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EPA Region 8 Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

Volume XIII No. IV Fourth Quarter 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the EPA Region 8 Preparedness Newsletter.
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LEPC Best Practices

Engaging the public and continually proving the relevancy of your local emergency planning committee (LEPC) can be difficult, even when there was not a pesky pandemic derailing your day-to-day work. Many of you had to shift your focus from the chemical emergency management piece to managing the pandemic during the last few years. As society moves forward, so is our work in preparing our communities for emergencies.

LEPC's in Region 8 are finding innovative ways to reach out to their constituents. Here are a few from around the region, but by no means captures all of your work.



Adams County Safety Fair

Adams County, Colorado held their first safety fair which included opportunities for kids to “Touch-a-Truck”, interactive exhibits, preparedness resources and a Flight For Life

Helicopter landing. Multiple booths including FEMA, county public works, local search and rescue as well as neighboring City

of Aurora Emergency Management all staffed booths which provided the community access to multiple resources at once while also showing the partnership between planning and response entities.

Yellowstone County LEPC Conference

Yellowstone County, Montana hosted their annual LEPC Conference this past fall. They brought in a variety of partners to educate their LEPC constituents in different topics to help better prepare their community for the future. They brought in speakers from a variety of different disciplines that discussed everything from EPA's response capabilities and the recent Stillwater Oil Spill Response to Montana's Topography and how to stop large wounds from bleeding. The conference was a huge success that helped fill knowledge gaps and helped a variety of local partners network, which is always important to do before a response occurs. Bringing people together ahead of time ensures that people stay in their lane in the future and creates comradery that is essential out in the field during a stressful situation. This conference was especially important to the facilities and first responders to understand that while spills and releases will continue to occur, they aren't necessarily going to be cleaning it up alone!



LEPC Best Practices, contd.

Utah County Tabletop Exercise

Boom! A train explosion that caused a Hazardous Materials release was how Utah Counties LEPC Tabletop Exercise kicked off. First responders, LEPC Members, facilities, school district members, businesses and more all came together to discuss the impacts of a catastrophic release and how the area might deal with this type of situation. Injests were given to each group, which ensured cross mingling between the variety of different disciplines. Hospitals discussed the transferring of patients, schools discussed how they might shut-down the HVAC system, first responders identified additional resources that could be brought into the response. With so much knowledge flying around, the best part was the recap between all the various groups and what they had discussed. This ensured no one missed any of the processes of how objectives might be accomplished.



CSKT Environmental Emergency Preparedness Workshop

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) Division of Environmental Protection recently put together an Environmental Emergency Preparedness Workshop for its local partners in the area. This workshop dove into the details of what the various hazardous material labels and IDs mean, how to properly use the Emergency Response Guidebook, how to conduct an incident assessment and so much more. Participants were even given a field component to learn how to deploy boom during an oil spill (real oil was not used during this demonstration). Considering Polson, MT (the location of CSKT) is right next to Flathead lake, education of how to recognize various chemicals and how to prevent them from getting into waterways ways is crucial. Workshops like this are great because you not only gain new knowledge about hazardous materials, but you also get to apply some of the new skills.

Of course LEPC's do not have unlimited funding mechanisms, but perhaps you could set up a booth at a local harvest festival in the fall or the next county fair. Do you have an innovative idea, something that worked for your community and you think would benefit others? Let us know, we want to continually highlight your ideas.

CISA Announcements

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) launched the new [“Shields Ready”](#) campaign to encourage the critical infrastructure community to focus on strengthening resilience.

Shields Ready complements CISA’s successful [“Shields Up”](#) campaign, which encourage critical infrastructure stakeholders to take specific, time-sensitive actions that reduce risk in response to specific threat intelligence during cyberattacks, physical security threats, or natural disasters in response to specific threat intelligence. Shields Ready focuses more broadly and strategically on how to prepare critical infrastructure for a potential disruption and how to build more resilience into systems, facilities, and processes by taking action before a crisis or incident occurs. It also aligns with and complements FEMA’s [Ready](#) campaign. Each campaign webpage will feature and link to the other for easy reference and use.

This focused approach highlights how critical infrastructure entities and organizations can Resolve to be Resilient integrating certain practices that will make themselves secure, resilient, and able to bounce back quickly and build back stronger from an incident.

