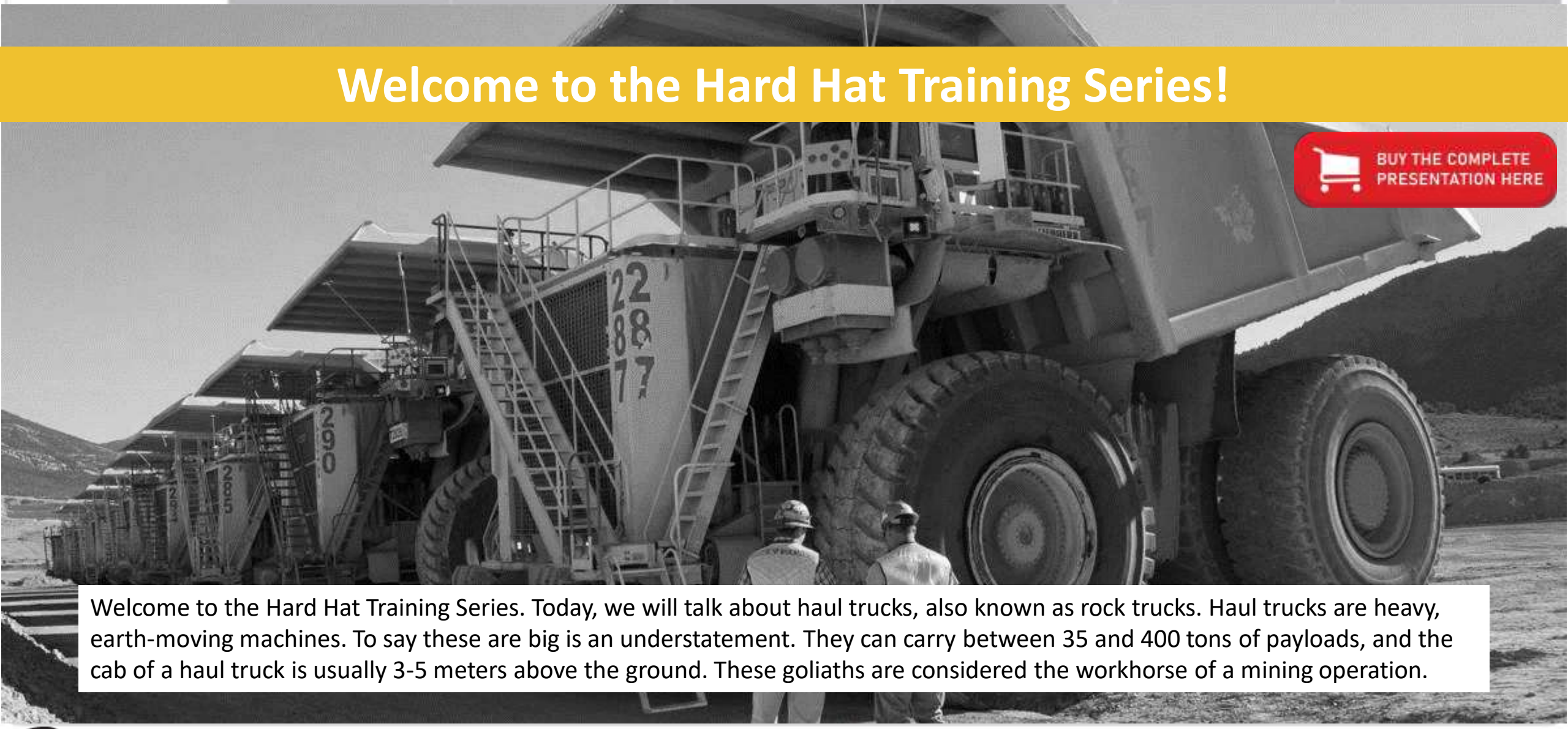
Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series!



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Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series. Today, we will talk about haul trucks, also known as rock trucks. Haul trucks are heavy, earth-moving machines. To say these are big is an understatement. They can carry between 35 and 400 tons of payloads, and the cab of a haul truck is usually 3-5 meters above the ground. These goliaths are considered the workhorse of a mining operation.

