation. The incident recaps the interagency coordination between Burbank Fire Dept. and Los Angeles County Fire Dept. Health Hazmat to ensure scene safety for police and medical examiner personnel. This course will also discuss first entry procedures/equipment, air monitoring techniques, and decontamination efforts involved with a hydrogen cyanide release.

Basic.

T279 Gamma Spectroscopy for First Responders

Carl Palladino, Zhi Zhang, Jose Hurtado

Type 1 hazardous materials teams are required to have field gamma spectroscopy capabilities. Obtaining and interpreting the spectra requires advanced training, experience, and knowledge. Although most current instruments are fairly user-friendly, these instruments can also lie to you (usually because of user error). We will discuss the basics of setting up your instrument, collecting and interpreting spectra, and how to avoid common errors.

Intermediate. Highly recommend taking the Advanced Radiation for First Responders class so that you can experience the practical use of gamma spectrometers with robust radioactive sources.



Friday 4-Hour Classes 7:30- 11:30

F411 Implementation of the Joint Hazard Response Team (JHRT) Concept in WMD Training and Exercises

Philip White, Chuck Tobias

This instructor-led class is designed to inform hazardous materials teams the importance of implementing the Joint Hazard Response Team (JHRT) concept in WMD training, exercises design and administration. Incorporation of the JHRT concept provides significant benefits by enhancing WMD preparedness, improve interagency coordination, as well as validating readiness and reliability of personnel and equipment. WMD incidents are by nature complex and require a coordinated response from multiple agencies..

Basic.

F412 Booming Techniques for Oil Responses

William Nalty

This booming course is the basis of foundational knowledge, includes safety protocols, and practical application of boom.

Basic.

F413 First Line: The Chain of Custody Quest from Field to Lab, Advanced Sampling Techniques for the Hazmat Professional Second Line: This is an advanced 24-hour sampling class. Can be combined with the basic sampling class for a combined 28-hr sampling/continuing education unit.

Katherine Hull, Bianca Handley, Kazami Brockman,

Join us for an introductory sampling class to help you size up conditions and make quick decisions: Find what's where, flag what's risky, and guide what happens next. Learn to set clear screening objectives, choose the right tools, and interpret results so people get the right information fast. We'll show you how to share data in real time and document like a pro: logbooks, field notes, and more. Join the EPA response team for an interactive training with case studies, and hands-on exercises; come ready to sample, share, and write it down.

Basic.

F414 DOT Hazardous Materials Transportation (49 CFR 171-180) for Emergency Responders

Ejan Petrie, Nicholas Buie

Tailored for fire departments, transporters, on-scene coordinators, law enforcement, and EMS, this course prepares responders to manage hazmat transportation incidents in compliance with U.S. DOT HMR (49 CFR Parts 171-180; 172.704). It covers general awareness, function-specific training, responder safety, security awareness, and driver considerations, emphasizing scene assessment, hazard recognition and communication, incident reporting, and packaging requirements. Educational objective: enable responders to manage hazmat transportation emergencies safely and compliantly, reducing injuries, environmental harm, and operational disruption while enhancing public and responder safety.

Intermediate.

F415 AI-Integrated Decision Support for Hazardous Materials Response

Kyle Anderson, Josh Pino

Hazmat response means making fast decisions about product characteristics, exposure risks, isolation, resources, regulatory requirements, and command priorities, often with incomplete information. Anyone who's run these calls knows what happens when too much has to come together too fast. This class presents a working framework for using AI as decision support across the full incident lifecycle, from pre-arrival through after action review. Built by a Battalion Chief and used on real Sacramento hazmat incidents, the tool meaningfully improves how we respond. Not a vendor presentation. The methodology is registered in the public domain so any agency can build their own.

Basic.

Follow us on LinkedIn:
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/the-continuing-challenge-77047631b/>

Friday Morning (continued)

2 hour Classes 7:30- 9:15

F211 Unmarked Risk; Alternative Fuel Vehicle Hazards

Chris Pfaff

This presentation highlights the dangers of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) like CNG, LNG, propane, hydrogen, and EVs, which often lack visible HazMat-style placards. It contrasts marked hazardous material transports (per 49 CFR) with unmarked utility trucks, showcasing real fire incidents involving hazmat, trucks, and AFVs. The presentation references NFPA, SAE, and ISO standards for diamond-shaped identification labels on vehicle rears, emphasizing the need for better marking to aid emergency responders.

Basic.

F212 "Left of Bang" - Reactive and Unstable Chemical!

