



HAMMER at a Glance Fact Sheet

History

HAMMER (**HA**zardous **M**aterials **M**anagement and **E**mergency **R**esponse) began in 1986 as a community-based initiative to improve training for hazardous materials workers, emergency responders, and fire fighters. Tri-County Fire commissioners, the Benton-Franklin Regional Council, and local labor councils developed the concept. TRIDEC Executive Vice President Sam Volpentest adopted their dream of a world-class training facility and made it happen by convincing Congress and the Department of Energy that hands-on training was needed to protect the safety and lives of workers and emergency responders. In 1994, Congress appropriated funds to begin operations in a temporary facility and initiate construction of the HAMMER. Upon completion of construction in September 1997, HAMMER was officially dedicated the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center in honor of Sam's tenacity, skills, and selfless commitment.

Vision

Our vision is to continue as the premier training provider of choice for cleanup workers, emergency responders, energy assurance, and homeland security; as well as be internationally recognized as a center of excellence for developing safe and skilled workers and responders.

HAMMER Partner Organizations:

- The U.S. Department of Energy
- Department of Energy contractors
- The Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Two states
- Three tribal governments
- Nine international labor unions
- Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council
- Central Washington Building and Construction Trades Council
- Three United Kingdom labor unions
- United Kingdom Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
- Academic institutions
- Industry
- The private sector
- Local governments
- Professional associations
- The Tri-Cities Development Council

"Anyone who ever met Sam Volpentest couldn't help but recognize that this was a remarkable man. 'Mr. Sam' was known on Capitol Hill as the Tri-Cities-area man. Senators, representatives, and congressional staff came and went; but 'Mr. Sam' was always there working with great passion for his people back home."

John Conway, Chairman Emeritus, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

HAMMER Staff and Facility HAMMER is known for its people. They are one of its greatest assets. The HAMMER/Hanford Training organization includes seven departments – the Director’s Office, Conduct of Training, Requirements and Standards, Federal, State and Homeland Security Programs, Radiation Safety Training, Strategic Planning and Business Management, and Operations.

The 80-acre HAMMER campus comprises life-sized training props. Using the props, students train in a controlled environment eliminating dangerous situations often found on the job. Training props can be configured to create a variety of situations for emergency response or hazardous materials training. There are 20 classrooms, 2 computer-based training rooms, 2 conference rooms, 2 indoor open-bay areas, a learning resource center, and a restaurant on the HAMMER campus.

Training Opportunities HAMMER training opportunities focus on several areas, including Emergency Operations, Environmental and Waste Management, Fire Operations, Law Enforcement, and Occupational Safety and Health. Customers provide their own instructors and programs or contract with HAMMER to acquire those services. Successful partnerships with industry leaders enable HAMMER to deliver exceptional training in a cost-effective manner.

Worker Trainers Hanford classes at HAMMER are frequently taught by Worker Trainers. After completing terms of instruction, these credible subject matter experts return to the field to provide on-the-job mentoring to their peers.

Blended Learning Through blended learning, workers are involved with hard-hitting, hands-on activities; custom simulations, drills and mock-ups; interactive computer and web-based scenarios; and professional classroom instruction. The blended learning approach increases productivity and ensures that critical information is retained.

VPP Star Status The Voluntary Protection Program promotes effective worksite-based safety and health through cooperative relationships between labor and management. VPP Star status is the Department of Energy’s and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s highest safety and health recognition. The HAMMER/Hanford Training organization achieved Star status in 2002 and was recertified in 2005. In 2003, 2004, and 2006 HAMMER was awarded the VPP Star of Excellence award for consistently achieving injury and illness rates 75 percent better than the industry standard. HAMMER received the Legacy of Stars award in 2007.



“HAMMER is one of the most important partnerships of labor and management in this country.” **John Sweeney, AFL-CIO President**

“We have people who really are dedicated to this facility and just go the extra mile every single day. No one works at HAMMER who doesn’t do the most he can to help each and every day to make this world safer.” **Karen McGinnis, HAMMER/Hanford Training Director**

“Labor, management, and government cooperation is central to the success of HAMMER and the HAMMER Steering Committee. OSHA is committed to the Steering Committee and it is important for us to continue to be a part of this group.” **Paula White, Director of Cooperative and State Programs, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor**

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