



The Department of Energy's HAMMER is the premier, hands-on, federal training center.

Background

Owned by the Department of Energy (DOE) and managed by Mission Support Alliance (MSA), the Volpentest Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) Federal Training Center opened its doors for business in 1997. The facility's namesake, local leader Sam Volpentest, helped bring together DOE, federal and state governments, labor, tribes, the Tri-City Development Council, academia, contractors and industry to build the facility. Today, HAMMER continues to offer the most realistic and hands-on training for hazardous materials workers, emergency responders, firefighters, and energy assurance and homeland security workers.

Located on the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state, HAMMER manages nationally-recognized training and safety programs, including construction worker safety training, worker-trainer program, and complex-wide training development. HAMMER collaborates with the National Training Center, Domestic and International Border Security Training, the Department of Homeland Security's Energy Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Response Program, and the military.

HAMMER's 88-acre state-of-the-art facility is comprised of a restaurant, 20 modern classrooms, two computer-based training rooms, two conference rooms, two indoor open bay areas, a learning resource center, specialty training areas, and numerous life-size training props. These props allow students to train in a controlled environment eliminating dangerous situations often found on the job. HAMMER also can configure its training props to create a variety of situations for industrial hazards, worksite scenarios, emergency response, incident command, and hazardous materials training.

WHY HAMMER?

- HAMMER provides an efficient and performance-based training program while maintaining a "ready-to-serve" capacity as the primary training facility for the DOE's Hanford Site.
- HAMMER employs a blended learning approach to increase productivity and maximize critical information retention.
- HAMMER provides realistic and comprehensive safety/emergency response training for nuclear waste cleanup workers and emergency response personnel.
- HAMMER offers one of the most expansive selection of training props in the country.
- HAMMER has highly trained and knowledgeable staff with subject matter expertise that goes well beyond training for nuclear waste cleanup.
- HAMMER gained DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star Status in 2002, and proudly maintains Superior Status to-date.
- HAMMER is well-known nationally and internationally for having some of the best "worker-trainers" who serve as mentors and valued subject matter experts.
- HAMMER is used as a model around the U.S. for its successful training formula and for its winning collaboration between management and organized labor.

Safety is the number one value at HAMMER!

“HAMMER is helping to make sure workers have the safety training, and the capability of knowing what they are doing on the job, so that their lives are protected every day.”

**Senator Patty Murray
WA-D**

“HAMMER leads the way in providing DOE workers the training they need in order to get the job done safely. We are pleased to work with HAMMER every day to protect DOE workers.”

**Glenn Podonsky, Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer
Office of Health, Safety, and Security
US Department of Energy**

“HAMMER is the foundation of the safety culture we need to complete cleanup”

**Matt McCormick
Hanford Site Manager, DOE-RL**

“HAMMER serves a global mission of reducing health and safety risks. It's also benefits the government leveraging best practices across our nation.”

**Frank Armijo, President
Mission Support Alliance (MSA)**

“I see HAMMER as a beacon showing the way for collaboration among diverse groups that come together for worker health and safety.”

**Pat Finley, General President
Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International**

“President John Sweeney designated “HAMMER as one of the most important Partnerships of Labor and Management in this country” (at HAMMER’s dedication in 1997). Today, I reaffirm that designation.”

**Richard Trumka, President
AFL-CIO**

For More Information Contact:

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HAMMER’s Partners:

- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Energy Contractors
- U.S. Department of State
- National Training Center
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- National Guard Bureau
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 - Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency
- U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Washington and Oregon states
- Tribal Governments
- AFL-CIO
- Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO
- Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO
- Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council
- Central Washington Building and Construction Trades Council
- International Labor Unions
- United Kingdom Labor Unions
- Tri-City Development Council
- National Institute Environmental Health Sciences
- The Center for Construction Research & Training
- Pacific Northwest National Laboratory



Named the **Volpentest** HAMMER Federal Training Center in 1997, HAMMER continues to honor Sam Volpentest for his lifetime commitment to the community and for his tireless efforts to make HAMMER a reality.

In 1963, Sam co-founded the Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC), recognized as one of the leading economic development groups in the Pacific Northwest, and served as its executive vice president until his passing in 2005 at the age of 101. Sam was a member of the HAMMER Steering Committee, and was an active leader in community affairs and in his efforts to diversify DOE’s Hanford Site.

At TRIDEC, Sam worked on Hanford programs, congressional affairs, the federal budget and finding new missions for the site. He was a familiar face on Capitol Hill with over 36 years of experience calling on elected officials and various government agencies. Sam played a role in bringing several major projects to Richland like the federal office building; Hanford highway; All American City Award; Fast Flux Test Facility, a modern research reactor; Battelle Northwest Laboratories Life Sciences Building; and rerouting of Interstate Highways 82 and I-182 through the Tri-Cities. He also has one of the twin bridges across the Columbia River named after him. In addition to HAMMER, Sam also worked with others to accomplish two other important scientific projects—the Environmental Molecular Sciences Lab, operated by Pacific Northwest National Lab, and the Cal-Tech/MIT Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory.