

OSHA 8 HOUR HAZWOPER REFRESHER

The **OSHA 8-Hour HAZWOPER** course is designed primarily as an **annual refresher training** to maintain compliance with OSHA standards **29 CFR 1910.120** (General Industry) and **29 CFR 1926.65** (Construction).

It is required for workers, managers, and supervisors who have already completed their initial 24-hour or 40-hour HAZWOPER certification. To maintain active certification, it must be completed within **12 months** of the previous training's anniversary date.

Core Objectives & Focus Areas

Unlike the initial multi-day courses that introduce technical concepts from scratch, the 8-hour refresher focuses on **regulatory updates, hazard re-evaluation, and reinforcing critical safety controls**.

1. Regulatory Updates & Standard Review

OSHA & EPA Changes: Review of any recent modifications to environmental laws, OSHA interpretations, or enforcement focus areas.

Review of 29 CFR 1910.120: Re-establishing the legal frameworks for uncontrolled hazardous waste sites, TSD (Treatment, Storage, and Disposal) facilities, and emergency response.

2. Hazard Recognition & Toxicology

Chemical & Physical Hazards: Refreshing knowledge on recognizing site hazards, chemical characteristics, and warning signs.

Toxicology Basics: Re-evaluating exposure routes (inhalation, ingestion, absorption), permissible exposure limits (PELs), threshold limit values (TLVs), and IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health) atmospheres.

Hazard Communication (GHS): Reviewing Safety Data Sheets (SDS), container labels, and DOT placards.

3. Site Control & Safe Work Practices

Site Characterization: Establishing work zones (Hot, Warm, and Cold zones) and site safety planning.

Air Monitoring: Reviewing the use of monitoring instruments to detect hazardous atmospheres.

Handling Drums & Containers: Safe protocols for inspecting, moving, and sampling uncharacterized storage containers.

4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Decontamination

Levels of Protection: Reviewing the specific parameters and equipment required for Levels A, B, C, and D.

Respiratory Protection: Re-evaluating the selection and limitations of Air-Purifying Respirators (APRs) vs. Atmosphere-Supplying Respirators (SCBA/SAR).

Decontamination Procedures: Reinforcing proper donning, doffing, and decontamination line layout to prevent cross-contamination.

5. Emergency Response & Incident Critiques

Emergency Action Plans (EAP): Reviewing emergency roles, evacuation procedures, and medical surveillance protocols.

Case Studies: Analyzing recent industry incidents, chemical spills, or “near misses” to identify lessons learned and procedural failures.

Key Compliance Requirements

Prerequisite: Students must have a valid, unexpired 24-hour or 40-hour HAZWOPER certificate. If a certification lapses significantly beyond the 12-month window, OSHA guidance indicates the worker may need to retake the full initial course depending on their role and demonstrated competency.

Flexible Delivery: OSHA allows employers to deliver the 8-hour refresher in segments throughout the year, provided the full 8 hours are completed by the annual anniversary deadline.

Site-Specific Training: While generic online or classroom courses cover the mandatory topics, employers must supplement this with site-specific safety plans, equipment reviews, and localized hazard briefings.