

Providence's Brownfields Job Training Program Graduates First Class

The inaugural class of Providence Brownfields Employment and Training Program graduated in August.

A "Brownfield" is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. This program, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is the first in the state of Rhode Island.

In the spring of this year, Groundwork Providence, a private non-profit organization, received a \$200,000 grant from the EPA to develop and implement a Brownfields job training and employment program. The program will train and place (in jobs) 90 individuals.

Groundwork Providence, Inc. is a community-based organization whose mission is to bring about sustained regeneration, improvement and management of the physical environment by developing community based partnerships that empower people, businesses and organizations to promote environmental, economic and social well-being.



Senator Lincoln Chafee joins the first graduating class of the Groundwork Providence Rhode Island Brownfields Job Training Program.

The 17 graduates have worked diligently to acquire certifications in Lead Supervisor/Contractor, Asbestos Supervisor/Contractor, HAZWOPER with OSHA 10-hour safety, and Alternative Remediation. The New England Consortium provided the 40-hour HAZWOPER training for the group.

Groundwork Providence is currently running its second cycle of training. For more information about the Groundwork Providence Program, please contact Sally Turner at 401-351-6440.

President Bush Vetoes Spending \$90 Million for WTC Medical Monitoring

In a move that took many occupational health activists by surprise, on August 13 President Bush killed a \$5.1 billion congressional appropriation that included \$90 million earmarked to greatly expand the effort to track and provide medical care to people with lingering health effects resulting from the attack on the World Trade Center.

The President's decision to eliminate the program, which was to have been administered by the Mt. Sinai-Selikoff Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine, came as a surprise because it had been reported earlier that Bush has signed a

\$29 billion supplemental appropriation that included funds for the program. Those reports failed to note that a portion of the funds would not be spent without a presidential declaration of an "emergency." Bush said he declined to declare the necessary emergency because the spending was unnecessary.

To dramatize the need to pay for the medical care of Ground Zero workers, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) had offered to visit Bush at his ranch and bring along New York firefighters who have respiratory diseases as a result of the rescue work. Instead of accepting her offer, Bush said that the funding was not "for truly pressing

needs and priorities," so he was opting to "enforce spending restraint."

— From the August 22, 2002 NYCOSH Update on Safety and Health <http://www.nycosh.org>



TNEC 2002 Open Enrollment Training Calendar

University of Massachusetts Lowell, One University Avenue, Falmouth 202, Lowell, MA 01854
Phone: 978.934.3197, Fax: 978.934.2012 or 978.452.5711
www.uml.edu/t nec e-mail: t nec@uml.edu

All TNEC trainings are held at the TNEC Training Center, Wannalancit Mills, 600 Suffolk Street, 5th Floor, Lowell, MA, unless otherwise stated.

	November	December	January	February	March
40-Hour Hazardous Waste Site Worker		M-F 2-6	M-F 13-17	M-F 24-28	
8-Hour Hazardous Waste Site Worker Refresher	Tue. 19	Wed. 18	Thur. 9	Tue. 11	Thur 13
Special Feature 8-Hour Course	Awareness Sat. 9 Awareness Sat. 30	Awareness Sat. 14			Site Worker Supervisor Wed. 19
24-Hour Emergency Responder	T-TH 12-14			T-TH 4-6	
8-Hour Emergency Responder Refresher			Tue. 7		Tue. 11

The New England Consortium
UMass Lowell
One University Avenue
Falmouth 202
Lowell, MA 01854

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TNEC 2002 Open Enrollment Training Calendar



Going Down the Road

by JIM HIGHTOWER

Tony Mazzocchi, 'Labor Guy' Out in the countryside is where you'll find America's true leaders—the gutsy, scrappy, sometimes scruffy and always ingenious grassroots agitators and organizers who go right into the face of the powerful elite, not merely speaking truth to power but kicking Old Mr. Power right in the butt. It's from such people that the progressive movement gets the innovative strategies that allow We the People to advance our democratic ideals of fairness, justice and equal opportunity for all.

