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CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE
IN CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES:
TRAINING THE CONSTRUCTION WORKER

Edith Jones
Technical Resources and Training Group
Environmental Compliance and Health Protection Division
Oak Ridge National Laboratory*
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Abstract

Construction activities have been identified as having the potential for environmental and/or health impacts at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, particularly as site cleanup and restoration plans are initiated. In addition to other control measures, ORNL has chosen to institute special training for all construction workers and related contractors. Individuals are given training to help them understand how construction activities at ORNL can potentially have adverse effects on the environment and their health and to teach them how to respond to potential chemical and radiation hazards.

Workers are given a review of basic information on radiation and chemicals in a framework that emphasizes the situations in which workers or the environment may be exposed to potential risk. Specific instructions are presented on what to do when contamination is suspected, with identification of emergency procedures and response personnel.

Courses are designed to meet the needs of different audiences:

- Construction workers
- Construction supervisors
- Project and contractor managers

The courses are implemented at different levels of detail, based on projections of potential for exposure. Over 460 persons have been trained this fiscal year.

Introduction

The Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) is a multiprogram laboratory that conducts research and development activities for DOE and other U.S. government agencies as well as for private industry and institutional organizations. Programs at ORNL cover almost all areas of science and technology. Supporting these programs are facilities such as nuclear reactors, radiochemical

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