Patrick A. Ryan

All of HazMat boils down to 2 things: identify hazards and take action. There are certain types of hazardous chemicals that demand special attention due to their unique hazards. These are the reactive and unstable chemical lanes. Examples include pyrophorics, explosives, peroxide formers, water-reactive, organic peroxides, temperature-sensitive materials, air-sensitive materials, oxidizers, and auto-detonation specialty gas cylinders. Learn more about these chemicals from someone who has firsthand experience in their identification, stabilization and disposal in the University setting and during multiple large-scale abandoned lab cleanouts. Case studies will be presented including practical lessons learned. Time for interactive discussions will be provided.

Basic.

F213 Mercury Response and Assessment

Robert Wise

This class provides a turnkey approach to mercury response from detection to cleanup and clearance. It is for ICs, health department hazmat teams and contractors.

Intermediate. Hazmat Tech/Specialist Training. Preferable that student's agency own a Mercury meter.

F214 FBI WMD Case Studies- Dr. Larry Ford and James Malcolm and future threats.

Sheldon Fung, Alex Efros

The course provides 2 WMD case studies the FBI conducted that involved HazMat, Public Health, Bomb Squads, the FBI's WMD team, and overseas intelligence operations. What are the future threats?

Basic.

F215 Chemical Security to Protect Critical Infrastructure and Personnel Using FTIR Spectroscopy

George Lane

Students will learn the operation and advantages of standoff chemical-specific detection using FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared) spectroscopy to detect and identify chemicals from up to 3 miles. The instructor will compare existing chemical detectors by examining their ability to create molecular "fingerprints" to increase chemical security. The instructor will discuss an event that occurred in 2019 where hazardous chemicals were released with no gas detectors available. The chemicals ignited in a tank farm operated by Intercontinental Tank Corporation (ITC) located on the Houston Ship Channel. This fire interrupted maritime transportation, costing national commerce over \$1 billion in lost revenues.

Basic.

F216 Field Identification of Controlled Substances - Case Studies from the Field

Jeremy VanAuker

A trend towards increasing potent synthetic and designer opioids, cathinones, cannabinoids, and other substances has affected the ability to detect and identify controlled substances in the field. Synthetic drugs tend towards higher potency, and therefore lower concentration in mixtures. This dangerous combination has fueled a significant rise in overdose deaths, highlighted in the DEA's "One Pill Can Kill" campaign. Learn how synthetic and designer drugs have fueled a trend towards counterfeit pills, a rise in lethal overdoses, and how field detection technology has evolved to keep pace with these trends.

Basic.

F217 Water Treatment Plant Haz-Mat Emergency Response: What are the common chemical hazards and uses

David LeDuff, Gonzalo Barriga, Gozalo Barriga

HazMat Emergency Response to a water treatment plant. What you need to know: what are the commonly used hazardous chemicals/materials at water treatment plants and how are these hazardous chemicals/materials stored and used in the treatment process. This course will discuss some of the industry's most commonly used chemicals, what they are used for in the process for water treatment and familiarize the audience with on-site treatment plant operations staff.

Basic.

F218 Risk Based Response to Compressed Gas Cylinders!

Toby Frost

Compressed, Liquefied Compressed, Dissolved Gases and more are all around us in every jurisdiction! Industry, research, high tech, medical care, even farms and repair shops compressed gas cylinders are an everyday sight. We will look at cylinder design, pressure relief devices, valves, markings, and damage assessment. How do we assess them from unknown cylinders to damaged cylinders? What are our response considerations? What tools do we need? How do we safely respond and minimize risks during incidents?

Basic.

9:15 - 9:45 Morning Break 9:15 - 9:45

2-Hour Classes 9:45-11:30

F231 Environmental, Hazardous Materials, Health and Safety Response to Homeless Encampment Community Cleanups.

Howard Wong

What you need to know: What are some health and safety issues encountered? What are some hazardous substances / hazardous materials found during cleanup operations, and how are the materials manifested and disposed of? The course will discuss some operational challenges in response to abating homeless encampments, focusing on health & safety, waste removal, and disposal practices.

Basic.

F232 Culture and its Organizational Consequences

Manny Ehrlich

This presentation will examine the impact of an organization's culture and concomitant organizational behavior in the chemical industry. Cultural elements will be discussed in relationship to accidents and incidents that have resulted from cultural ignorance. Key factors, especially related to human behavior will be discussed as they relate to an organization's safety performance. In particular, the concept of normalization of deviance organizations culture and concomitant organizational behavior in the chemical industry. Cultural elements will be discussed in relationship to

Friday Morning (continued)

accidents and incidents that have resulted from cultural ignorance. Key factors, especially related to human behavior will be discussed as they relate to an organization's safety performance. In particular the concept of normalization of deviance.

