

# Superfund Job Training Initiative



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT THE FAIRFAX STREET WOOD TREATERS SUPERFUND SITE



### Introduction

The Fairfax Street Wood Treaters Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI) is an environmental remediation job readiness program that provided career development opportunities for 13 trainees living near the Fairfax Street Wood Treaters Superfund site in Jacksonville, Florida.

Through a partnership between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), local partner Northwest Jacksonville Community Development Corporation, and remedial site contractors Black & Veatch and ENACT, Fairfax Street Wood Treaters SuperJTI provided local job seekers with new skills, certifications and hands-on training linked to construction and cleanup.

EPA's goal is to help identify employment opportunities available for affected communities during the cleanup and redevelopment process, and to provide the workforce development skills needed to take advantage of those opportunities.



A wood-treatment facility operated at the Fairfax Street Wood Treaters site from 1980 to 2010. (Map Sources: Esri, DeLorme, AND, Tele Atlas, First American, UNEP-WCMC, USGS and 2019 Remedial Action Fact Sheet.)

## Outreach, Recruitment and Screening: January – February 2019

Fairfax Street Wood Treaters SuperJTI and EPA Region 4 staff reached out to the Jacksonville community by posting flyers and advertising on area radio stations and in local newspapers. Local partner Northwest Jacksonville Community Development Corporation posted information on social media, attended community meetings and discussed the program at local events to help publicize the program and attract interested candidates.

SuperJTI staff hosted information sessions about the program in Jacksonville in January and February 2019. Over 75 people attended the program's 16 information sessions and 61 people completed a preliminary testing process. Following these sessions, 28 people returned and submitted required documents. Twenty-two people participated in program tryouts. The tryouts included leadership, team building and role-playing activities, a physical fitness evaluation, and observation by a team of evaluators from the program's partners. All 13 of the trainees selected during tryouts went on to complete the program.

## Training and Job Placement: February – March 2019

The 2.5-week Fairfax Street Wood Treaters SuperJTI training program took place in Jacksonville. Safety America, a local business, provided the HAZWOPER, OSHA- 10 and CPR/ First Aid trainings. It included:

**Work Readiness Training:** Trainees completed courses in environmental justice, interpersonal communication, building cultural competence and effective work habits. EPA contractor Skeo provided the training.

**40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) Training:** Trainees earned their HAZWOPER certification and learned about cleanup and safety topics such as environmental legislation and standards, toxicology, hazardous material site/spill control containment, and decontamination and isolation. Trainees participated in hands-on training scenarios using equipment and gear.

**OSHA 10-hour Construction Safety and Health:** Trainees earned their OSHA-10 certification and learned about topics such as hazard communication, personal protective equipment, electrical safety and excavation process safety management.

**CPR/First Aid:** Trainees earned their CPR/First Aid certification and learned about topics such as soft tissue



## Site Background

The Fairfax Street Wood Treaters site was once home to a wood treatment facility that operated in Jacksonville, Florida, from 1980 to 2010. The site covers 12 acres. It is located in a residential area next to two elementary schools, a private school and homes.

Wood treatment operations on site resulted in soil, water and sediment contamination with chromium, copper and arsenic. EPA led short-term cleanups in 2010 and 2011, removing contaminated soil, water and sediment from the Susie E. Tolbert Elementary School property. Cleanup also included water treatment and disposal, cleaning and removal of chemical storage tanks, and residential soil removal.

EPA listed the site on the Superfund program's National Priorities List in 2012. EPA completed final cleanup activities addressing soil and sediment contamination in 2019. In total, 51 homes were remediated. These efforts included removal of 60,000 tons of contaminated soil and 300,000 gallons of contaminated water.

injuries, burns, shock, rescue breaths, methods to stop bleeding, bloodborne pathogens, poisoning, CPR, and injuries to muscles, bones and joints.

Upon completion of the program, SuperJTI provided the graduates' information to site remedial contractors Black & Veatch and ENTACT to assist with their job placement efforts. ENTACT hired eight trainees to work on site cleanup efforts. Through SuperJTI, trainees are provided with the marketable skills needed to begin a successful career in environmental remediation and become valuable members of the workforce in their community.

