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EPA Region 8 Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

Volume XIII No. 1 First Quarter 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the EPA Region 8 Preparedness Newsletter.
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Increase of Mercury Spill Reporting in Region 8

Recently, there has been an increasing number of mercury spills reported to EPA. Regardless of the spill occurring in a private home or public location, these spills can create public health issues and the cleanups can be costly. In fact, EPA cleanup costs can run into hundreds of thousands of dollars for a single event!

Why are mercury cleanups so expensive? Mercury cleanups are very labor intensive. Anyone who has potentially had contact with mercury needs to have themselves and their possessions decontaminated. If the mercury spill occurs in a residence, furniture and carpeting must be removed and most clothing will need to be disposed.

Mercury spill cleanups can hopefully be mitigated with a few helpful tips.



- Educate your community on the dangers of mercury. The inhalation of mercury vapor can produce harmful effects on the nervous, digestive, immune systems, the lungs and kidneys, and may be fatal.
- Encourage elimination of the use of mercury in schools.
- Promote proper management and disposal of mercury and mercury containing products (including old mercury thermometer collection programs).
- Prevent mercury spills.

EPA also has resources on [mercury cleanups at schools](#) and ASTDR also has posted a series of [Don't Mess with Mercury](#) videos that may be helpful resources in educating students and school staff. If you have further questions, you can visit EPA's mercury website at: <https://www.epa.gov/mercury>.

You may also contact our 24-hour On-Scene Coordinator at 303-293-1788.



EPA 2023 Western Regions Conference

EPA Regions 8, 9, and 10 partnered together to host virtual version of our annual Western Regions State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs) and Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (TERCs) meeting on January 26th and 27th, 2023. This annual meeting provides an opportunity for SERC and TERC members to share ideas and problem solve with their peers and federal partners.

Approximately 90 persons were in attendance representing states from all three regions. EPA headquarters staff and other federal agency representatives included the PHMSA, CISA, OSHA, FEMA, NOAA and the National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials also participated.

Agenda highlights included updates from our states and federal partners, discussion on upcoming EPA regulations that are currently under development including the Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention and Clean Water Act Hazardous Substance Worst Case Discharge Planning Regulations. There was also a panel discussion on lithium-ion battery storage facilities and transportation.

For more information, you can access the [Western Regions website](#) for conference details. The 2024 Western Regions conference is scheduled for January 24th-25th in Clark County, Nevada.

CSB Safety Alert

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) issued a new [Safety Alert titled “Hazards Posed by Discharges from Emergency Pressure-Relief Systems.”](#) The CSB’s alert highlights hazards identified with emergency pressure-relief systems from four CSB investigations. The alert advises facilities that while a discharge from emergency pressure-relief systems can help protect equipment from unexpected and undesired high-pressure events, it can also seriously harm or fatally injure workers and cause extensive damage to a facility if the discharge is not made to a safe location.

Using findings from these four incidents the CSB’s safety alert issues three key lessons for facilities.

- Follow existing good practice guidance.
- Evaluate whether the atmosphere is the appropriate discharge location or if there are safer alternatives.
- Ensure hazardous chemicals vented into the atmosphere discharge to a safe location.

The alert also calls on companies to evaluate and, when appropriate, update their emergency pressure relief systems to prevent future incidents and protect workers and surrounding communities from harm.

WISER Discontinuation

The National Institute of Health (NIH) National Library of Medicine (NLM) has discontinued the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER) as of February 28th, 2023.

NLM will no longer be supporting WebWISER or any of the applications. The following is a list of resources available to meet any need gaps that are being created due to this discontinuation:

Other sources of Hazmat or Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) information are available with the following resources:

CAMEO Chemicals - NOAA/EPA

CHEMM (Chemical Hazards Emergency Medical Management) - HHS ASPR

REMM (Radiation Emergency Medical Management) - HHS ASPR

ERG2020 (Emergency Response Guidebook) - USDOT/PHMSA [search for ERG2020 in the App Stores]

NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards - CDC/NIOSH [search for NIOSH Mobile Pocket Guide in the App Stores]

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) website - CDC/ATSDR

DHS's Hazardous Materials Release website - DHS

PubChem - NIH/NLM

The National Library of Medicine Data Distribution (data files for HSDB, ChemIDplus, etc.) - NIH/NLM

Tribal Training Opportunities

For our tribal partners, there are some upcoming training opportunities EPA headquarters is offering.

Tribal Oil Spill Prevention and Chemical Emergency Preparedness Webinars

- *Tank Talk: Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Overview Webinar for Tribal Partners*

This 4-hour session discusses the oil program, regulatory requirements, inspections and federal oil spill requirements.

- *Overview of Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure and Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) Software Suite Webinar for Tribal Partners*

This 90 minute session will provide an overview of SPCC and the use of CAMEO for preparing and responding to chemical and oil spills.