CISA Planning Guide

FEMA and CISA Release a Cyber Incident Planning Guide for Emergency Managers

FEMA released [“Planning Considerations for Cyber Incidents: Guidance for Emergency Managers,”](#) a foundational product developed in coordination with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

Key aspects of cyber incident preparedness outlined in the document include:

- Understanding the types of cyber incidents likely to occur.
- Engaging service owners and operators.
- Identifying cyber-dependent critical services and related dependencies.
- Prioritizing and planning for service and system disruptions.
- Identifying roles and responsibilities.
- Providing integrated communication and public messaging.
- Developing a cyber incident response plan.

To download the guide and supporting materials, visit [Planning Guides | FEMA.gov](#).

CFATS Updates

Resilience in a Time of Uncertainty: National Chemical Security During the CFATS Lapse

By CISA Associate Director for Chemical Security Kelly Murray

November has typically been a big month for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Chemical Security every year. It marks the anniversaries of CISA's two cornerstone chemical security programs, as well as the anniversary of CISA as an organization, and it was also the nation's Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month.

But 2023 has not been a normal November for CISA Chemical Security. This summer, Congress allowed the [Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards \(CFATS\)](#) program's statutory authority to expire, leaving our nation without a regulatory chemical security program for the first time in 15 years. Rather than celebrating the program's 16th anniversary Nov. 20, we are facing a more somber milestone as it has been four months since the expiration of the CFATS program.

As we call on all Americans to [Resolve to be Resilient](#), we are also testing our own resilience within the CISA Chemical Security family. CISA continues to urge Congress to reauthorize the CFATS program. CFATS provides essential resilience for the chemical industry by enabling chemical facility owners and operators to understand the risks associated with their chemical security holdings, develop site security plans and programs, conduct site inspections, coordinate with local law enforcement and first responders, and continue to reevaluate each facility's security posture based on changes in its chemical holdings and threat nexus. We at CISA follow our own advice: we believe in putting the right security plans and countermeasures in place *before* an incident occurs to reduce the risk of incidents occurring and improving resilience *during* and *after* incidents to reduce the impact on our communities and our nation. You can learn more about these security and resilience principles through CISA's [Shields Ready](#) campaign, which includes four key pillars:

Identifying Critical Assets

Through CFATS, CISA screened more than 40,000 chemical facilities, identified 3,200 of those sites as high-risk, and worked with those facilities to understand the risks posed by their chemical holdings and develop appropriate security plans. CISA was constantly monitoring the landscape of dangerous chemicals across the nation as individual facilities tiered in and out of the program based on increases or decreases in these chemical holdings. precautions, increasing the risk of terrorist exploitation.

CFATS Update, contd.

Assessing Risk

The ability to screen personnel is an essential component of security when a chemical facility is deciding whether to grant an employee unescorted access to dangerous chemicals or critical assets. Under CFATS's Personnel Surety Program, chemical facilities could submit names of personnel with or seeking access to dangerous chemicals and critical assets; CISA would then vet those names against the Terrorist Screening Database. Prior to the lapse in authority, CFATS identified more than 10 individuals with possible ties to terrorism over the lifetime of the Personnel Surety Program. Given that rate of vetting, CISA likely would have identified an individual with or seeking access to dangerous chemicals as a known or suspected terrorist at some point over the past four months.

Security Planning

Under CFATS, chemical facilities were required to develop site-specific security plans to mitigate the risks associated with possession of dangerous chemicals. Without CFATS, we cannot inspect high-risk sites or assist these facilities with security planning efforts unless they approach the agency voluntarily for an assessment via the ChemLock program. We were conducting an average of 160 site inspections every month under CFATS; of those, more than a third identified security gaps, which were then added to site security plans for remediation. We can safely estimate that hundreds of security gaps have gone unidentified since July, meaning that chemical facilities are operating with no knowledge of these gaps or guidance on how to address them.

Continual Improvement

CISA Chemical Security and the high-risk facilities previously regulated by CFATS worked together to ensure continuous improvement and adapt to the changing threat environment. Through regular and recurring CFATS compliance inspections, we were able to provide lessons learned and best practices to address emerging threats and challenges and, based on the performance-based nature of the regulation, require facilities to amend security plans to account for these risks. This, in conjunction with updated guidance and resources, helped to ensure continuous growth in the chemical security community. Prior to the lapse in authority, this process was going to be further enhanced by a proposed rulemaking effort to enhance the physical and cybersecurity standards required of CFATS.

CFATS Update, contd.