Tony Mazzocchi was one of these leaders. He never sought the spotlight, always deferring to someone else to get credit and media attention—"I'm just a labor guy," he'd tell you in his blunt Brooklyn accent. But what a labor guy! Tony's the epitome of what labor can be, the kind of labor guy you wish was in charge of every labor union, from the locals to the internationals. Now Tony is gone—On October 5 he died of cancer at 76. This column, however, is no obituary; it's a rallying cry. To paraphrase the last words supposedly uttered by Joe Hill: Don't Mourn, Emulate! And, yes, organize.

Organize is what Tony did. Wiry and fiery, he was of, by and for the working class—a lifelong dedication that came to him not through intellectual study but experience. Son of immigrants from Naples, he grew up poor. "I didn't discover until after I went to the Army that people don't normally sleep three to a bed," he said. He learned the union gospel from his father, a garment worker who became shop steward and was in several tumultuous strikes.

At 16 Tony dropped out of school and lied about his age to

enlist in World War II, fighting three combat campaigns and ending up at Buchenwald just as it was getting liberated, giving his young mind a horrifying lesson in the human capacity for inhumanity.

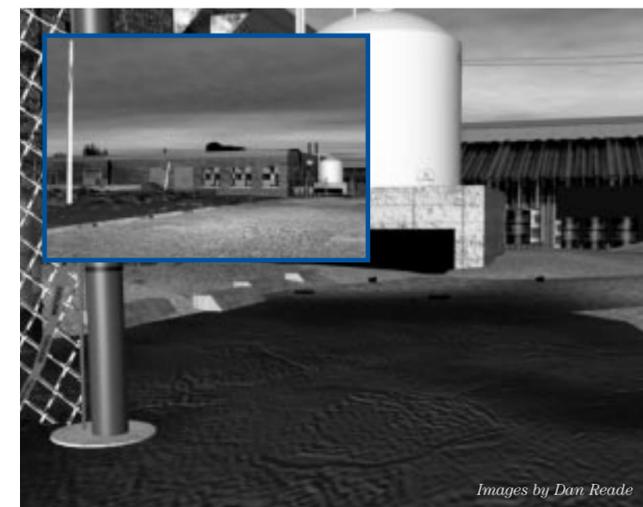
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The New England Consortium Launches Computer Based Simulation

In an effort to incorporate some of the advantages of electronic technologies into our training program, TNEC is now finalizing the development of a PC-based Hazardous Waste Site Worker Simulation. In September we started using portions of it in our 40-hour Health and Safety Training Course and in our eight-hour

Refresher for Hazardous Waste Site workers. This Simulation is a two-hour module that is designed to be delivered as a review activity on the final day of the 40-hour course just prior to the hands-on incident. In the activity, our students have to organize and execute, to demonstrate the skills that they have learned. The goal of the Simulation is to strengthen students' problem-solving skills relative to hazardous waste site work. The setting is an abandoned plating facility, a not-uncommon problem that, unfortunately, is still encountered in the real world. By participating in the Simulation, students are able to explore different strategies for addressing problems with which they are confronted, all in a safe and interactive computer based hazardous waste site environment.

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Images by Dan Reade

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Going Down the Road

Back home Mazzocchi went to technical school on the GI Bill, after which he worked several jobs before landing at a Helena Rubenstein plant on Long Island, making cosmetics. Most of the workers there were women, who got less pay than the men and were the first to go in layoffs, regardless of seniority. So in 1953 he ran for president of the local union on a pledge of equal pay and equal treatment. Elected at 26, he not only delivered on that pledge but he built union loyalty by negotiating a health plan, including the first-ever dental insurance coverage in private industry.

While unions at the time focused almost strictly on wages, hours and job security, Tony began to talk about the workers' health and safety. He realized shortly after coming to Helena Rubenstein that it wasn't a cosmetics plant, it was a toxic chemical factory. Day in and day out, workers were handling lead to put in lipstick, breathing asbestos that went into talc and so forth—all without any protections or monitoring of their health. By the mid-1950s, this still-young agitator had helped amalgamate the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, and he led the first-ever strike in the United States over issues of health and safety.

