Steering Committee Report
Fall 2020
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The health and safety of our workforce remains HAMMER’s top priority. In what started as a fairly routine year, the COVID-19 outbreak became one of HAMMER’s biggest challenges to-date. The pandemic resulted in the Department of Energy closing Hanford to all but mission-critical operations and personnel on March 22. This directive also closed the vast majority of HAMMER training.

I am extremely proud of our staff, instructors, and worker trainers pulling together to restart training. Everyone collaborated to identify and initiate mitigations necessary for the safety and health of staff, students, worker trainers, and visitors. Modifications involved facility adjustments, reduction in class sizes or moving courses to larger venues, as well as revisions of curriculums and activities to incorporate COVID-19 controls.

On May 28, 2020, HAMMER reopened its doors with three critical programs – Radiological Safety, HAZWOPER, and Respiratory Protection. By the end of September, numerous other training programs had restarted and over 10,685 students had received training. HAMMER’s efforts have been critical in reducing training delinquencies across Hanford enabling clean-up work to continue.

In addition to dealing with the impacts of COVID-19 at Hanford, HAMMER continues to leverage the expertise of its staff to support critical roles in national missions. The HAMMER team has delivered coordination and support to the Emergency Support Function #12 (ESF #12) responses for COVID-19, hurricanes, wildfires, and earthquakes. HAMMER also continues to work closely with the Department of Transportation on education and outreach for the hazardous materials response community.

On August 17, the DOE issued an authorization to begin transition to the new contractor, Hanford Mission Integration Solutions (HMIS). HMIS is a LLC composed of Leidos, Centerra, and Parsons. The work scope of the HMIS contract includes: Integrated Business & Mission Support; Mission Assurance; Engineering, Technology and Projects; Infrastructure and Site Services; Safeguards & Security and Emergency Response; Interface and Integration Services, which includes training and the operation of HAMMER.

With the challenges facing the workforce in 2020, it is more important than ever for HAMMER to provide standardized, effective hands-on safety training. Working closely with Hanford Contractors, the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC), and Central Washington Building and Construction Trades Council (CWB&CTC), HAMMER strives to ensure training incorporates field examples, is innovative, efficient, and meets the needs of the workforce. The hard work of staff and worker trainers ensures we can continue to support the One Hanford cleanup mission during these unprecedented times.

Paul Vandervert, HAMMER Director
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COVID-19 HAMMER RESPONSE TIMELINE

March 2020

- Adjustments were made at HAMMER to minimize exposure including: increased custodial services, additional hand-sanitizing stations, use of PPE, modification of training areas to incorporate social distancing.
- Meetings and events including the HAMMER Steering Committee meeting and Fire Ops 101 were cancelled.
- HAMMER worked with each site contractor to evaluate and document which training activities could be extended. MSA submitted to DOE a request for a site-wide global retraining/reqqualification extension for all site contractors. A 120-day extension for locally mandated training was granted by DOE.
- Working with Radiological Control Managers from each prime contractor, 30-day training extensions were granted for Radiological Worker and Radiological Control Technician/Health Physics Technician qualifications.
- HAMMER Emergency Support Function #12 (ESF #12) team activated at Level III in support of the COVID-19 health crisis.
- All six National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) HAZWOPER Grant Leads at Hanford worked collaboratively to create COVID-19 training modules.
- March 22—The Department of Energy declared the Hanford Site closed to all but mission-critical operations and essential personnel.
- The vast majority of training at HAMMER was cancelled.

April 2020

- HAMMER completes development of COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan Field Change Request to the Training Hazard Analysis process.
- HAMMER training staff collaborate with SMEs, program managers, instructors, worker trainers, HAMTC and CWB&CTC Training Directors to modify training and implement measures to address COVID-19 in preparation for restart. Modifications include significant changes to the training, common areas, revising the methods of training, disinfecting, social distancing, safe equipment handling, and controlling touch points.
May – September 2020

- HAMMER develops a *COVID-19 Exposure Control, Mitigation and Recovery Plan* that complies with Washington State training restart Phase 1 and Hanford Site requirements.

- May 28—HAMMER initiates formal restart of HAZWOPER, Respiratory, and Radiological Safety Training.

