

Training for a Radiological Transportation Emergency

CECBEMS Accreditation

The MERRTT program has been approved by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board of Emergency Medical Services for Continuing Education Hours (CEH). CEHs are awarded for each module completed and for the Practical Exercises.

MERRTT Instructor Patch

The TEPP instructor patches are designed for personnel who are qualified as MERRTT instructors. To receive a patch, instructors must attend a MERRTT Train-the-Trainer. When they conduct their first MERRTT classroom session, the instructor can request a patch from the regional TEPP Coordinator.

Technical Assistance

TEPP provides technical assistance to State and Tribal Governments in obtaining a greater understanding of radiological risks, identifying planning deficiencies, updating plans, training first responders, and stimulating and testing the system for strengths and needed improvements. The TEPP Coordinators use the skills and resources of State, Tribal, and local governments, and industry partners, to identify and address preparedness needs and to assist in conducting tabletop or full-scale exercises. For more information about TEPP or to find out how you can obtain the MERRTT materials, contact the TEPP Coordinator for the region in which your state is located or contact the program manager at DOE Headquarters. (TEPP Coordinators can be found on the web site.)

Department of Homeland Security Approval of MERRTT

The MERRTT material was submitted to the Office of Domestic Preparedness for their review and approval. On March 2, 2005, TEPP was notified that DHS had completed its review of the material and accepted MERRTT into the listing of federal courses available for State Administrative Agencies to employ consistent with state strategies.

Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program

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TEPP Training

The Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) developed the Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT) to address concerns from States, Tribes, and local jurisdictions about shipments of radioactive material by the U.S. Department of Energy. MERRTT was developed through the

Training and Medical Issues Topic Group of the Transportation External Coordination Working Group (TEC). DOE formed TEC to improve coordination with external groups interested in transportation activities. TEC members represent national and regional state, tribal and local government organizations, as well as labor, industry and professional groups.

Training with MERRTT

MERRTT provides fundamental knowledge for responding to transportation incidents involving radioactive material and builds on training in existing hazardous materials curricula. MERRTT satisfies the training requirements outlined in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Land Withdrawal Act. MERRTT is used for training responders along the WIPP corridors.

MERRTT has a modular design, consisting of 18 concise, easy to understand modules and 4 hands-on practical exercises. This design allows a jurisdiction to integrate the modules into existing hazardous material training programs. The modular format allows instructors to tailor the training to specific emergency response audiences.

MERRTT is designed to provide instructor-led or self-paced instruction. For instructor-led training, instructional guides are available for each module.

Targeted Audience

The curriculum is designed to meet the training needs of persons serving in fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical service, emergency management, public works, or on a hazardous materials team. MERRTT is intended for responders who have had previous hazardous material response training. The modules and hands-on practical exercises are designed to supplement information provided in other hazardous material courses. As such, they are written with the expectation that users are familiar with terminology that would be introduced in a hazardous material course. The responders' needs during an emergency were carefully considered during the development of MERRTT.

MERRTT Modules

The training objectives and sequence of the modules have been structured to align the modules with the hazardous material training competencies outlined in OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120(q) and the National Fire Protection Association standards. Based on course design, the entire MERRTT program can be conducted in approximately 16 classroom hours.

In addition to the MERRTT modules, a tabletop scenario, hands-on practical exercises, and a field practical exercise package have been developed to reinforce the objectives listed in the MERRTT modules. TEPP Go-Kits contain the props needed to conduct the exercises. Training Go-Kits will be made available to States and Tribes through the Regional TEPP Coordinators.

To assist qualified instructors in presenting the MERRTT materials to local responders, train-the-trainer courses are provided by DOE Regional TEPP Coordinators. The MERRTT training modules and train-the-trainer materials are available on CD-ROM.

MERRTT Certificate and Student Database

To receive a course completion certificate from the DOE, instructors must document the completion of the training in the National MERRTT Certificate and Student Database. An instructor can access the National MERRTT Certificate and Student Database at the TEPP website. The database fields match with the fields in the Student Information Form used during the class. Certificates can be retrieved and printed any time by entering the date of the class and the state where training was conducted.