In the late 1950s he learned that some OCAW members and their families were being exposed to strontium 90 from nuclear tests. The industry claimed that no one was getting enough exposure to be hurt, but Tony met with scientists who said the deadly isotope accumulates in bone tissue. So he asked members in various plants to collect the baby teeth of their kids and grandkids. "My union, 85 percent of which was women, really got into it," he said. "Every day they would bring into the shop steward baby

— Tony Mazzocchi

teeth. The study became the definitive proof that strontium 90 was being taken up by humans."

Mazzocchi's greatest contribution to the movement was his understanding that none of our groups can win alone—we have to forge coalitions. In the mid-1960s, then serving as OCAW's legislative director in Washington, he reached out to environmentalists and public interest groups, which labor mostly had been treating hostilely. He helped pull them together behind a bill that he and Ralph Nader were cobbling together—the bill that ultimately created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, in 1970. As part of that effort, Tony backed Earth Day, serving as chair of the April 1970 rally in New York City. With millions of Americans responding to Earth Day's call for action against toxics, the OSHA bill quickly began to move, even getting sudden support from none other than

Richard Nixon, who wanted to appeal to blue-collar workers for his re-election bid. "[It] shows that when you build a big movement from down below," Tony said, "regardless of who's in the White House, you can bring about change."

There's so much more: In 1974 he was the one who worked with Karen Silkwood to expose safety violations and a corporate cover-up at Kerr-McGee's nuclear plant; then, after Silkwood was killed (apparently forced off the road to keep her from providing evidence of the cover-up), Tony kept pushing to bring the truth of her story to the general public. In 1991 he established Alice Hamilton College, specifically designed for union members. Last year, he initiated the wildly successful Labor Film Festival at the Kennedy Center. He also created an innovative medical-student internship so budding healthcare professionals could work on job sites and learn up close and personally about workplace health problems. And he devoted his last decade to founding and building an independent political voice for workers, the Labor Party, created to advance a working-class agenda of universal healthcare and higher education for all (www.thelaborparty.org).

In July, at the Labor Party's convention, Tony said in his opening speech, "I am both afflicted with an incurable disease and blessed with an incurable optimism." That was him to the core—a labor guy who could see the rapacious greed of our society's elites so clearly, which causes many to despair, yet what he saw was the uplifting opportunity to reach more people and build a movement to defeat the greed. Don't send flowers...become flowers, nourished by Tony Mazzocchi's example.

[Reprinted with permission from the October 28, 2002 issue of *The Nation*]

This article can be found on the web at <http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20021028&s=hightower>

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The New England Consortium Launches Computer Based Simulation

In the Simulation, TNEC has incorporated some of the advantages of PC based training. We also have maintained our core value of the small group activity. Students work in teams of three to five people while seated at a hybrid PC station, where they can collaborate and interpret information and situations presented to them. They make choices and explore the consequences of those choices. They then are able to make different choices and explore the consequences of those alternatives. Additionally, students have the opportunity to experience the roles of three different kinds of site personnel, a Site Supervisor, a Decon Team Leader and an Entry Team, and the decisions that people in those kinds of roles might have to make.

In the future, TNEC plans to develop a similar computer based Simulation for use in our 24-hour Emergency Response Health and Safety Training Course.

For more information about this project, please contact us at 978-934-3257 or TNEC@uml.edu.

New Site Worker and Emergency Response Refresher for 2002-2003

September marked the launch of TNEC's new eight-hour refresher curricula for the Site Worker and Emergency Response training courses.

Highlights of the 2002-03 eight-hour Hazardous Waste Site Worker Refresher include multiple hands-on activities. Topics covered this year are: a review of Health and Safety Plan (HASP) basics, combined with a hazardous waste site computer simulation activity. During the simulation, students must collect information and then develop required components of a HASP. Other new topics include a Decontamination (Decon) review and activity. During the Decon activity, fluorescent powder and black lights are used to determine if the Decon process was successful. Other recurring favorites include a HAZWOPER review game and tabletop activity on past health and safety incidents.

This year's eight-hour Emergency Response Refresher course focuses on the Incident Command System and scene management. There is a comprehensive incident, which requires participants to organize an emergency response team and then develop a plan based on working at a specific facility. Following Emergency Response plan

development, students are then required to respond to an incident in "TNECville," a scale-model town with its own industry. Also included in this year's course are a review of chemical protective clothing and respirators.