Intermediate.

F233 Off The Grid - DIY BESS Fire Incidents

Ernie Hernandez

This course will review several homemade lithium-ion battery energy storage system (BESS) incidents in Los Angeles County and describe the corresponding efforts with dismantling, de-energization, DOT packaging, and disposal. This course will also provide an overview of air monitoring techniques, safety procedures and fire response agency coordination.

Intermediate.

F234 Incompatible Chemicals and What To Do With Them

Michael Pixton

During a response action knowing how to deal with incompatible chemicals can make the difference between a bad situation and disaster. This course will give several examples of incompatible chemicals and discuss how to deal with them.

Intermediate. Basic understanding of chemistry.

F235 Hazardous Materials Research Roles and Responsibilities

David Donohue

This session focuses on the roles and responsibilities of the hazardous materials research technical specialist. This position is critical to establishing zones, supporting entry, and providing actionable intelligence for multiple positions within the organization.

Basic.

F236 How to Successfully Develop and Manage a Joint Hazardous Assessment Team (JHAT)

Michael Hammett, Robert Dunivin

A discussion-basis presentation on the benefits of designing and utilizing a Joint Hazardous Assessment Team (JHAT) on an ongoing bases versus using when designated only. The presentation will cover uses, communications between teams, and the ongoing relationship that makes a successful JHAT.

Basic.

F237 Responding to illicit labs- drugs and more!

Toby Frost

Illicit labs are on the rise again, and not just drugs, but biological, chemical and explosives too! What are the current trends? What are the hazards associated with them? How do we identify the lab, set up our team, pick PPE, and render them safe? And what is coming next?

Intermediate. Target audience is Experienced HazMat technicians



Friday Lunch & Closing Ceremonies:
Grand Ballroom 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Time to thank all of you for being with us this year for our 37th Annual HazMat Workshop

More from the past

Award Winners

Awards Nominations are now being accepted at www.hazmat.org.
Under the “About Us” tab, click on “Awards”, where you can nominate
someone you know for a deserving award!

The William J Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award

2025 - Jack Hansen
2024 - Maria Duazo
2023 - Brad Long
2022 - James Tate
2021 - Workshop Virtual, No Awards
2020 Workshop Cancelled, Covid-19
2019 - Charles Tobias Jr.
2018 - Daniel Keenan
2017 - Jack Fry
2016 - Sonny Maguire
2015 - Rob Born, Rich Martyn, Nick Vent
2014 - Lt. Col. Michael Sather, 95th CST WMD
2013 - Vicky Furnish
2012 - Kelly Seitz, Santa Clara County FD
2011 - James Zeigler, PhD
2010 - Hildebrand & Noll Associates
2009 - Paul Deis
2008 - Michael Rohde
2007 - Michael Brady
2006 - No Award
2005 - John R. Gustafson
2004 - Dale Foster
2003 - John Maleta
2002 - Jim O'Dommell
2001 - Dean Dysart
2000 - Gerald Gray
1999 - Jan Dunbar

The Leo K. Najarian Responder of the Year Award

2025 - Chris Myers
2024 - No Award
2023 - No Award
2022 - Emergency Response Section USEPA
Region IX
2021 Workshop Virtual, No Awards
2020 Workshop Cancelled, Covid-19
2019 - San Diego Regional HIRT
San Diego County HIRT and San Diego
Fire Department HIRT
2018 - Dino Beitz
2017 - No Award
2016 - Michael Horn
2015 - No Award
2014 - Todd Thalhamer
2013 - West, Texas Fire Department
2012 - Global Diving & Salvage, Inc.; Kyle
Watson, Salvage Manager
2011 - San Bruno Fire & Police Departments
2010 - No Award
2009 - Jeff Carmen
2008 - Charles Tobias
2007 - Carter Davis
2006 - United States Coast Guard
2005 - Los Angeles Police Department
HazMat Unit
2004 - No Award
2003 - Tom Bass
2002 - Arlington County Virginia Fire
2001 - Richard Martyn
2000 - Sonoma Valley HazMat Team
1999 - No Award