- In June, COVID-19 safety requirements and course-specific facility and curriculum modifications were put in place — other programs such as first aid, hoisting and rigging, electrical safety, lockout/tagout, and beryllium restarted.

- By the end of September, HAMMER surpassed 10,685 students trained since the May 28 restart.

When HAMMER reopened in late May, training delinquencies began to mount, peaking at over 5,000. HAMMER has since trained over 12,000 students and reduced delinquencies by nearly 90 percent. In order for HAMMER to resume training, a tremendous amount of work was required. In addition to updating curriculums to incorporate social distancing, modifications for activities and reduction of touch points, there were facility and scheduling adjustments and site-wide committee interfaces that occurred. Before updated courses could be taught, all materials and controls had to be in place to ensure the safety of the workers, instructors and staff.
SERVING HANFORD

SAFE OPERATIONS

With a total of 970,735 student-days of training completed through September 2020, HAMMER continues on track to reach over 1-million student days by the end of FY2021 since opening in September 1997. While the COVID-19 shutdown in March and the phased remobilization that continues today has slowed that progress, HAMMER has made significant strides in bringing training programs back on track. Following the restart of training on May 28, 2020, through the end of September, HAMMER has trained 10,685 students. HAMMER’s training metrics are once again tracking very close to the five-year average for site training. This is a remarkable feat considering HAMMER has reduced student-seating capacity in classrooms to accommodate social distancing.

---Training as Real as it Gets!---
HAMMER made an exceptional effort in meeting the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March, management, staff, and labor have evaluated and implemented numerous measures in preparation for a restart of training, including:

- Ensured six-feet social distancing in classes by relocating classes to larger rooms; splitting some classes into two groups; and rearranging furniture across the campus
- Placed COVID-19 posters throughout the campus to inform students of requirements
- Reduced class sizes whenever possible by rescheduling students into later classes
- Evaluated and modified how classes are conducted and how training props are handled
- Increased custodial support to the swing-shift crew and added a day-shift crew for cleaning/disinfecting high-touch areas and classrooms between sessions
- Provided disposable gloves, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes in the training and nearby common areas
- Worked with Hanford Site contractors to develop priority criteria for students returning to classes
- Briefed staff, worker trainers, and students on new classroom management and sanitization protocols
- Implemented disinfection/sanitization protocols and/or changed the method for hands-on activities
- Increased air flow/exchanges in all facilities

In addition, following HAMMER’s existing process for training hazard analysis, new COVID-19 Exposure Control Plans have been implemented for each course. Each plan identifies social distancing requirements, touch point control measures, disinfecting protocols using products recommended by the EPA List N, and instructor and student PPE, as applicable for the specific delivery method. The plans follow current CDC guidance and are reviewed by HAMMER management, operations, industrial safety and hygiene, and applicable SMEs. This same process is used to screen and modify training provided by off-site vendors.

HAMMER also updated the HAMMER Facility Orientation to include a section titled HAMMER Remobilization. This major update includes the addition of HAMMER COVID-19 requirements, guidelines, and practices in place at HAMMER. All instructors, Hanford and non-Hanford, must complete this online web-based course prior to delivering training at HAMMER.
CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

While the Field Exercise Building is one of the largest on the HAMMER campus, there has been minimal parking space available to accommodate large classes. To increase usage and expand the flexibility of the facility, construction of a 70-vehicle paved and lighted parking area was completed July 15, 2020. This work greatly improves the ability to schedule students into classes and host large-scale events.

With the significant need for additional indoor, hands-on training space, HAMMER’s Small Warehouse has been converted from storage to a practical training area for such training programs as HAZWOPER, Respiratory Protection, and Asbestos. Adding a new heating and cooling system provides year-round training space for the programs and increases room in the Al Alm Building High Bay for other training programs. This construction effort was completed in August 2020.

With the conversion of the Small Warehouse to training space, storage space for seasonal lawn care and snow removal equipment was needed. HAMMER’s 90-Day Pad, a small three-sided metal building has been used as a prop to train site personnel on the proper receipt, inspection, maintenance, and shipping of materials stored on a 90-Day Pad. Over the years, this prop has seen minimal use, so by enclosing, lighting, and adding electrical service to the building, it will serve as an ideal storage unit. This project was completed in September.

