



HLC Accreditation Evidence

Title: Hazardous Waste Operation and Emergency Response (Hazwoper)

Office of Origin: Vice President of Instruction - Technical Education and Military Operation Training

'HAZWOPER':

Don't expect fries with that Hazardous material training provides certifications

By Patti Geistfeld

FORI RILEY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The field behind Barton Community College's Grandview Plaza campus June 23 contained barrels both empty and full, propane cylinders and other types of containers. This was a simulated brownfield or uncontrolled waste site. The training scenario contained eight different hazardous wastes as well as five hazardous materials that had been sitting abandoned for two years. The training mission for the students was to mitigate the location so the waste could be shipped for disposal and the city would be able to use the land again after it was no longer a hazard.

As the students start to put on the Level A chemical ensembles to complete the task, there was one difference: the students in this class are all women and so are the instructors. This class was tailored for female Soldiers, dependents, retirees and veterans; however, the training wasn't any different.

"The training is the same," said Lindsey Holmes, Barton Community College instructor. "It doesn't matter which class, the training is the same. We train to the standard. From what these gals have said ... they just feel less intimidated like they can learn their way."

Students who successfully complete the 80-hour class will receive a HAZWOPER certificate which is Hazardous Waste Operation and Emergency Response, an Occupational Safety and Health

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Administration General Industry Ten Hour Card and a Hazardous Material Course OSHA certificate. The certifications qualify graduates for a variety of jobs nationwide.

"People that are trained with the HAZWOPER certificate are able to clean up hazardous waste sites," Holmes said. "They have the experience to assist in an emergency response type situation where say a big truck turned over on the interstate and is spilling fuel or during Hurricane Katrina or something where there's a lot of HAZMAT of some kind. These guys could come in and help maybe with the decontamination process"

But there are options to use the skills besides waste cleanup. For instance, Holmes said, within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment some employees are required to have the HAZWOPER certificate. Some of them may go out to spills, but some of them are inspectors or oversee contractors performing the cleanup process.

One student, Sgt. Shayla Bellamy, Company A, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, says her goal was to be a dentist and she wanted to get this training to help with jobs once she transitions out of the Army and continues her college goals.

"My goal is to make myself more marketable considering I will be transitioning within about 12 months," Bellamy said.

She was surprised she liked the class as much as she did. She said she still wanted to keep her options open for becoming a dentist, but this class led her to reconsider what direction she might want to take with her career goals and she is looking forward to working



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Spc. Zaire Garnett, left, 1st Infantry Division Artillery and Lucretia Reaves, spouse of a retired Soldier perform a hands-on part of training during the 80-hour Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program at Barton Community College Grandview Plaza, Kansas June 23. The training scenario was to go into a simulated brownfield or uncontrolled waste site for assessment and clean up of the hazardous material. This was the first class tailored to female participants who are transitioning service members, retirees, veterans and family members.

in a field where she can use the training.

"If I am that passionate about this job that I am hoping to receive then I am definitely going to consider staying in that type of position," Bellamy said.

She attributes much of her redirection for her career goals to the quality of the Barton Community College program and the instructors that are teaching the class.

"The instructors have made it (the material) very, very clear," Bellamy said. "I never would have imagined that I would be interested in something like this or even a job like this until I came into the course."

Bellamy plans to continue on with Barton Community College to work on an associate degree in occupational safety and health. She also plans to work with Soldier for Life on a program they have available where she can apply for a 12-week internship at a civilian company in safety.

Holmes says she believes having this type of class composed of women is

important and they hope to find enough applicants to have more of them. The ideal class size would be sixteen students. This class would cost a civilian \$1,500 but is free due to grants for transitioning Soldiers, dependents, veterans and retirees.

The schedule of classes is set for the next year and there are openings. In addition to wanting to provide more classes where all the students and instructors are women anyone with an Identification Card or DD Form 214 should contact the college for more information on the free classes.

"This is only going to cost you your time," Holmes said. You are never going to know if you will use it if you don't have it."

For more information on the 80-Hour Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program, contact James Henderson, Barton Community College, 785-238-8550 or hendersonj@bartonccc.edu.