The James H. Meidl Instructor of the Year Award

2025 - Charles Tobias
2024 - Jay Joiner
2023 - Paul Andrews
2022 - No Award
2021 - Workshop Virtual, No Awards
2020 Workshop Cancelled, Covid-19
2019 - Julian Valenzuela
2018 - Todd Burton
2017 - Brad Haldeman
2016 - Randall “RW” Jones
2015 - Christopher Wrenn
2014 - Jim Tate
2013 - Bill Wennhold
2012 - David Ofwono, First On Compliance
2011 - Paul Henlin
2010 - Robert Hill
2009 - Nick Vent
2008 - Jack Fry
2007 - Daniel K. Law
2006 - H. Dieter Heinz, PhD
2005 - Paul Deis
2004 - Jeff Paullus
2003 - Matthew Krinsky
2002 - Charlie Wright
2001 - Michael Callan
2000 - John Bowen
1999 - Maria Duazo & Dan Keenan

The Continuing Challenge Medal of Valor

2002 - FDNY Hazardous Materials Unit

Special Recognition

2010 - Tracy Gidel

The Robert P. Turkington Innovation and Technology Award

2025 - No Award
2024 - No Award
2023 - Mike Algots, Chuck Tobias, and Kevin
Cullison
2022 - No Award
2021 - Workshop Virtual, No Awards
2020 Workshop Cancelled, Covid-19
2019 - The HazMat Guys; Bobby
Salvesen and Mike Manaco
2018 - No Award
2017 - Safe Environment Engineering
2016 - Cal OES Fire & Rescue Branch
Hazmat Section
2015 - Alex Kass
2014 - No Award
2013 - Edwards & Cromwell Spill Control
2012 - Jerry Apodaca, Sacramento FD
2011 - No Award
2010 - HazMat IQ, LLC
2009 - No Award
2008 - No Award
2007 - The Cameo Team of NOAA &
USEPA
2006 - No Award
2005 - San Diego County Department of
Environmental Health
2004 - No Award
2003 - No Award
2002 - Johnathan Hall & LAPD HazMat
Environmental Crimes Unit
2001 - No Award
2000 - Carl Garbarino & Clyde Lansing
1999 - Tim Capehart



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Instructor Index

LEAD INSTRUCTORS

Name	Course number
Abeel, Brian	T277
Alamo, Richard	T211
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Ashford, Kellen	W252
Bunning, Scott	Z804
Cadena, Albert	Z811
Casner, Daniel	Z809, W253
Christensen, Paul	Z805, W454
Cross-James, Anya	T259
Cullison, Kevin	Z813 T276
Dill, Jeff	W255
Dollarhide, Kathrynel	W273, T253
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Ehrlich, Manny	F232
Flier, Megan	T258
Frost, Toby	W452, T452, T231, F218, F237
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LEAD INSTRUCTORS

Name	Course number
Gayle, Brandon	W456, T451
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HAYNES, M	T256
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LEAD INSTRUCTORS

Name	Course number
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CO-INSTRUCTORS

Name	Course number
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Carroll, Brian	W451, T272
Christensen, Heather	W454,
Commander, John	Z811
Concolino, Nick	T255
Duazo, Maria	Z806

CO-INSTRUCTORS

Name	Course number
Dunivin, Robert	F236
Durno, Mark	T414
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Escalate, Kristina	Z804
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Handley, Bianca	F413
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Johnson, Pat	W458
Kibbee, Gary	Z801
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Masalta, Krystal	W253
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CO-INSTRUCTORS

Name	Course number
Mosley, Chaz	Z813
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Poganski, Jon	Z806
Potter, Bill	T412
Sharp, Gary	W452
Tobias, Charles	Z808, W453
Von Kolen, Dana	Z810
Wojcik, Matthew	W273, T253
Wondergem, Noelle	T277
Zhang, Zhi	Z802, T417, T279

Workshop Registration Information

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION OPENS online at: www.hazmat.org

June 2026

COST IS \$750

LATE REGISTRATION BEGINS: August 15, 2026

COST INCREASES TO \$850

Due to limited space,
be sure to register right away.

Registration fees include:

- Workshop
 - Lunch: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
 - Dinner: Wednesday only
- Payments MUST accompany registration.

Meals

Lunch on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and dinner on Wednesday are included in the cost of registration. Join the rest of the attendees at these meals for an opportunity to network with emergency responders from around the world.

On-Site Check-In Room -- Maxi's

Check in to receive workshop materials, class schedule/location, and additional information:

Monday, September 7th
3:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 8th
6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
(closed for lunch 11:00-1:00)

Wednesday, September 9th
6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
(closed for lunch 11:00-1:00)

Thursday, September 10th
6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
(closed for lunch 11:00-1:00)

Friday, September 11th
7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.



