Chemical and biological hazards pose safety and health risks to workers across many work settings such as laboratories, maintenance, and manufacturing. 46,000 American workers experienced non-fatal workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from exposure to harmful substances or environments in 2014, while 390 lost their lives.*

Emerging pathogens, new chemicals, and other hazards demand enhanced risk assessment and effective communication of occupational and public health information. Risk assessment and communication are critical for ensuring appropriate and effective prevention strategies for protecting worker health and safety. A proper risk assessment for all potentially hazardous agents—whether biological, chemical, radioactive or physical—must be conducted before establishing protocols, implementing controls, and communicating a mitigation plan. Regular, systematic review of work processes and tasks can protect workers and reduce risks.

This course is designed to give participants a step-by-step approach to assess all risks in the workplace. Practitioners at all levels of an organization will gain essential knowledge and tools to prepare for hazards in the workplace, meet goals for injury and illness reduction, and effectively ensure the safety and health of their employees and co-workers.


INTENDED AUDIENCE
Managers, supervisors, laboratory personnel, industrial hygienists, environmental health and safety directors, healthcare professionals, veterinary workers, animal care professionals, maintenance workers, manufacturing professionals, professionals with PPE requirements in their workplace, safety committee members, risk managers, ebola treatment and assessment centers, and other health and safety professionals.
ASSESSING BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL RISKS IN THE WORKPLACE: Practical Strategies and Tools

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of this course participants will be able to:
• Discuss the difference between a hazard and a risk, and the primary steps of assessment in the workplace
• Define sources, events, causes and consequences of workplace risks associated with chemical and biological agents
• Prioritize workplace risks by establishing a risk ranking system comparing the severity and likelihood of potential events
• Describe three examples of mitigation processes to eliminate or reduce workplace risks
• Identify three new resources or tools to increase competency for responding to biological and chemical risks
• Determine ways to report and communicate the current state of risks and their management in the workplace
• Conduct an effective job hazard analysis

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CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS
NORTHWEST CENTER FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
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University of Washington School of Public Health

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