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However, the bigger the machine, the greater the potential for accidents and the greater the need for responsible operators. With that in mind, the goal today is to focus on general safety principles and provide information that will increase your knowledge, make you a better operator, and keep you and those around you safe.

Did You Know?

Can't imagine what 400 tons of payload would look like? A blue whale, the world's largest mammal, weighs about 200 tons.

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A True Story

Jeff usually worked as a water truck driver on a construction site. One particularly wet day, his supervisor asked him to pinch-hit as a haul truck operator. The site hadn't been cleared properly, and the crew had to finish it off themselves before starting their intended duties for the day.

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The dumping point for the material was only a quarter of a mile away, so even though Jeff didn't have much experience operating a haul truck, he decided to help. The crew was using two haul trucks, and a grader was on hand to keep the roads passable.

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While Jeff readied his truck, the other haul truck operator notified the supervisor that the road was particularly slick in one area, due to the wet conditions. The grader was dispatched to scrape the muddy road so the haul trucks would have the traction they needed. Several minutes after the grader departed, the supervisor gave Jeff the go-ahead to proceed to the dump point with his load of material.

Image from PBS

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What Jeff didn't expect was to meet the grader when he was about halfway to the dump point ; the road was clearly marked as one-way. Jeff pulled his truck to the right, hoping to give the grader room to pass.

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The soft shoulder of the road crumbled beneath the weight of the haul truck, and the vehicle's front tire slipped over the edge of the embankment. The truck rolled twice and landed on its cab. His coworkers pulled Jeff out of the wreckage and performed CPR while they waited for an ambulance to arrive.

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Unfortunately, Jeff was declared dead by paramedics on the scene. Investigators later found he hadn't been wearing his seat belt, which led to the skull fracture that took his life. They also found the mirrors on the haul truck hadn't been properly adjusted; Jeff likely didn't see the edge of the haulage road and lost track of where the edge of his tire was in relation to the edge of the road.

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Unfortunately, Jeff's story is not unique. About half of all mining fatalities in the United States are due to powered haulage, including haul trucks. Last year alone, 13 workers were killed by haulage machinery.

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During this presentation, we will look at the functionality and components of a haul truck. We'll also show you why it's important to conduct a thorough pre-shift inspection before using the equipment.

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We will discuss several components of safely operating a haul truck, including how to safely load, haul, and dump the machine; road rules while working on site; visibility, and worksite conditions. We will also go over what kind of PPE should be worn while operating a haul truck. And finally, we will touch on some of the more common hazards associated with haul trucks and discuss how to recognize, avoid, or minimize them.

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STANDARDS

29 CFR 1926.600 – Equipment

29 CFR 1926.601 – Motor Vehicles

29 CFR 1926.602 – Material Handling

29 CFR 1926.604 – Site Clearing

29 CFR 1926.28 – PPE

These are some of the main standards concerning haul truck and general construction operations. Many areas have additional standards, as do some industries. It is your responsibility to know all federal, state, provincial, local, and company rules that apply to your machine and jobsite.

