

CLIENT STORY

US Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases



SUMMARY

In 2001 a terrorist sent anthrax through the mail, killing 5 people and contaminating dozens of buildings, including the Brentwood Post Office in Washington, D.C. One of the most contaminated facilities, the post office was characterized as an uncontrolled hazardous waste site by OSHA.

Scientists from the United States Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) were called in to provide technical support and oversight of the cleanup, but since they rarely worked in the field they had not yet received the OSHA-required certification for uncontrolled hazardous waste site operations, and time was of the essence. SafetySkills was tasked with the challenge of getting the scientists trained and deployed as quickly as possible.

\$10M+

Saved in training costs

77%

Reduction in training time

**26 Month,
\$130 Million**

Remediation project

Overcoming Barriers



CHALLENGE

In order to work on the site, OSHA required the scientists to receive a 72-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Onsite Incident Commander certification. Through their education and experience, however, the scientists already met and in many cases exceeded the minimum required competencies for the training, meaning two weeks in a classroom would have been a waste of valuable time.



SOLUTION

The SafetySkills team rapidly audited job descriptions and training records to complete a gap analysis to determine what additional competencies were required to bring the USAMRIID personnel into compliance. SafetySkills developed and delivered an abbreviated program that fulfilled the training requirements in only 16 hours.

The 26-month, \$130 million, remediation project involved personnel working in confirmed hazardous environments in advanced personal protective equipment, employing sophisticated personal and equipment decontamination techniques. The remediation contract cost the government roughly \$250,000 per day, and a major postal facility had to remain closed until the project was completed, making any unnecessary delays completely unacceptable.

Express Solutions



CHALLENGE

The 72-hour Onsite Incident Commander training typically requires not only expert instructors, but also equipment, instruments, materials and facilities that can be hard to bring together on short notice. Delivering the full training to the USAMRIID personnel on short notice would have taken a minimum of 60 days.



SOLUTION

By reducing the training time from 2 weeks to 2 days and eliminating all unnecessary content, SafetySkills was able to accelerate the logistics of training and USAMRIID personnel were able to report to the cleanup site within 21 days.

Established in 1969, USAMRIID is the leading laboratory for medical biological defense research in the United States. Their mission is to "provide leading edge medical capabilities to deter and defend against current and emerging biological threat agents."

Our process

SafetySkills balances a deep knowledge of safety with the ability to produce high-quality, responsive instructional content. All of our products and services are developed 100% in-house, and are supported right here in our Oklahoma City studio by the people who made them. Our singular focus on training employees in life-critical competencies allows us to offer high quality content that connects with people.

We believe engagement changes everything. Because safety is imperative to growth, highly engaging and relevant content is crucial to the success of any company. With this in mind, our courses are designed to reinforce company brand messaging, with a high degree of interactivity and industry-specific content to produce the most effective results.



ABOUT SAFETYSKILLS

SafetySkills is a leading provider of products and services focused on keeping workers safe through effective training.

With a proven track record of over 20 years, operating in 18 countries and 8 languages, to over 10,000 public and private sector organizations, and over 1 million learners, SafetySkills leverages its experience, resources and technologies to meet its client's EHS and emergency response training and certification requirements.



519 NW 23rd Street
Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
(888) 844-3549