Looking Ahead

For CISA Chemical Security, resilience means showing up to work, day after day, determined to keep dangerous chemicals out of the hands of terrorists by fighting for the reauthorization of CFATS and doing everything that we can on a voluntary basis in the meantime. While the CFATS program is lapsed, we continue to offer expertise to chemical facilities on a voluntary basis through [the ChemLock program](#), which is available to any facility with dangerous chemicals regardless of whether they were previously tiered under CFATS. Inspectors nationwide continue to offer on-site assessments and assistance, which chemical facilities may request via the [ChemLock Services Request Form](#) on the ChemLock homepage. Let me be clear, however: while the voluntary ChemLock program complements the CFATS program, it is in no way a replacement for CFATS.

ChemLock Training Opportunities

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 January 10, 2024 – 2-4 pm ET](#)

[Register for April 8, 2024 – Noon-2 pm 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 February 6, 2024 – 2-5 pm ET](#)

[Register for May 6, 2024 – Noon-3 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 Announcements

EPA Finalizes Rule to Require Enhanced EPCRA 313 (TRI) Reporting of PFAS

EPA has finalized a rule that improves TRI reporting of PFAS by eliminating the de minimis exemption that allowed facilities to avoid reporting information on PFAS when those chemicals were used in small concentrations. PFAS are used at low concentrations in many products, and as a result of removing this reporting exemption, facilities in TRI-covered industry sectors that make or use any of the 189 TRI-listed PFAS, will no longer be able to avoid disclosing the quantities of PFAS they manage or release into the environment. The rule also makes the de minimis exemption unavailable for purposes of supplier notification requirements to downstream facilities for all chemicals on the list of chemicals of special concern, which also includes additional chemicals that, like PFAS, remain in the environment for long periods of time and build up in the body like lead, mercury, and dioxins. For more details, see <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/changes-tri-reporting-requirements-and-polyfluoroalkyl>.

CAMEO Software Update Released

New versions of CAMEO Chemicals 3.0.0, CAMEO Data Manager 4.3.0 and Tier2 Submit 2023 are now available. CAMEO Chemicals is available as a website, mobile website, desktop program, and an app for iOS and Android mobile devices. This release includes a new mapping tool to plot initial isolation and protective action distances from the Emergency Response Guidebook which is a similar feature to the one previously available in WISER. Map objects can also be exported as KML files to view in other mapping tools, such as MARPLOT. More information can be found on the EPA's [CAMEO](#) website.

Complete 2022 TRI Dataset Now Available

Updated Toxics Release Inventory data for 2022 are now available in [Envirofacts](#) and in the [online tools](#) on the TRI website. This dataset updates the preliminary 2022 data released in August 2023. It includes revised and late submissions from facilities received by EPA as of October 18, 2023.

Among the updated TRI tools, communities can use EPA's [TRI Toxics Tracker](#) to map the locations of TRI-reporting facilities and find out about their chemical releases, other chemical waste management practices, and pollution prevention activities.

EPA Announcements, contd.

EPA Issues Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) for Reporting Animal Waste Air Emissions at Farms under the EPCRA

The EPA is soliciting information pertaining to and is requesting comments to assist in the potential development of regulations to reinstate the reporting of animal waste air emissions at farms under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The Agency is soliciting comments under five general categories: health impacts; implementation challenges; costs and benefits; small farm definition and potential reporting exemption; and national report on animal waste air emissions. Requiring reporting of animal waste air emissions may advance the community right-to-know aspect of EPCRA by providing the public with information that may impact their health and the environment. This information may advance EPA's environmental justice goals of increasing the awareness of the potential impact these emissions have on communities with environmental justice concerns.

Of particular interest to may be section IV.B.7. EPCRA National Database, where EPA solicits comment on such a centralized database hosted and managed by EPA, whereby EPA could collect EPCRA reports and make those reports immediately available to state, tribal, and local agencies, thus improving the efficiency, efficacy, and transparency of EPCRA reporting compliance and removing the burden to state, tribal, and local agencies receiving and managing the submittals. A national database would provide industry the opportunity to report to multiple states and local entities in one platform. The implementing agencies would have access to all of the submitted information for their covered area, reducing their administrative burden and allowing them to focus on implementation, community safety, and compliance. The database would handle all reporting requirements, as well as requests from the public for information, allowing entities to use their limited resources to improve compliance efficacy.

You can review the full ANPRM and submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2023-0142, at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Comments must be received on or before **February 15, 2024**.