Another building seeing a major change is the Tactical Maze Building. A few years ago, the building was converted from a tactical response prop for fire and law enforcement to an indoor practical training area for hands-on training activities. More recently, the building has been used as a classroom for large classes such as HAZWOPER and Asbestos. Here again, parking space for these large classes became an issue. Construction of the Tactical Maze parking lot began on August 24, 2020, and is expected to be completed by the end of October. The new parking will bring greater flexibility to scheduling classes in the building, but more importantly will provide much safer ingress and egress for students and vehicle traffic, especially during the winter months.

In May 2020, HAMMER conducted a facility tour for vendors intending to submit proposals for a new contract to provide audio and visual (A/V) systems in ten classroom locations across the campus. These ten locations are larger classroom areas that provide greater challenges for A/V equipment and technology, such as the Field Exercise Building, the State Department Building, Tactical Maze Building, and classroom 36 in the Al Alm Building. The contract requires the vendors to supply equipment, support the installation, and conduct final testing. Following a technical review, the contract was awarded and a kick-off meeting was held on August 10. The work is expected to be completed by the end of December 2020.
HAMMER RADIATION SAFETY STAFF COMPLETE ACTIONS FOR RESTART

In April, HAMMER Radiation Safety Training (RST) staff was tasked to complete several significant actions in preparation for the restart of training at the request of the Hanford Site Radiological Control Forum. These actions included:

- Separating Radiological Worker (RW) Training from Radiological Control Technician/Health Physics Technician (RCT/HPT) qualifications
- Extending RCT/HPT qualifications by 120 days (28-month retrain)

The primary purpose of doing this was to provide a way to separate the 10 CFR 835 portion of Radiological Worker qualification training from the RCT/HPT Cycle training in order to extend recertification dates by up to 120 days if needed due to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this effort, staff created a gap training in which the RCT/HPT receives credit from his/her RW practical completed in previous training and is able to complete the RW computer-based proctored exam.

Since April, RST successfully completed the actions and continues conducting gap training for remaining RCT/HPTs. Approximately 607 RCT/HPTs have completed training to meet contractor essential mission requirements.

UNIQUE COVID-19 CONTROLS

To provide a consistent approach to COVID-19 controls, HAMMER programs protocols have been adopted. These protocols include:
- performing detailed hazards analysis of all program courses;
- limiting touch points;
- instructors demonstrating some activities rather than students performing them;
- and giving credit for students’ practice of successful performance-based activities (don/doff of protective clothing) if done correctly.

RCT qualification training continues to be conducted as part of HAMMER’s Radiological Safety Training program. RCT training/testing is a critical component of the mandatory 24-month RCT re-qualification process in order to support ongoing radiological work at the Hanford Site. We have eliminated the interface of touch-points between students and instructors during the examination process by incorporating the use of new technology. Testing is conducted using “touchless” grading for all examinations through an application-based “ZipGrade” process. This new process has not only proven to be effective but also has improved efficiencies in the exam process by providing real-time test analysis to continually improve the testing.
RADIATION SAFETY

In July, HAMMER’s Radiological Safety Training program conducted the first two Initial Radiological Worker (RW) training classes since being under the new COVID-19 controls. Thirty-six students completed the Initial Rad Worker training, which incorporates a practical exercise. The exercise portion has been modified to include COVID-19 controls (eliminating some touch points, implementing social distancing), while meeting all training requirements. Additional RW Initial classes are scheduled for the remainder of the calendar year.

Student numbers since implementing COVID-19 controls (May 28 through September):

- 94 - Radiological Worker Initial course completions
- 861 - Radiological Worker Retrain course completions

Projects completed in support of Radiological Safety Training include increasing the capacity of the Rad Worker computer based training area. As a result of this change, Rad Training was able to reorganize schedules for Rad Worker and Radiological Control Technician Gap Training and release room 16 for utilization by other courses.

RADIOLOGICAL CONTROL TECHNICIAN BIENNIAL RECERTIFICATION

HAMMER Radiological Training began conducting Biennial Recertification testing for radiation protection personnel during the month of June. By the end of September, 384 students from CHPRC, MSA, and WRPS had participated. Of these students, 94 percent passed the two-part exam on their first attempt. Approximately 600 radiation protection employees will participate in the three-day review and testing through November.

In addition, Radiological Control Technician Initial Training, suspended due to COVID-19, was restarted. Over a four-week period (June 8-July 2), students completed the remainder of their core on-the-job training and on-the-job evaluations (OJT/OJEs) and lessons that prepared them for their final written exam. Twenty of the twenty-one Radiological Technicians passed the exam on their first attempt.
INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING

HAMMER Industrial Safety Training (IST) has worked diligently to transverse the current challenges and continue to provide quality safety training for the Hanford workforce. In order to resume training during the COVID-19 pandemic, a detailed hazard analysis focusing on COVID-19 was conducted for all training programs and activities. Controls were then developed to mitigate the hazards, allowing the team to deliver the training that is vital to workers going back to work. Additionally, IST used the initial slowdown to continue improvements to many of the training programs. Below are examples of changes that have been accomplished.

HOISTING AND RIGGING

Working closely with the Hoisting and Rigging Site-wide Committee’s Training Subcommittee, HAMMER is currently working toward combining overlapping objectives and creating new objectives from site feedback to bundle courses with more relevant topics and exercises. The bundling will create three key courses, which will be streamlined and built using the ADDIE (Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation and Evaluation) model of training development.

As part of continuous improvement, Hoisting and Rigging is implementing an innovative application of iPads for instructor delivery. This will give instructors more freedom and versatility when delivering courses.

As part of the course enhancement initiative, the design and content of three core courses have been improved to be more engaging. Scale model cranes have been included for visual aids, and tabletop rigging kits have been implemented for in-class student activities. Students, instructors, and monitors have provided rave reviews of the enhanced courses.

The program has added additional instructors with craft backgrounds for training that better relates to the workforce. The new individuals bring over 40 years of experience to the program.

LOCKOUT/TAGOUT (LOTO)

Following a slow ramp-up of LOTO training due to COVID-19, it is now running at near maximum capacity. As part of the training restart, the class maximum enrollment had to be reduced to meet social distancing requirements. A newly designed open-room concept prop that went into use October 4, 2019, allows six students to be evaluated at the same time and still maintain social distancing. Many positive comments have been received from the students about the prop.

ELECTRICAL

New NEC 2020 Code classes rolled out in June. The updated training provides electrical workers at Hanford with the latest information on the electrical code and allows licensed electricians to receive continuing education credits toward maintaining their licenses. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the electrical safety-training program revised all training activities in 11 courses to minimize touch points and implement social distancing. Since resuming these courses in June, over 129 classes have successfully been delivered through the end of September.
FALL PROTECTION

Restarting the HAMMER Fall Protection Training Program was complex due to the program’s hands-on nature. The Fall Protection team worked diligently to overcome these challenges by developing innovative protocols, equipment rotation strategies, and redesigning the practical activities for five courses. Their creative approach and dedication to excellence ensured a smooth training restart without degrading the realistic approach. The program has provided 47 training sessions for 402 students since restarting training in June. It continues to receive positive feedback on the quality and applicability of the training during these challenging times.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

COVID-19 controls have been in place since the first training restart class on June 9. Controls include removal of lung/airway assemblies from mannequins and simulated rescue breathing to reduce risk of infection/virus spread. Enhanced sanitization and disinfection processes have been put in place. To increase social distancing, class sizes have been reduced, mannequin spacing has been increased, and First Aid exercises have been revamped.

HAZWOPER

HAZWOPER was one of the first programs to resume training on May 28. Three of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences’ grantees (Ironworkers (IW), the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), and the Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR)) were the first to redesign courses to adhere to HAMMER’s COVID-19 controls. Activities were modified to eliminate touchpoints, shared items, and to adhere to social distancing.

Even in these challenging times, in an effort to enhance student engagement in active learning opportunities, CPWR unveiled their new confined space activity utilizing HAMMER’s Open Trench Prop. This activity allows students to observe a mock confined space entry and have an open discussion on the importance of safety, communication, and proper documentation. The activity has been well received and takes place in both Initial and Refresher HAZWOPER courses.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters conducted a virtual DOE Instructor Development Program (IDP) at HAMMER in September. The goals of this IDP is to improve course materials to adhere to COVID-19 controls, advance instructor skills, and identify ways to increase student engagement in the new COVID-19 modified training.