REHS Continuing Education Contact Hours available

REHS Contact Hours are available at no charge.

Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) contact hours are available for all classes through California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Be sure to speak to our REHS/CDPH coordinator during on-site check-in to get registered for your REHS contact hours.

All Continuing Challenge courses count since HazMat is one of the subjects for REHS.

During registration packet pickup, those seeking REHS contact hours must check in with the REHS/CDPH representative who will provide further instructions.

An estimate of REHS hours will be available during your initial check-in with the REHS/CDPH Coordinator. At the conclusion of the workshop, proof of attendance cards from the instructors of each class must be submitted to the REHS/CDPH Coordinator for the certification process.

There will be no charge for the REHS Certificate.

If you have any questions, please email
Ginger Hilton at
Ginger.Hilton@cdph.ca.gov

Registration Questions?

E-mail info@hazmat.org or
call (916) 433-1688

Why should you create a Member Profile?

It's easy and quick and will help you stay up-to-date about the Continuing Challenge. You will need a member profile to submit forms online at this site.

NOTE: We never sell, give away, or distribute our mailing list in any form.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

Registration fees will be refunded (less a \$100 processing and administrative fee) for written cancellation requests postmarked no later than August 10th.

- Refunds will not be issued for cancellations made or postmarked after August 10th.
- Refunds will not be issued for workshop no-shows.
- If you are unable to attend and wish to send a substitute you may do so at no extra charge if you provide substitute name and contact information via email at info@hazmat.org prior to August 16, 2026. After that date, substitute must appear in person at the workshop and request the change.

Please note that if you do not cancel and do not attend, you are still responsible for payment.



Continuing Challenge HazMat Workshop



2010 CCC Crew



Awards & Photo Contest

Awards Nominations are now being accepted at www.hazmat.org. Under the “About Us” tab, click on “Awards”, where you can nominate someone you know for a deserving award!

Robert P. Turkington Innovation and Technology

Sponsored by
Bauer & Associates

James H. Meidl Instructor of the Year

Co-Sponsored by
California Specialized
Training Institute
& California Office of the
State Fire Marshal

Continuing Challenge Medal of Valor

Sponsored by
The Continuing
Challenge HazMat
Committee



William J. Patterson Lifetime Achievement

Sponsored by
Sacramento Fire
Department

Leo K. Najarian Responder of the Year

Sponsored by
California State Fire
Fighters Association

The Continuing Challenge HazMat Photography Contest

Enter Our HazMat Photography Contest for a chance to win...

Enter your photo online at www.hazmat.org. Under the “About Us” tab you will click on the “Photo Contest” tab where you will find all the contest rules and be able to enter your photo and information about your photo.



Lodging Information



The DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento is our Host Hotel

The address of the DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento is below. The Fairfield Inn Sacramento Cal-Expo-Marriott and the Hilton Sacramento Arden West Hotel are our overflow hotels.

Host Hotel
DoubleTree
by Hilton
Sacramento
2001 Point West Way
(916) 929-8855
or 800-686-3775

Overflow Hotel
Fairfield Inn
Sacramento
Cal Expo-
Marriott
1781 Tribute Rd
(916) 920-5300
or 800-321-2211

Overflow Hotel
Hilton
Sacramento
Arden West
Hotel
2200 Harvard St
(916) 922-4700

The host hotel for the Continuing Challenge is the DoubleTree by Hilton, Sacramento, California. The Continuing Challenge HazMat room rates are: Single \$157 // Double \$157

For internet reservations, use our www.hazmat.org website, and go under the workshop tab, then down to lodging there is a link for the DoubleTree. This link will give you the discounted room rate.

Telephone Reservations may be made by calling The DoubleTree by Hilton (916) 929-8855 for the front desk or toll free at (800) 686-3775. Ask for the HazMat "Continuing Challenge" group rate "CDT90J".

These Workshop rates will be available until all available rooms are reserved, but no later than August 4th 2025.

Please note: Generally the hotel is sold out 60 days in advance. Make your reservations now!

The Continuing
Challenge HazMat
Workshop
Committee would like
to thank all of the great
instructors for the best
HazMat training you
can receive anywhere.



Thank you
for attending the
37th Annual
Continuing
Challenge
HazMat
Workshop.
Your continued
support makes
it possible to
provide high
quality training!

**We are Looking
forward to seeing you
in 2027**

**Save the Date:
September 7-10, 2027**

These courses are
designed for all individuals
in the HazMat industry.

NEW THREATS. NEW TECHNOLOGIES.



SAME MISSION.
SAFER TOMORROW.
