



EM-Assist Earns Aurora Award for eLearning Courseware Excellence

SALT LAKE CITY, UT – March 27, 2009 – EM-Assist, Inc., a leading provider of environmental services and training solutions to government clients, earned an Aurora Award for eLearning courseware excellence in connection with a Web-based training course developed, in partnership with NES, for the Department of Justice. The Aurora Awards are an international competition designed to recognize excellence in courseware that captivates and educates audiences through the creative display of educational materials. The course, *Officer Safety Training for Methamphetamine Labs*, is targeted to first responder law enforcement officers nationwide and provides safety training for officers encountering clandestine methamphetamine drug labs.

The Department of Justice required engaging training to teach evaluation and decision skills to law enforcement personnel to reduce exposures and injuries on methamphetamine related calls. In response, EM-Assist collaborated with subject matter experts to develop a course using characters, dramatic situations, and high-impact graphics. EM-Assist's course employs illustrations, video, photographs, interactive quizzes, and discovery exercises to keep learners engaged while teaching officers how to recognize clandestine methamphetamine drug labs based on smells, visual clues, and suspicious behavior. It also covers personal protection and safety concerns such as how to deal safely with potentially violent drug abusers. Learners are brought into the storyline narration by a comic book-like character, Detective Venture, who presents the information. Detective Venture's watch radio and notebook are used as navigation elements, and illustrations and video are designed to enhance the "real life" nature of the course.

"This project was novel both in its instructional approach and in how we executed. We were very deliberate in our use of a creative process while designing this course. We saturated ourselves in the training content, and involved everyone – subject matter experts, multi-media artists, programmers, and instructional designers – in brainstorming possibilities and identifying the best options," said EM-Assist Training Solutions Project Manager Mark Grosser. "One element I particularly like about this course is that it surprises the learner. Learners come to the course expecting standard safety training, and instead enter a world of animated art and film-noir characters engaged in solving a crime. The learner eventually assumes a role in the storyline by identifying hazards and choosing appropriate responses. The storyline uses surprise to engage the audience and ultimately focus attention on the health and safety risks associated with clandestine methamphetamine drug labs."

ABOUT EM-ASSIST

EM-Assist, Inc. is government's trusted partner for environmental program management, technical support, and training solutions. The company helps clients cost-effectively address their most challenging environmental compliance, information management, conservation and planning, and restoration needs. EM-Assist also helps clients deliver the right training to the right people at the right time by blending custom eLearning courseware with instructor-led training, and by providing efficient training program administration through powerful, easy-to-use learning management systems. EM-Assist, founded in 1996, is headquartered in Folsom, CA and has 120 professionals in multiple offices throughout California, Utah, and Colorado. Additional information can be found on the company's Website located at www.EM-Assist.com.



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ABOUT NES

NES is a nationally recognized leader in health, safety, and environmental consulting and training. The company provides industrial hygiene consulting services involving indoor air quality, water damage and mold, asbestos, occupational exposure to known or potential hazards, OSHA compliance, and other occupational safety and health concerns. NES delivers environmental compliance expertise on issues including water quality, air quality, and waste management. Additional information can be found on the company's Website located at www.NESGlobal.net.

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