

2026 NRT WORKER SAFETY & HEALTH TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

June 23, 2026

12:00pm – 12:30pm Registration and Networking

12:30pm – 1:00pm Welcome and Opening Remarks

Open the event with a warm welcome and brief remarks outlining the workshop's purpose and agenda. Administrative details will be covered, including use of MS Teams, question and answer opportunities, and venue logistics, providing a clear understanding of how to participate fully.

John Archer, *NRT WS&H Co-Chair, Environmental Protection Agency*

Young Wheeler, *NRT WS&H Co-Chair, Occupational Safety and Health Administration*

Roger Fernandez, *NRT Executive Director, Environmental Protection Agency*

1:00pm – 1:45pm Metals Particulates associated with Lithium-Ion Battery Thermal Runaway Events

Lithium-ion battery thermal runaway events generate a significant amount of flammable and toxic gases but also eject a substantial amount of metals particulate during failure. Metals observed in the respirable fraction pose a significant threat to first responders and post-incident cleanup personnel. This presentation will highlight individually gathered data and a summary of scientific studies related to the subject.

Chris Myers, *Environmental Protection Agency*

1:45pm – 2:15pm General Introduction of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Worker Training Program

The NIEHS Worker Training Program is an innovative program that supports development and delivery of safety and health training programs for workers involved in hazardous waste cleanup and emergency response throughout the nation. Training is delivered by universities, unions, community colleges, and non-profit organizations who are funded through cooperative agreements with the NIEHS Worker Training Program.

Dr. Eric Persaud, *National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences*

The logo for the National Response Team (NRT) is displayed in the bottom right corner. It consists of the letters "NRT" in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font, with a stylized blue and white graphic element to the left.

2026 NRT WORKER SAFETY & HEALTH TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

2:15pm – 2:30pm

Break

2:30pm – 3:30pm

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Responder Network and Future Responses

CBRN Responder Network is a network for Federal and State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) jurisdictions with registered and confirmed accounts that allow these entities to share CBRN contamination and exposure data onto an established Event. It greatly aids in information sharing and collaboration for a given CBRN incident.

Joselito Ignacio, *Federal Emergency Management Agency*

3:30pm – 4:15pm

Hazard Communication Standard 2024, and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) Requirements Supporting Emergency Responders

This presentation will provide an overview of OSHA's 2024 update to the Hazard Communication Standard, with particular emphasis on the revised Safety Data Sheet (SDS) requirements aimed at enhancing the safety and operational effectiveness of emergency responders. The session will highlight key revisions to the standard and describe how the updated SDS format delivers clearer, more actionable data, including improved hazard classifications, response focused guidance, and a standardized information layout, to better support emergency responders in making rapid, informed decisions in high-risk environments.

Dalton Moore, *Occupational Safety and Health Administration*

4:15pm – 5:00pm

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Provide closing remarks, summarize key technical insights, and review the agenda for Day 2.

John Archer, *NRT WS&H Co-Chair, Environmental Protection Agency*

Young Wheeler, *NRT WS&H Co-Chair, Occupational Safety and Health Administration*

2026 NRT WORKER SAFETY & HEALTH TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

June 24, 2026

12:30pm – 12:45pm Welcome Day 2

Open the event with a warm welcome and brief remarks outlining the workshop's purpose and agenda. Administrative details will be covered, providing a clear understanding of how to participate fully.

John Archer, *NRT WS&H Co-Chair, Environmental Protection Agency*

Young Wheeler, *NRT WS&H Co-Chair, Occupational Safety and Health Administration*

12:45pm – 1:45pm The Use of Respirators in the United States

The National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory advances the science and effective use of personal protective technologies (PPT). This session will clarify key differences between standard industrial and CBRN respiratory protection to support consistent PPE decision-making during multi-agency responses. The presentation will address approval pathways, performance requirements, and operational considerations, as well as common areas of confusion.

Jeff Peterson, *National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health*

1:45pm – 2:45pm A Risk Based Approach to Selecting Chemical PPE

This section will cover selection considerations for chemical-protective gloves, boots, and protective clothing to help ensure appropriate protection based on hazard assessment and response conditions.

Dr. Selcen Kilinc-Balci, *National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health*

2:45pm – 3:00pm Break

3:00pm – 4:00pm Current National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Efforts in Authoritative Recommendations for Chemical Management

NIOSH is dedicated to managing and providing authoritative recommendations for inhalation and dermal exposures to chemicals in workplace environments. This presentation will highlight our ongoing initiatives, including the development of Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) values, NIOSH Skin Notation, the NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards, and other related products. Additionally, we will examine their potential application to National Response Team products, including the NRT's Quick Reference Guides.

Dr. Todd Niemeier, *National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health*



2026 NRT WORKER SAFETY & HEALTH TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

4:00pm – 4:30pm Injury Reporting and Near-miss Tracking

This session will include highlights from multiple agencies regarding systems they use for track injuries, illnesses, and near misses during responses. Currently, individual agencies use multiple approaches from spreadsheets and in-house built systems to complex commercial software management systems for tracking. The goal of this session is to provide an overview of tracking systems and to have a facilitated discussion to inform national consistency during emergency responses.

Mike Quinn, *Department of Interior*

John Archer, *Environmental Protection Agency*

Captain Corey Butler, *Department of Interior*

4:30pm – 5:00pm Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Provide closing remarks, summarize key technical insights, and close-out the technical workshop.

John Archer, NRT WS&H Co-Chair, Environmental Protection Agency

Young Wheeler, NRT WS&H Co-Chair, Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Event Website and Registration