HAMMER Operations, the HAZWOPER grantee leads and the responsible program manager worked collaboratively on the reconfiguration of the Tactical Maze Building to prepare it as a HAZWOPER training area. This dedicated area has provided ample space for social distancing during training presentations, as well as a location to perform decontamination line training.

CPR training

HAZWOPER training

—Training as Real as it Gets!—
RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

The COVID-19 pandemic added many challenges in the Respiratory Protection training program. This program has many touch points and utilized shared equipment, which would not work within the COVID-19 Hazard Control. As a result, there was an increased focus on how to keep students, worker trainers, and staff safe from contamination during training. This involved several questions such as: How can we ensure confidence in our methods of training and disinfecting? What is the first thing an instructor does when they walk into the classroom? What is the first thing a student does when they walk into a classroom? How do the current lesson plans help or hinder students’ confidence in learning in the new COVID-19 controlled classroom environment? How do we minimize those touchpoints, include social distancing, and incorporate equipment disinfecting? These questions and many more were addressed and hazards mitigated, all while providing double RespiratoryRefreshers training courses for up to 48 students a day to overcome the large number of training delinquencies brought on by the initial shutdown of all non-essential work on site.

With many bargaining unit worker trainers being at home on the Cares Act, working collaboratively was difficult. DOE, HAMTC, and Building Trades agreed to a small number of essential worker trainers to be at HAMMER. The HAMTC and Building Trades Training Directors worked with those worker trainers and HAMMER Logistics to request qualified worker trainers to participate in lesson plan reviews, course dry runs and pilots. Since Respiratory training is comprised of 90 percent hands-on student activities, to continue to provide meaningful ways to engage students with quality training while meeting COVID-19 limitations, worker trainers collaborated with the HAMMER instructional designer for curriculum redesign. Each student was provided with an iPad for electronic activities to encourage group discussion and friendly competition. At training props throughout the campus, worker trainers would present questions and scenarios for discussion among small student groups. Once this was accomplished, these essential worker trainers then trained the remaining respiratory worker trainers.

Additionally, to provide the required social distancing, Respiratory worker trainers, labor training directors, the program manager, and HAMMER Operations converted the Vehicle Bay into a hands-on classroom activity area. This afforded adequate room for social distancing and space for practical instruction, while maintaining normal class sizes.

Due to all these efforts, HAMMER has trained more than 1,600 respiratory students since the COVID-19 pandemic began, with no known COVID-19 cases resulting from that training.
ENERGY RESPONSE PROGRAMS

HAMMER supports the Department of Energy’s Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) Division by providing energy response training and Energy Response Organization (ERO) support during energy emergencies that affect the nation.

During catastrophic events, HAMMER helps coordinate response operations, provides logistics, finance and administrative support, and when needed, deploys HAMMER energy response staff to help restore resources throughout the country. Staff assisted in response to several events throughout the year including the COVID-19 pandemic, storms, hurricanes, wildfires, and earthquakes. HAMMER continues to gather lessons learned throughout response activities and incorporate them into an annual After-Action Report (AAR), which is used to improve program goals and objectives.

ESF #12 Supports COVID-19 Response

The CESER office stood up a COVID-19 Energy Sector Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/Testing Task Force to support utilities with requests for testing kits and PPE resources for energy sector essential staffing during the pandemic. Within CESER, the ESF #12 and the ERO have been remotely supporting mitigation and response duties to identify needs for the energy sector since January 2020. HAMMER has supported DOE by coordinating with the ESF #12 Regional Coordinators to leverage their regional, state, and local and industry points of contact. HAMMER also supported the energy sectors to establish a process for verifying orders, validating the needs, and confirming delivery of needed PPE and testing supplies. The COVID-19 response has been historical in many ways, especially for the ESF #12 team. For the first time in history, every state declared a state of emergency and every FEMA Region simultaneously activated ESF #12 responders.

HAMMER developed a Concept of Operations (CONOPs) to ensure COVID-19 exposure precautions are applied during the current active hurricane response season. HAMMER staff developed an ESF #12 Safety Officer position that has been incorporated into the ERO response process. HAMMER ESF #12 staff brought in senior safety professionals from the larger National Programs organization to help develop this new process. At the request of DOE ERO, HAMMER also procured cloth facemasks and hand sanitizer for distribution to ESF #12 responders for use during deployment.