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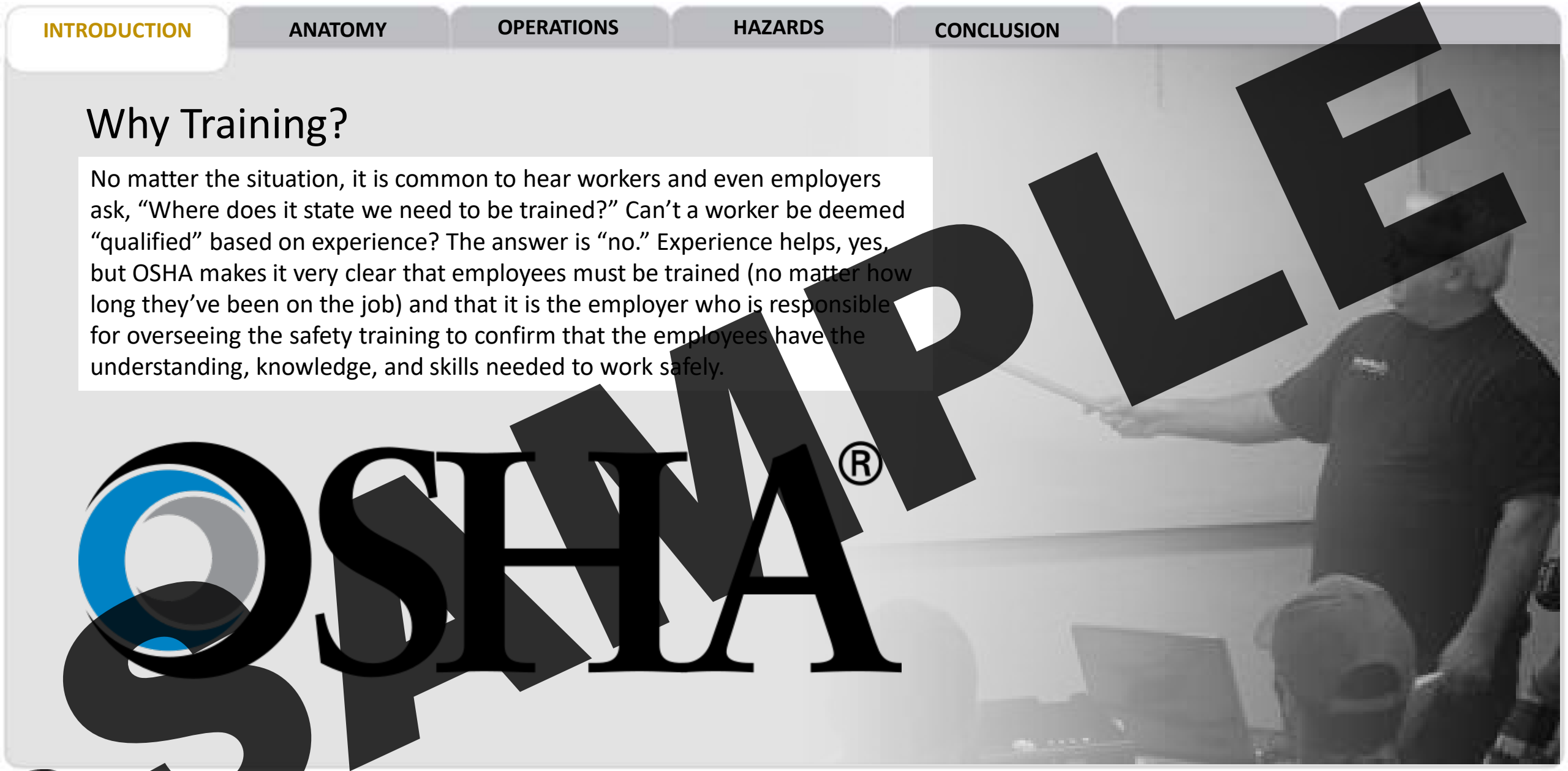
Why Training?

No matter the situation, it is common to hear workers and even employers ask, “Where does it state we need to be trained?” Can’t a worker be deemed “qualified” based on experience? The answer is “no.” Experience helps, yes, but OSHA makes it very clear that employees must be trained (no matter how long they’ve been on the job) and that it is the employer who is responsible for overseeing the safety training to confirm that the employees have the understanding, knowledge, and skills needed to work safely.



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Initial training and refresher training, as well as any written and practical evaluations, must be documented and filed. At the very least, in the case of an investigation, OSHA will want to see proof of proper and consistent training (in the way of training outlines, class lists, training goals, tests, certificates, and so on.) These documents should include the name of the person who taught the class or conducted the evaluation.

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Workers are required to receive refresher training when...

1. There are changes in their assigned duties.
2. There are changes regarding potential exposure to hazards for which the employees have not received training.
3. There is any deficiency noted in an employee's work performance that is related to the safety and health of themselves or other workers.
4. If an accident or anytime an employee is injured or nearly injured during operations.

NOTE: In some areas, refresher training is required at least every three years (if not sooner).

Training is not just a one-and-done occurrence; it is on-going. In fact, similar to the guidelines set down for when initial training is required, OSHA is also specific when it comes to "refresher training." More specifically, OSHA acknowledges the need for "refresher" or "follow up" training whenever there is a demonstrated need for it, as illustrated here.

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The extent of training will be determined by the employer. However, it should at least include classroom instruction followed by a written and practical examination that prove continued competency.

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Anatomy & Inspection

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