For registration information and webinar slides from previous offerings, consult the [Tribal Oil Spill and Chemical Emergency Preparedness](#) page for more information.

CAMEO Training Opportunities

Introduction to CAMEO Chemicals, May 23, 2023, 10:30am-12pm ET

[CAMEO Chemicals](#) is the hazardous chemical database for the [CAMEO® software suite](#), which is used widely to plan for and respond to chemical emergencies. CAMEO Chemicals also has a tool to predict possible hazards if chemicals are mixed together. With CAMEO Chemicals, you can search through the extensive chemical database to find chemical datasheets with critical response information, including physical properties, health hazards, information about air and water hazards, and recommendations for firefighting, first aid, and spill response. CAMEO Chemicals is available as a [website](#), [mobile website](#), [mobile app](#), and [desktop program](#). The mobile app and the desktop program formats can be used offline, and the desktop program can share information with other CAMEO suite programs.

This webinar, led by Len Wallace of EPA Region 1 will provide an overview of [CAMEO Chemicals](#) including a live demonstration. This EPA webinar will assist first responders, emergency planners and facility staff to get key information quickly through CAMEO Chemicals. For a brief summary of the CAMEO Chemicals program and its capabilities, download the [CAMEO Chemicals fact sheet \(pdf\)](#). This webinar is free and attendance from our region is welcome.

Register: https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_xUtSWVKTQkWS7LaCYbwBwA

CAMEO for Planning

Understand the hazardous material threat in your jurisdiction. Experienced instructors will train you how to use the CAMEO® Suite software to facilitate planning for hazardous material incidents. This month-long class includes: online classroom with 24/7 access to weekly lessons, videos & activities; weekly, scheduled live Q&A webinars; 1-hour Zoom call on the first day of class; and four, 2-hour webinars on the remaining 4 days.



Three sessions in 2023:

Session 1: March 2 – 30 (Thursday webinars)

Session 2: June 1 - 29 (Thursday webinars)

Session 3: Oct. 25 – Nov. 29 (Wed. webinars – skip Thanksgiving week)

All Zoom Calls begin at 8am PT/9 MT/10 CT/11 ET

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.



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CISA Announcements

ChemLock: Introduction to Chemical Security Training Course

This course provides an introduction to identifying, assessing, evaluating, and mitigating chemical security risks. This easy-to-understand overview identifies key components and best practices of chemical security awareness and planning to help kickstart chemical security discussions at a facility. This course runs 1-2 hours in length and is appropriate for all personnel regardless of their level of involvement with dangerous chemicals.

[Register for April 12, 2023 – 1-3 pm ET](#)

[Register for July 13, 2023 – 1-3 pm ET](#)

[Register for October 17, 2023 – 10 am-noon ET](#)

ChemLock: Secure Your Chemicals Security Planning Training Course

This course walks through how to create a tailored, scalable security plan that meets the business model and unique circumstances of a facility. Participants will learn the key elements of a chemical security plan and benefit from examples, lessons learned, and best practices. The course runs 2-3 hours in length and is designed to help leadership, facility security personnel, and other applicable personnel understand, develop, and implement a facility security plan.

[Register for May 11, 2023 – noon-3 pm ET](#)

[Register for August 10, 2023 – 1-4 pm ET](#)

Please share this course information with relevant chemical security stakeholders in your area. To request a special offering of either course for a facility or organization, please fill out the [ChemLock Services Request Form](#). If you have questions about the ChemLock program, please email ChemLock@cisa.dhs.gov.

EPA RRT Meeting and Clean Waterways Conference

The 2023 Regional Response Team VIII (RRT VIII) will be held in person this year on April 11th from 8:30-5:00 pm at the EPA Region 8 Headquarters located at 1595 Wynkoop St, Denver, CO 80202. This meeting will focus on “back to basics” topics such as RRT roles and responsibilities and response/contingency planning fundamentals.

The Clean Waterways Conference will also be in Denver that week. If you have questions on the RRT, you can consult: https://response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=15798 or Gina Cristiano at cristiano.gina@epa.gov. More information and registration for [Clean Waterways](#) can be found on their website.

EPA Region 8 ECAD Corner

EPA Settlement with Univar Solutions USA Inc. Improves Safety at Five Chemical Distribution Facilities

EPA announced a settlement with Univar Solutions USA Inc. to resolve alleged violations of industrial accident-prevention requirements at five facilities located in Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and Colorado. The settlement addresses violations of the General Duty Clause (GDC) and Risk Management Program (RMP) under Clean Air Act (CAA) and also resolved violations of Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) recordkeeping requirements at the Colorado facility. Click [here](#) to read the full press release.