The HAMMER ESF #12 team helped host an interim AAR meeting for industry and government partners to identify opportunities for improvement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The government and industry partnerships remain strong with enhanced support throughout this ongoing pandemic, which enabled the identification of immediate actions to help federal and industry partners to be response-ready for this year’s active storm season.
ESF #12 Supports Hurricane and Wildfire Response

The ESF #12 team provided support for hurricanes and wildfire response over the past months. During an extremely active season, several hurricanes occurred along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, prompting the team to deploy responders to multiple response centers, while ensuring COVID-19 safety measures met the requirements for each responder’s deployment location. Staff also assisted with DOE’s ERO Operations and Logistics Finance and Administration (LFA) Sections.

In addition to the hurricanes, HAMMER staff members were activated in FEMA Region IX to assist with the wildfires and rolling blackouts in California and Oregon. The blackouts impacted over 100,000 customers and were the result of the loss of power due to the wildfires, which were complicated by high winds. The team continues to maintain readiness and monitor storms as they develop throughout the rest of the season.

Virtual ESF #12 Training

In early spring, DOE-CESER took protective measures to reduce risks and impacts of the COVID-19 by restricting non-essential travel. As a result, HAMMER staff converted ESF #12 face-to-face classroom training to virtual sessions.

The training sessions included a series of webinars and two tabletop exercises—one based on cyber response and the second focused on a no-notice earthquake along with island response—to prepare the responders for energy-related national disasters and emergencies. In addition, they held two interactive Catastrophic Incident Response Team (CIRT) classes that incorporated responder testimonials, guest instructors, and lessons learned.

ESF #12 Special Projects

As part of the replacement project for the ESF #12 database, the HAMMER team launched the Training, Response, and Contact Records system (TRACR). HAMMER hosted a series of demonstration meetings via webinar. Among the participants were DOE HQ, the ESF #12 Logistics, Finance and Administration team, and the HAMMER ESF #12 team. The new system allows for thorough tracking of catastrophic events, responder contact information, deployments, and records such as training.

CESER Exercise Program Support

In collaboration with partners across the nation, HAMMER utilizes its emergency preparedness expertise to support CESER to assist in preparing for and participating in FEMA’s national exercises. These exercises are critical in strengthening the nation’s security and response capabilities and fosters unique partnerships between the public and private sectors. This year’s National Level Exercise was a cybersecurity scenario that reflected the global threat environment. Exercise participants from throughout the federal government, state and industry worked to plan and prepare for this exercise. Although the exercise was modified due to COVID-19, the preparations yielded many improvements in cybersecurity capabilities for the nation’s responders.

HAMMER staff have been preparing for Clear Path VIII, the DOE CESER annual all-hazards energy security and resilience exercise series. The series brings together leading energy sector stakeholders to enhance policies and procedures, identify areas for collective improvement, and strengthen relationships and cooperation between industry and government energy sector partners.
HAMMER supports the Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), providing response and training expertise for their grant programs, first responders, Hazardous Materials Regulations, and Office of Pipeline Safety programs. This partnership creates widespread education and outreach for the hazardous materials response community, protecting people from incidents involving the transportation of hazardous materials.

Oil Spill Exercise Response Video

PHMSA’s Office of Pipeline Safety collaborated with HAMMER to develop oil spill preparedness and exercise training materials. This collaborative project allows organizations to share resources that highlight the mutual benefit of federal, state, and industry integration during an oil spill exercise or response. The planning partners on this project included the Environmental Protection Agency, United States Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, the American Petroleum Institute, and industry pipeline owners and operators. HAMMER staff developed storyboards and produced videos (https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/technical-resources/phmsa-oil-spill-exercise-response-training-videos) that were launched in May increasing the nation’s oil spill preparedness. The project was nominated for the Texas General Land Office 2020 Oil Spill Prevention and Response Award for taking proactive steps to enhance the protection and preservation of Texas coastal resources.

