



The Greater Cincinnati Occupational Health Center
"Protecting workers and their communities"

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LOCAL SAFETY GROUPS UNITE TO PROVIDE FREE FLOOD CLEAN-UP SAFETY CLASSES

Sign Up Now For Free Classes on Flood Clean-Up Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Cincinnati, Ohio - February 27, 2018 - Flood cleanup can be very dangerous, so several local safety groups including *The Greater Cincinnati Occupational Health Center* will be leading the workshops, with support from the *Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center (CIWC)*, *Center for Worker Health and Safety Education*, and the *Cincinnati AFL-CIO Central Labor Council* have united to provide free safety classes.

Many Cincinnati neighborhoods are under water, and the water is still rising in some areas. Community members are advised that it will take one week for floodwaters to recede enough for cleanup. Most know that the cleanup will be costly, but many people are not aware that flood clean up puts your safety & health at risk. Knowing how to safely engage in flood cleanup is essential. The Greater Cincinnati Occupational Health Center (GCOHC) will be leading local and national partners in providing free flood clean-up safety workshops to all. Participants will receive an overview of the safety issues and some key hazard prevention tips.

According to Lonnie Jones II, lead GCOHC trainer, "residents and the community will be exposed to biological, safety, and chemical hazards that are unique to flood damaged areas. These exposures are there, whether you are a construction worker hired for a cleanup job, or you are performing the cleanup yourself at home or in the workplace. Hazards don't discriminate. These workshops will help protect you, your family, and your co-workers from the dangers posed by flood clean up."

Topics include Post-Flooding Mold Growth and Health Effects of Mold; Clean-Up Techniques and Protective Measures; Building Assessment of Mold Hazards; Respirators and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Flood Booklets from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (in Spanish or English) are given to all participants. Introductory classes are offered for all. All workshops are free and open to the public. They can be customized according to need, and in both English and Spanish.

The Greater Cincinnati Occupational Health Center will be leading the workshops, with support from the Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center, ICWU(C) Center for Worker Health and Safety Education, and the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Central Labor Council.



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Together these organizations have trained thousands on the health and safety issues presented by floods and other disasters, including recent workshops in Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico.

The first workshop are at the Peaslee Neighborhood Center, 215 E 14th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202 on Saturday, March 3 at 10:00am and then again on Friday, March 9 at 5:30pm. Call to RSVP at [513-621-5991](tel:513-621-5991). Online registrations available at:

- **March 3rd:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/flood-safety-now-flood-clean-up-safety-training-tickets-43617870224>
- **March 9th:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/flood-safety-now-flood-clean-up-safety-training-tickets-43618041737>

Future workshops will be posted on social media. Workshops involving 20 or more trainees can be scheduled in your community.

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About GCOHC – The Greater Cincinnati Occupational Health Center (GCOHC) is a training center that specializes in emergency response and hazardous worker operations. As a member of the "Midwest Consortium Hazardous Waste Worker Training," GCOHC is one of the first *labor-sponsored* occupational health clinics in the nation. Celebrating thirty-five years of service to industry and workers throughout the state of Ohio, GCOHC provides a comprehensive training program in emergency response and hazardous waste operations. Its expansive curriculum of occupational and health safety courses is carefully monitored by the Board of Directors, comprised of representatives recognized nationally and internationally in emergency response, hazardous waste operations, and other environmental fields. For further information or to contact the GCOHC, email us at info@GCOHC.com

About the CIWC - The Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center (CIWC) mobilizes, educates and organizes low wage and immigrant workers to achieve positive systemic change. These efforts are designed to give low-income workers from all walks of life the opportunity to creatively challenge the power relationships with their employers. The goal is to provide community members the tools and support they need to transform their workplaces and communities as a whole. Our members pursue this mission through a Worker Justice committee and an Immigrant Dignity Coalition.

About the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council - One of over 500 state and local labor councils of the AFL-CIO, the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council is at the heart of the labor movement. We are democratically elected bodies dedicated to representing the interests of working people at the state and local level. We mobilize our members and community partners to advocate for social and economic justice and we strive daily to vanquish oppression and make our communities better for all people—regardless of race, color, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or ethnic or national origin. For information of the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council, call 513.421.1846 or email BGriffin@cincinnatiaflcio.org.