To view the agenda for one of these courses (or any of our courses), or to register, please visit our Web site at www.uml.edu/tneec



The tabletop activity, developed for this year's ER refresher, requires students to act out the process of mitigating a chemical emergency.

Environmental Science High School Students Complete 40-hour Course



Students of the College Preparatory Environmental Science Program at Essex Agricultural and Technical High School in Hathorne, Massachusetts on their last day of TNEC's 40-hour Hazardous Waste Site Worker Basic Health and Safety Training Course (left to right), Back row: Charles Saulnier (Professor), Stephanie McIntosh, Andrew Johnson, Anna Ahl, Amelia Usselman, Amy Holt Cline (Professor), Bernie Mizula (TNEC Trainer), Tom Estabrook (TNEC Trainer), front row: Joe Karr, Jane Johnson, Nicole McDonough, Tara LaScola, Nicole Markland

Environmental Literacy Workshops Underway

The New England Consortium is actively involved in efforts to bring together community and worker health and safety interests in the area of environmental literacy, through funding under its NIEHS federal grant. Five COSH groups—coalitions on occupational safety and health—are actively pursuing this issue through awareness workshops held in each part of the New England region (Massachusetts, Western Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut).

MassCOSH is working to increase the awareness and tools of community residents in Fitchburg. The MassCOSH workshop focuses on community involvement and identifying and solving work environmental problems by building partnerships with environmental studies students at a magnet middle school.

At the Department of Public Health office in Northampton, 41 health officers from all



Sandy Chabot of the New Hampshire Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health and John Thoma of the Western Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health met recently to talk about the progress of their Environmental Literacy Projects.

Honor and Farewell to Paul Smith

Paul Smith, who has been a trainer for the New Hampshire Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (NHCOSH) and TNEC for more than 12 years, recently resigned his position. In partial recognition of his many years of service, NHCOSH recently honored him at its annual meeting by presenting him with the Ed Eagan Safety



over the region came together through a partnership of Western MassCOSH and the Western Massachusetts Public Health Association for a workshop on emergency response to biological and chemical emergencies, including bioterrorism.

In Manchester, N.H., all 22 of the New Hampshire community health officers gathered for an emergency response awareness training. They teamed up with Louise Merchant Hannan, Public Health Liaison Officer of the state Department of Health and Human Services. Together they developed a curriculum for an eight-hour awareness training addressing issues from an international and a local perspective—threats from bioterrorism and the legal and illegal chemicals used in nail salons. With assistance from Paul Smith, of the Manchester HazMat Fire Department (and former COSH and TNEC trainer) and Bernie Mizula, of the University of Massachusetts Lowell, the training was a huge success.

In Providence, RICOSH conducted an environmental literacy seminar to learn about biological and chemical hazards with assistance from Dr. Thomas Hicks with the Occupational and Environmental Health Center of Rhode Island, and Barbara Morin in the Air Toxics division of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

In Hartford, ConnectiCOSH presented a workshop focusing on diesel exhaust emissions to bus drivers from the community. For more information on this program, please email us at tneec@uml.edu

TNEC STAFF

Dianna McAllister
Project Administrator

Jenn Dobransky
Outreach Coordinator

Thomas Estabrook, Ph.D.
Special Projects Manager / Worker Health Educator

Charles Levenstein, Ph.D.
Co-Principal Investigator
Professor of Work Environment

Judy Martineau
Staff Assistant

Paul Morse
Project Manager

Bernard Mizula
Worker Health Educator / Staff Industrial Hygienist

Richard Sadkowsky
Training Resources Coordinator

Wayne Sanborn
Training Manager

Craig Slatin, Sc.D., MPH
Project Director and
Principal Investigator/
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Health
and Clinical Sciences

ConnectiCOSH	860.953.2674
RICOSH	401.751.2015
MassCOSH	617.825.7233
NHCOSH	603.226.0516
WesternMassCOSH	413.731.0760

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The New England Consortium
University of Massachusetts Lowell
One University Avenue Falmouth 202
Lowell, MA 01854
Phone 978.934.3257, Fax: 978.934.2012
Web site: www.uml.edu/TNEC
e-mail: TNEC@uml.edu