National Fire Academy Online Training Modules

HAMMER published eighteen online hazardous materials training modules (https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulatory-compliance/phmsa-guidance/hazardous-materials-incident-response-training) for first responders and non-responders throughout the nation, outlining the guidance in National Fire Protection Association 472 standard for Awareness and Operations level training programs. The training helps fill a national need that identified a large number of first responders are under-trained due to limited availability to stand down for hazardous material training and limited training resources. The modules were developed in conjunction with FEMA’s National Fire Academy under the direction of PHMSA’s Office of Hazmat Safety Grants and Training. The training includes the anatomy, recognition, and classification of hazardous material, as well as use of the 2020 Emergency Response Guidebook and protective actions.

Oil Spill Response Plan Support

Plan Reviews

PHMSA receives approximately 590 unique versions of Oil Spill Response Plans that must be reviewed for compliance. An average plan has over 400 pages and includes content addressing approximately 40 required regulatory required elements. HAMMER staff assisted with the pipeline oil spill response plan reviews for over 219 plans to ensure they comply with federal requirements.

Best Practices Guide

At the request of DOT PHMSA, HAMMER developed an Oil Spill Response Plan Best Practice Guide. This guide provides owners and operators with helpful information on developing pipeline oil spill response plans to ensure compliance with federal regulations and PHMSA requirements.
PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY TRAINING

HAMMER supports the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in conducting critical domestic and international border security training. The training provided at HAMMER equips security officers with the skills needed to detect, identify, and interdict the movement of materials, commodities, and components associated with weapons and missile delivery systems.

HAMMER’s PNNL Program Manager worked with PNNL Operations personnel to develop the necessary documents needed to support HAMMER training restart activities. PNNL is filming “how to” videos for their two national programs, the Nuclear Smuggling Detection and Deterrence program (NSDD) and the Weapons of Mass Destruction program (WMD). The NSDD and WMD programs are working to convert classroom materials to online delivery mechanisms due to COVID-19 impacting travel. HAMMER has begun assisting with the development of online training modules for the Border Security 101 curriculum. HAMMER instructional design staff look forward to working with PNNL to increase their online training tools during this on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

FIRE TRAINING

HAMMER also supported another round of fire recruit training for the Hanford Fire Department. Since 2015, HAMMER has welcomed six different Hanford Fire Department fire recruit classes. Training is typically conducted over a five-month period in which new recruits attain the skills needed to become a Hanford firefighter. The COVID-19 pandemic affected activities such as the 14th Annual Fire Ops 101 event (cancelled), however HAMMER remains open and operational to support most fire-training needs for our region.

HAMMER offers a wide range of burn props and configurations for realistic live-fire training scenarios. HAMMER supported several different fire departments prior to the pandemic as they conducted training including the Spokane Valley Fire Department, Spokane County Fire District 10, Energy Northwest Fire Brigade, and the Portland General Electric Fire Brigade.
HAMMER is actively working with tribal partners to incorporate the cultural resource test beds into Hanford workforce training. HAMMER staff created a Cultural Resource Test Beds Virtual Tour of the one-of-a-kind tribal training props located at HAMMER. Last fall, MSA Cultural Resources and HAMMER staff collaborated to film the virtual tour. They recorded a discussion of the history and reason for developing the test beds, as well as past and future training uses. The video will be used to explain what the test beds are and how they can be used to provide one-of-a-kind training. MSA incorporated a practical component into their current Cultural Sensitivity Training, beginning with a walkthrough of the test beds as the cultural awareness portion of the quarterly National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) training. The audience for this training includes Hanford workers that will incorporate NEPA into their decision making process during project planning.

HAMMER AWARDED VPP STAR OF EXCELLENCE

For 2020, DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) held the annual participants meeting virtually via WEBEX. During the awards ceremony, HAMMER was awarded the Star of Excellence. According to DOE, the criteria for receiving the award is a recordable incident injury rate that is 75 percent better than the average of other U.S. businesses in the same industry code.

HAMMER was recognized for its full dedication and total commitment to the principles of VPP, outstanding level of performance in meeting established safety and health goals, actively conducting outreach to others, and in achieving an injury and illness rate significantly below the average of similar businesses and operations.

This is HAMMER’s ninth time receiving the Star of Excellence. This award is reflective of the great safety culture and commitment to VPP found at HAMMER, which currently has amassed more than 2.3 million safe work hours and has proudly maintained Star status since 2002. Congratulations to all who are a part of the HAMMER family.