BTMED news

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Hanford Workforce Engagement Center helps DOE workers navigate benefits

Current and former Hanford workers have a new place to go for answers about their health concerns and potential benefits. The Hanford Workforce Engagement Center (HWEC) opened in spring of 2018 and is staffed by former Hanford workers who are trained in helping other workers understand the benefits available to them.

Above: Leaders from Congress, DOE, Labor, and the Hanford community mark the grand opening of the HWEC. (Photo courtesy of DOE.)

HWEC educates workers on how to access free medical screening programs such as BTMed, or compensation programs such as the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICPA) and Washington state worker's compensation.

"HWEC has been very helpful in promoting BTMed, and the response from the Hanford worker community has been tremendous," said Sherry Gosseen, BTMed's outreach coordinator for the Hanford area. "Their staff's knowledge is out of this world."

HWEC is a collaborative partnership between the Department of Energy, Hanford site contractors, the Hanford Area Atomic Trades Council, and the Central Washington Building & Construction Trades Council.

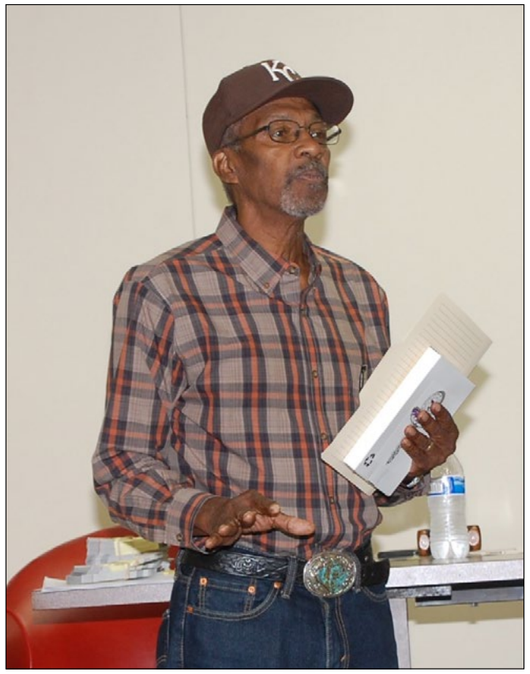
HANFORD WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT CENTER

309 Bradley Blvd., Suite 120
Richland, WA 99352

Monday-Friday 6 am - 4:30 pm

Walk-ins are welcome, or make an appointment by calling 509-376-4932.

Walter Smith retires, BTMed welcomes Vicki Tarpley as new Kansas City Outreach Coordinator

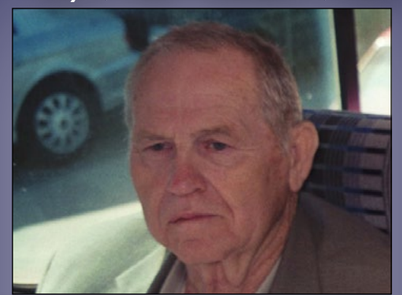


BTMed said goodbye to Walter Smith (pictured on the left), who performed outreach to former DOE construction workers in the Kansas City area. Walter is retiring after 11 years of service to BTMed.

Vicki Tarpley, pictured with Walter below, will be taking over outreach duties. “I feel so fortunate to be the one to further the advocacy of BTMed that Walter has been so dedicated to,” she said. Vicki has years of experience in the union-affiliated publishing world, including working as the Advertising Director for the Labor Beacon Newspaper. “As a mother of a fourth generation UA Local 8 Plumber, it’s very personal to my family to make sure our construction workers understand the importance of being pro-active with their health.”

Walter was recently honored at a Kansas City BCTC meeting for his dedication to BTMed and training within the Roofers union. He was presented with a plaque thanking him for his service, and a letter from Sean McGarvey, President of North America’s Building Trades Unions.

Gordon Rowe
July 6, 1933 - October 9, 2018



Gordon Rowe (IBEW Local 1579), a beloved member of the BTMed family, passed away on October 9th. Gordon worked as an electrician at the Savannah River Site and Portsmouth Plant for 16 years before joining BTMed to do outreach in the Augusta area. He worked with BTMed for 18 years, helping countless workers access free medical screenings. He will be sorely missed.

BTMed now offers CT Scans in the Denver Area

If you live in the Denver area and are enrolled in BTMed, it may now be easier for you to access a CT scan. BTMed’s Early Lung Cancer Detection Program (ELCD) is available to workers who are at the highest risk for developing lung cancer.

In addition to the new CT scan location at National Jewish Health in Denver (CO), BTMed also has scanning locations in Augusta (GA), Cincinnati (OH), Oak Ridge (TN), Richland (WA), Seattle (WA), Paducah (KY), and Portsmouth (OH).

BTMed nurse Kim Cranford RN and outreach interviewer Maria Adams wait with Ronald Leikam, IBEW Local 68, before his CT Scan.

BTMed discovers COPD in Hanford Painter after multiple screenings

If you’ve had a screening with BTMed and are putting off getting a re-screen, keep in mind that many illnesses have delayed effects and may not show up on your first exam. For those who qualify for BTMed’s Early Lung Cancer Detection Program, a CT Scan is available every year in addition to the normal BTMed screenings that are available every three years.

Take Brent Cruthers, for example. Brent worked at DOE’s Hanford site as a member of IUPAT Local 427, and was at the site during its “cleanup mode” after its primary mission was done. Hanford has some of the most contaminated areas in North America, including the Tank Farms, where radioactive waste has spent years in aging underground containers.

Workers at the Hanford Tank Farms (photo courtesy of DOE).

“Not only was it construction work but you had radiation to deal with,” he said, describing the hazards of his job, which included removing contaminated paint and helping install pipe in the Tank Farms.

Despite getting screened by BTMed in the early 2000’s, Brent only discovered that he had COPD after a BTMed CT Scan in 2013. Without being diligently involved in the screening program, Brent may have missed out on the diagnosis while his condition may have worsened.

As advice to other workers thinking about the program, he said “BTMed is a good deal as far as I’m concerned.”

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Medical Screening Program
c/o CPWR - The Center for Construction
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HAS IT BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE YOUR LAST BTMED SCREENING?

If your last BTMed screening was before November 2015, call 1-800-866-9663 ext. 2, or email btmed@zenith-american.com today to schedule your free re-screen exam!

"Keep up the good work - This program helps many people - Thanks again for all help that you give the workers."

-Timothy Glenn, Pipefitters Local 392
Former Fernald worker
BTMed Participant

IF YOU SIGNED UP FOR BTMED BUT NEVER SCHEDULED A SCREENING, DO SO NOW!

BTMed relies on limited funding, so take advantage of it while you can. Call 1-800-866-9663 to schedule your free medical screening.