Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Training Facility

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) is safely and efficiently destroying the chemical weapons stored at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot. As the plant draws closer to the start of full destruction operations, the hiring and training of the operations workforce becomes the project’s top priority. The PCAPP Training Facility at the Pueblo Memorial Airport Industrial Park offers the perfect venue for PCAPP employees to receive the best possible training to ensure their own safety and that of the community and the environment.

A Specialized Facility

The PCAPP Training Facility was renovated to meet the specific requirements for rigorous chemical weapons destruction training. Several areas of the training facility provide environments similar to those in which staff work. For example, one classroom was designed to allow workers to engage with the Honeywell Control System used by operators to monitor PCAPP operations. Operators trained on this equipment practice start-up, shut down, as well as how to respond to emergency or unexpected conditions. The facility also includes first-of-a-kind equipment that is employed at PCAPP. Simulated munitions are used for maintenance training on the Projectile/Mortar Disassembly system, the Munitions Washout System’s Cavity Access Machine and Lift Assists. Static displays of the Munitions Monitoring Equipment and Parts Monitoring Equipment are also available to aid in training exercises.

Demilitarization Protective Ensemble (DPE) training is a key course provided by the facility. Many site workers need to be prepared to perform tasks wearing DPE, an encapsulated air-supplied chemical protective suit operating at positive pressure. As vision and mobility are restricted when wearing DPE, trainees practice on the facility’s staircase and mezzanine to learn how to manage air hoses. Additionally, three airlock rooms allow trainees wearing DPE to master the complexities of entering and exiting the rooms.

Maintenance workers and munitions handlers are trained to enter potentially contaminated areas. The training simulation includes workers donning cotton gear along with medical staff practicing screening and monitoring.

More than 120 courses are offered at the training facility to prepare workers for the unique roles they will encounter in the chemical weapons destruction process. Training courses such as CPR, first aid and fall protection ensure every worker is prepared and ready to deal with emergency and safety situations anticipated at the main plant.

Interested stakeholders and job seekers may visit the PCAPP career opportunities at https://pueblo.bechtel.com.

The Demilitarization Protective Ensemble, or DPE, is a heat-sealed one-time-use suit. The airtight suit provides the highest level of protection against chemical agent exposure.