Dyno Nobel, Inc. resolves chemical emergency release notification violations at Cheyenne, Wyo. facility

EPA announced a settlement with Dyno Nobel, Inc., resolving alleged violations at the company's ammonium nitrate production facility in Cheyenne, Wyo for violations under EPCRA. Click [here](#) to read the full press release.

EPA Proposes to Add Environmental Justice, Climate Change, and PFAS to National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives for FY 2024-2027

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it is seeking public comment on its proposal to address environmental justice, climate change, and PFAS contamination in its National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives (NECIs). Every four years, EPA selects national initiatives to focus resources on serious and widespread environmental problems where federal enforcement can make a difference. The primary objective of these initiatives is to protect human health and the environment by holding polluters accountable through enforcement and assisting regulated entities to return to compliance. [Read EPA's Federal Register Notice](#) for more information.

NASTTPO Announcements

Annual Conference

The annual 2023 NASTTPO conference is rapidly approaching. This year's conference is in our own backyard in Salt Lake City, UT at the Radisson Downtown April 17th-20th. Registration and agenda information is posted on www.nasttpo.com. Be sure to mark your calendars!



East Palestine Train Derailment

A train derailment occurred at approximately 8:55 PM EST on Friday, February 3, 2023 in East Palestine, Ohio. Norfolk Southern reported the incident at 10:53 PM ET to the National Response Center. At that time, it was reported that an unknown number of the 150 train cars had derailed, but 20 of the cars were listed as carrying hazardous materials. Approximately 50 cars were affected by the derailment with the rest being uncoupled and removed from the scene.

EPA personnel were on-site by 2 a.m. Saturday morning to assist with air monitoring. Since then, EPA has been boots-on-the-ground, leading robust air quality testing including use of the state-of-the-art [ASPECT airplane](#) and a mobile analytical laboratory in and around East Palestine.



On February 21, EPA ordered Norfolk Southern to conduct all necessary actions associated with the cleanup from the East Palestine, Ohio train derailment. As part of the order, EPA will approve a workplan outlining all steps necessary to clean up the environmental damage caused by the derailment. If the company fails to complete any actions as ordered by EPA, the Agency will immediately step in, conduct the necessary work, and seek to compel Norfolk Southern to pay triple the cost.

At press time, this incident remains very dynamic but you can follow real time updates at: <https://response.epa.gov/EastPalestineTrainDerailment>



Could this happen in my community?

Incidents like this are a reminder to review your own respective emergency or all-hazards plans:

- Do you have rail that runs through your community and planning area?
- Do you have updated commodity flow studies to know what is being transported?
- Have you reviewed your plans to ensure contacts are current and necessary knowledge and equipment are up to date?

Consider additional aspects in relation to this incident. EPA Homeland Security is raising awareness about potential chemical threats to the U.S. from Racially Motivated Domestic Violent Extremists (RMVE). There has been multiple online discussions about buying or stealing “18-wheeler trucks with fully loaded tankers of vinyl chloride.” The screenshotted conversation further discussed detonating the tankers near US Government buildings, the homes of “American politicians and billionaires,” and in major cities. This article is a good reminder to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to law enforcement.

Training Opportunities for Rail

In light of recent events in East Palestine, there are many opportunities for Haz Mat training in transportation. TRANSCAER (Transportation Community Awareness Emergency Response) is an outreach program focused on assisting communities and training emergency responders to prepare for and respond to hazardous material transportation incidents. Be sure to visit their website [TRANSCAER](https://www.transcaer.org/) for online courses that include:

- Anhydrous Ammonia Safety Training
- Chlorine Safety Training
- Chlorine Emergencies
- Flammable Liquids Safety Training
- Steel Drums 101

And many more!



In conjunction with TRANSCAER, Union Pacific is offering a class titled Railroading 101 which provides an overview of the UPRR system, pre-planning, railroad equipment (locomotives, tank cars (pressure and non-pressure), contacting the railroad, discusses safety while operating on or near the railroad, railroad resources, markings, rail shipping papers, the emergency response process, and recovery operations. This course can be found here [Union Pacific Railroading 101](https://www.unionpacific.com/railroading101).

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) also offers online training opportunities for their rail systems. You can access their offerings at the [BNSF Training site](https://www.bnsf.com/training).

Not sure what line is in your area? Consult the maps below (links provided in figure title).