## GRADUATE PROFILES



### Dajah Jones-Robinson

Dajah Jones-Robinson was looking for change when she received a SuperJTI flyer from the Jacksonville Urban League. Interested in learning more, Dajah attended an information session and decided to apply for the program. Once accepted, Dajah found the work readiness part of the training to be especially valuable. At the end of the program, Dajah joined site remedial contractor ENTACT, working as a general laborer cleaning up the site. Dajah says she felt accomplished, full of knowledge and “awakened” to the environmental struggles in her area. “I felt like I got to know my neighborhood a little bit more,” she said. “I got to be a part of the cleanup all the way to the end—that was a very good feeling.” Since completing SuperJTI, Dajah has earned four additional certifications to further her career in the remediation field. Her next goal is to earn certifications in project management. Since graduating from SuperJTI, Dajah feels that her quality of life has increased. “I was trying to make ends meet at first. When I got this job, I saw how many opportunities there were to have a better, more comfortable life and it motivated me to do better,” she reflected. “Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this program. It has changed my life in more ways than you can imagine.”



### Frenchy Bryant

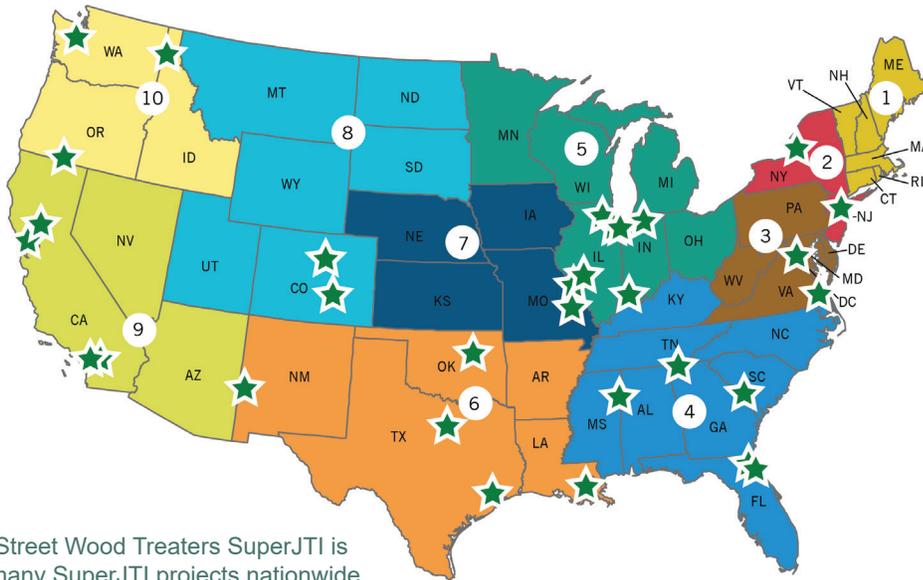
Frenchy Bryant had recently moved back to Jacksonville when she attended a meeting hosted by project partner Northwest Jacksonville Community Development Corporation and found out about SuperJTI. She decided to apply for the program and was happy to be selected to join. During the program, Frenchy enjoyed the bond she felt with the other trainees. Afterwards, Frenchy was placed into a position working on site as a general laborer with remedial contractor ENTACT. Frenchy then transitioned to office work, where her responsibilities have included management of payroll, human resources and insurance. As a local resident who drives past the site every day, Frenchy is glad that the cleanup is complete. “It is nice to not have to see the Fairfax Street Wood Treaters building there anymore because it was such an eyesore and had been for many years,” she said. “It is very nice to see that it has been cleaned up and the people in the community feel a bit safer.”



### FAIRFAX STREET WOOD TREATERS SUPERJTI TRAINEES:

*Live on or near the Fairfax Street Wood Treaters site:* One hundred percent of the trainees (13 people) live in Jacksonville.

Graduation for the program’s 13 trainees took place at Jacksonville Public Library in March 2019. EPA Region 4 Superfund Remedial Project Manager Leigh Lattimore and SuperJTI National Program Manager Devon Martin attended and spoke at the ceremony. The ceremony included remarks from program partners as well as the graduates.



Fairfax Street Wood Treaters SuperJTI is one of many SuperJTI projects nationwide that are making a difference for citizens living in communities affected by Superfund sites.

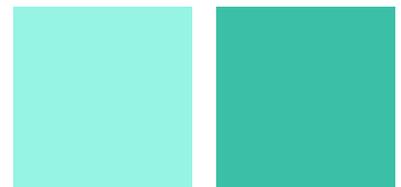


# What is the SuperJTI Program?



The Superfund Job Training Initiative, or SuperJTI, supports job readiness programs in communities affected by nearby Superfund sites and encourages the employment of trainees at local site cleanups.

The SuperJTI program combines extensive classroom instruction with hands-on exercises for each participant. Upon completion of the program, each participant possesses the marketable skills required to become a valuable member of the community's workforce.



EPA offers SuperJTI training at no cost to training participants.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:**  
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-job-training-initiative>

Or contact SuperJTI's National Program Manager:

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