

Opportunity for Free 3-Day, In-Person Cybersecurity Training: U.S. Department of Energy Cybersecurity Training for the Utility Workforce

Key Highlights

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is offering free cybersecurity training specifically for electric utility staff with the goal of “...strengthening the security posture of electric utilities.”

- These training events are open to technical practitioners from all electric utilities, including electric cooperative, public power, investor-owned, and tribal utilities.
- **Registration for these training events is free.** Participants are responsible for their own travel, lodging, and meal costs.
- The training is offered by the DOE Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) in partnership with the Idaho National Laboratory (INL).
- Six training events are scheduled to take place at locations around the country. **The training material will be the same at each event.** The focus of the training is on cybersecurity across industrial control systems (ICS) and operational technology (OT), information technology (IT) and grid operations.
- Registration for the first three events, happening October through November 2023, is open now at: <https://www.eventleaf.com/c/CybersecurityTrainingUtilityWorkforce>. Registration for the remaining three sessions, occurring in 2024, will open soon.

Overview

The U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) in partnership with Idaho National Laboratory (INL) is offering free 3-day, in-person cybersecurity for the utility workforce. The aim is to strengthen the security posture of electric utilities.

This training is offered as part of DOE’s Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance (RMUC) Program,¹ funded under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

¹ <https://www.energy.gov/ceser/rural-and-municipal-utility-advanced-cybersecurity-grant-and-technical-assistance-rmuc>

Details

The training offers a combination of lecture and hands-on exercises for technical practitioners, with a focus on cybersecurity across industrial control systems (ICS) and operational technology (OT), information technology (IT) and grid operations. All trainings cover the same information, and the agenda is available via the location's registration link.² Snapshot of the agenda is included at the end of this Advisory in the Appendix.

Similar to NRECA's RC3 Program course offerings a few years ago, this is an exceptional opportunity for free, high-quality cybersecurity training, to increase your cooperative's cybersecurity posture.

Locations and Dates		
Tuesday – Thursday	October 31 – November 2, 2023	Columbus, OH
Tuesday – Thursday	November 28-30, 2023	Orlando, FL
Tuesday – Thursday	December 5-7, 2023	Kansas City, MO
Wednesday – Friday	January 17-19, 2024	San Diego, CA
Tuesday – Thursday	January 23-25, 2024	Dallas, TX
Tuesday – Thursday	April 23-25, 2024	Buffalo, NY

Logistic information for each location is provided through the registration link as well; discounts on hotel and parking, etc. are noted by location.

Registration and information:

- Website: <https://www.eventleaf.com/c/CybersecurityTrainingUtilityWorkforce>
- Contact: U.S. Department of Energy, CESER: CESER.RMUC@hq.doe.gov

Contact for Questions

Ryan Newlon
Principal, Cybersecurity Solution
NRECA Cybersecurity Team
RC3@nreca.coop

² <https://www.eventleaf.com/Attendee/Attendee/EventPage?eld=Fh92gMSBmEB3GDhle9ngkg%3D%3D>

Appendix: Snapshot of the DOE Cybersecurity Training Agenda

Day 1

DOE CyberStrike (Full Day)

Participants are guided through hands-on exercises to gain an understanding of the methodology cyber adversaries use to target operational processes for remote attack.

OR

ICS Foundations (Full Day)

This course serves the purpose of introducing people into the field of industrial control systems (ICS) / operational technology (OT) and the cybersecurity considerations unique to securing these environments.

**DOE Suggested Schedule
by Utility Role:
DAY 1**

ICS Practitioners and
Utility Leadership:

- DOE CyberStrike

New to ICS and
Cybersecurity
Professionals:

- ICS Foundations

Day 2 Morning

CHOOSE 1 Morning Session:

CTI in times of conflict

Learn about major threat trends observed during the past year and specifically related to the Ukraine/Russia conflict.

Defending Against State Sponsored Attacks

This lab-heavy workshop provides four approaches to foil attackers in a repeatable and verifiable way. Participants will learn how to rapidly harden systems in a low risk, evidence-based approach.

ICS Security for Leaders and Managers

The session empowers leaders and managers responsible for securing critical infrastructure, and operational technology / industrial control system OT/ICS environments.

OSINT-Practical Open-Source Intelligence Techniques For Defense

The talk will cover key OSINT skills that analysts can use to improve their situational awareness and insights and will cover OPSEC considerations, Image Analysis, working with large datasets and Dark Web investigation.

OR

DOE CyberStrike (Full Day)

Participants are guided through hands-on exercises to gain an understanding of the methodology cyber adversaries use to target operational processes for remote attack.

Day 2 Afternoon

CHOOSE 1 Afternoon Session:

CTI in times of conflict

Learn about major threat trends observed during the past year and specifically related to the Ukraine/Russia conflict.

Defending Against State Sponsored Attacks

This lab-heavy workshop provides four approaches to foil attackers in a repeatable and verifiable way. Participants will learn how to rapidly harden systems in a low risk, evidence-based approach.

ICS Security for Leaders and Managers

The session empowers leaders and managers responsible for securing critical infrastructure, and operational technology / industrial control system OT/ICS environments.

OSINT-Practical Open-Source Intelligence Techniques For Defense

The talk will cover key OSINT skills that analysts can use to improve their situational awareness and insights and will cover OPSEC considerations, Image Analysis, working with large datasets and Dark Web investigation.

DOE Suggested Schedule by Utility Role: DAY 2

New to ICS: DOE Cyberstrike

ICS Practitioners: Pick 2 Half-Day Workshops Aligned with Job Role

Cybersecurity Professionals: Pick 2 Half-Day Workshops Aligned with Job Role

Utility Leadership: OSINT & ICS Leadership Half-Day Workshops

Day 3

Red Team / Blue Team Challenge Competition

Participants will work through a series of interactive learning scenarios that enable Operational Technology security professionals to develop and master the real-world, in-depth skills they need to defend real-time systems. It is designed as a challenge competition and is split into separate levels so that advanced players may quickly move through earlier levels based on their expertise. The Grid Netwars experience has been themed for the electricity industry and the scenario has been coordinated to align with industry exercise events.

DOE Suggested Schedule by Utility Role: DAY 3

New to ICS:
Team Up & Learn / Share
Hands-On Challenges

ICS Practitioners:
Test Your Skills & Play as
Individual Against Peers

Cybersecurity
Professionals:
Team Up & Learn / Share
Hands-On Challenges

Utility Leadership:
Team Up & Learn / Share
Hands-On Challenges