Figure 1: [UP Rail Map](#)

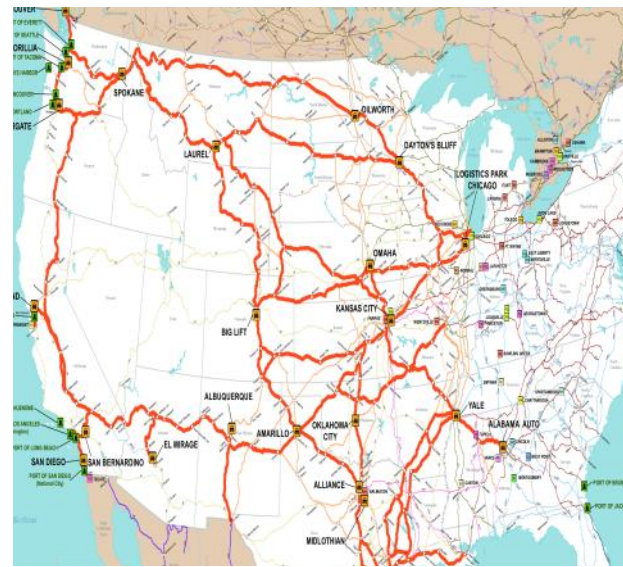


Figure 2: [BNSF Rail Map](#)

Risk Management Program Compliance Dates

Are you an RMP facility? There are a number of emergency response and planning requirements coming up soon. [Contact us](#) or consult <https://www.epa.gov/rmp/general-rmp-guidance-chapter-8-emergency-response-program> for details.

Compliance Dates: [December 2019 Final Rule Effective Date]

What	Due Date
Public Meetings	Within 90 days of any qualifying accident that occurs after March 15, 2021
Develop Emergency Response Programs	Within three years of owner or operator determining that facility is subject to the provisions
Develop exercise plans and schedules	December 2023
Conduct first notification drill	December 2024
Conduct first tabletop exercise	December 2026
Conduct first field exercise	According to the exercise schedule established by the owner or operator in coordination with local response agencies
Submit RMP with new information elements	The owner or operator would provide new information elements with any initial RMP or RMP resubmission made after December 2024.
Comply with new emergency coordination requirements	Already in effect as of September 21, 2018
Comply with remaining minor accident prevention provisions	Already in effect as of September 21, 2018

Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Documents

EPCRA Requirements: <http://www.epa.gov/epcra>

NRT Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Guidance: [https://www.nrt.org/Main/Resources.aspx?ResourceType=Hazards%20\(Oil,%20Chemical,%20Radiological,%20etc\)&ResourceSection=2](https://www.nrt.org/Main/Resources.aspx?ResourceType=Hazards%20(Oil,%20Chemical,%20Radiological,%20etc)&ResourceSection=2)

Actions to Improve Chemical Facility Safety and Security – A Shared Commitment: <https://www.osha.gov/chemicalexecutiveorder/index.html>

EPCRA On-Line Training: <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/epcra-non-section-313-online-training-states-tribes-lepcs-local-planners-and-responders>

EPCRA Fact Sheets: <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/epcra-fact-sheets>

EPCRA Regional Contacts: <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/epcra-regional-contacts>

EPCRA, RMP & Oil Information Center: <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/forms/contact-us-about-emergency-planning-and-community-right-know-act-epcra>

TIER2 Submit: <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/tier2-submit-software>

LEPC/TEPC Handbook: <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/national-lepc-tepc-handbook#full>

EPA Region 8 Preparedness Program

We will increase EPA Region 8 preparedness through:

- Planning, training, and developing outreach relations with federal agencies, states, tribes, local organizations, and the regulated community.
- Assisting in the development of EPA Region 8 preparedness planning and response capabilities through the RSC, IMT, RRT, OPA, and RMP.
- Working with facilities to reduce accidents and spills through education, inspections, and enforcement.



To contact a member of our Region 8 EPA Preparedness Unit team, review our programs or view our organization chart, click this [link](#).

Region 8 SERC Contact Information

Colorado

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amanda.hettinger@state.co.us

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Wyoming

Mr. Dale Heggem, Chair
Phone: 307-777-7321
dale.heggem@wyo.gov

RMP Region 8 Reading Room: (303) 312-6345

RMP Reporting Center: The Reporting Center can answer questions about software or installation problems. The RMP Reporting Center is available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday - Friday: (703) 227-7650 or email RMPRC@epacdx.net.

RMP: <https://www.epa.gov/rmp> **EPCRA:** <https://www.epa.gov/epcra>

Emergency Response: <https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response>

[Lists of Lists](#) (Updated December 2022)

Questions? Call the Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP, and Oil Information Center at (800) 424-9346 (Monday-Thursday).

To report an oil or chemical spill, call the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802.



U.S. EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street (8SEM-EM)
Denver, CO 80202-1129
800-227-8917

This newsletter provides information on the EPA Risk Management Program, EPCRA, SPCC/FRP (Facility Response Plan) and other issues relating to Accidental Release Prevention Requirements. The information should be used as a reference tool, not as a definitive source of compliance information. Compliance regulations are published in 40 CFR Part 68 for CAA section 112(r) Risk Management Program, 40 CFR Part 355/370 for

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