



Technical Assistance Services for Communities

Cove Area Abandoned Uranium Mines

24-Hour HAZWOPER Health and Safety Training Course June 9-11, 2015

The 24-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training – provided by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) contractor Weston Solutions – took place from June 9 to June 11, 2015, at Diné College in Shiprock, New Mexico. The 18 trainees included Cove community members, Cove Chapter officials, Cove Authorized Local Emergency Response Team (ALERT) members, and interns from Navajo Technical University, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Diné College Environmental Institute, and Eastern New Mexico University.

The goal of the training was to teach participants to recognize, evaluate and control site hazards, and to select proper personal protection equipment (PPE). These topics are relevant to upcoming soil and water sampling and the cleanup of areas around Cove that may be contaminated with uranium.

Day 1 started with a welcome address and introductions. The agenda included topics such as health and safety, regulations, levels of protection, and information sources. Day 2 included topics related to radiation awareness and instrumentation. Trainees had the opportunity to see and handle the instruments used in sediment and soil sampling. On the last day, trainees learned about sampling, hazard recognition, respiratory protection, site control and surveying, and safety planning. The training program ended with a required test for all participants.

The HAZWOPER training provided participants with knowledge that will directly inform their work, whether they are educating the community about hazards, health and safety, working in potentially contaminated settings, responding to a community emergency, or applying lessons learned to their research.



Participants prepare for a presentation during the 24-Hour HAZWOPER Health and Safety Training Course in Shiprock, New Mexico.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE
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