

December 2, 2009  
Notes from Brownfields PLC Session #16

Session leader: Doug Feil  
Topic – Health & Safety Training and Practices

## **NOTES FROM SESSION 16**

### **1. Health and Safety Training--**

OSHA health and safety instruction is a critical part of Brownfields job development and training. 40-hour Hazardous Waste Site Worker is a required course for EPA grantees. Other key certifications include either OSHA 500 Standards for the Construction Industry and/or 501 OSHA Standards for General Industry. It should be noted that instructors for these courses need to be OSHA certified. For details regarding OSHA outreach and certification, go to [http://www.osha.gov/dte/outreach/construction\\_generalindustry/](http://www.osha.gov/dte/outreach/construction_generalindustry/).

Additional training in lead, asbestos, radon, and mold will depend upon local needs assessments. Certifications related to these courses are “state-based.” This means that instructors and instruction may require approval by the responsible state agency.

Health and safety aspects of green jobs such as weatherization may require additional OSHA instruction including confined space, electrical safety, fall protection, etc.

### **2. Health and safety practices followed as part of the job training process--**

The process of training involves a degree of risk to program participants. Confined space and general construction training evokes a potential for accidents. Sampling and analysis including laboratory instruction involves proper labeling and handling of potentially hazardous materials. Brownfield instructors and program managers need to insure that their program conforms to safe instructional practice, protecting participant from harm. Training providers need to verify that proper indemnification and insurance coverage is in place.

Fit tests and activities associated with respiratory protection will require participant physicals demonstrating fitness. Training providers need to maintain proper record keeping practices insuring program participants are able to participate in required activities. For participants unable to participate in respiratory protection activities, certifications and various levels (1-4) may be issued.

### **3. Health and safety issues related to placement, follow-up, and refreshers---**

Relationships with employers extend beyond placing graduates in jobs. As the training provider, job development programs have a responsibility to place participants in safe and ethical work environments. Today’s larger employers are well aware of ethical and safety issues associated with potentially hazardous materials. Smaller or newly organized companies may not be aware of safe workplace practice.

Both job placement and OSHA 8-hour HAZWOPER Refresher expenses are allowable costs under the EPA Brownfields Job Training Grants. Refresher courses, when mandated, are an excellent way to track graduates after graduation. Refreshers, however, should be linked to the environmental certification process.