Western SERC/TERC Conference

Attention SERC/TERC chairs and coordinators from Regions 8, 9, and 10. If you have not already received the announcement, registration is open for the 2024 conference in Clark County, Nevada. This years conference will be in-person February 21-22 at the Clark County Fire Department Training Center. We hope to see you there!

ASTI Training

Ammonia Safety & Training Institute (ASTI) presents Safety Day training and chemical Tabletop Exercises (TTX) available to local industry and community responders

- ASTI formed the National Safety Day Coalition together with IIAR, RETA, and GCCA to present safety and emergency response preparedness training at minimal cost to the attendees.
- ASTI worked with Region 9 EPA to create ammonia Tabletop Exercises based upon the One Plan four stages of response; focused on engaging local, state, and federal emergency response plans.
- ASTI organizes and leads a local committee of industry, public safety, and governmental leaders to create Safety Day presentations and Tabletop Exercises.
- Sample topics include: hazard analysis, health & safety concerns, critical task readiness, e.g., emergency system control, rapid “grab and go” rescue by first responders, and methods of containment and control of ammonia events using proper methods e.g., personnel protective equipment, decontamination, teaming agreement with public safety responders, monitoring systems, and command team coordination and communications readiness to address on-site and off-site life safety and environmental receptors.

Event schedule updated regularly on ASTI website at www.ammonia-safety.com.

For a current list of events: [Event Schedule](#)

Contact ASTI via email at asti@ammonia-safety.com or call 831-761-2935 for more information.

OMB review of PFAS reporting

OMB Begins Review Of Final EPA Rule To Designate PFAS Under CERCLA

The White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) has initiated interagency review of EPA’s final rule to designate the two most-studied PFAS as Superfund “hazardous substances,” putting the agency on track to meet an internal deadline to promulgate the rule by March even as it faces likely legal challenges over the first-time designation.

You can read more on the federal register notice [here](#) or you can consult the EPA PFAS [website](#) for the latest information on PFAS resources, tools and what EPA is doing to address PFAS.

Tribal Training Opportunity

Registration is now open for the 9th Annual Tribal Nations Training Week at FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) March 9-16, 2024. This year's Tribal Nations Training Week theme is "Developing Generational Resiliency Through Training."

The weeklong training event is open to all who work in emergency management and are affiliated with one or more Tribal nations or the Indian Health Service, as well as those who work directly with Tribal nations.

Courses being offered during the week include:

- Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents.
- Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty.
- Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response Operations.
- Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC), with Crisis Leadership (MGT-340) and Crisis Standards of Care and Treatment Decision-Making (AWR-934-V1).
- Emergency Management Framework for Tribal Governments (L580) with Natural Disaster Awareness for Community Leaders and Psychological Preparedness for Responders.
- Community Based Response to All-Hazards Threats in Tribal Communities (MGT-449).
- Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Stakeholder Preparedness with Emergency Operations Center Operations and Planning for All-Hazards Events (MGT-346).

The week will feature an executive session for Tribal leaders or their designated representatives. The executive session is comprised of a Tribal Leaders Symposium, followed by Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities, NIMS Overview for Senior Officials, a closed listening session with FEMA Headquarters officials and the Department of Homeland Security's Tribal Advisory Council, a workshop discussion on the disaster declaration process and its requirements, and a Senior Officials Workshop for All-Hazards Preparedness.

Like last year's event, the week will also feature a separate listening session for all participants with FEMA Headquarters officials and others.

The training is fully funded for state, local, Tribal and territorial emergency responders, to include roundtrip airfare, meals, and lodging. For more information, including a closer look at the trainings offered, visit cdp.dhs.gov. To register for the 2024 Tribal Nations Training Week, email David.Hall@fema.dhs.gov.

Colorado River Oil Spill Workshop

In November 2023, the Department of Interior (USDOI) and EPA Region 8 hosted a two-day oil spill response workshop in Grand Junction, Colorado. More than 50 attendees participated in the workshop representing EPA Region 8, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Weather Service; Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (multiple divisions and programs), Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Mesa County; the Grand Junction Fire Department and other representatives from the Local Emergency Planning Commission; Union Pacific Railroad and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. Objectives of the workshop included the discussion of response coordination, including roles and responsibilities (authorities and resources), of an oil spill response in the western Colorado and Colorado River basin with industry, local, state and federal partners, particularly addressing a response that would likely involve two Region 8 states. The workshop also identified and discussed DOI, state or tribal resources at risk, protection priorities, and protection strategies and lastly identified any area for improvements in agency spill preparedness/planning (e.g., training, equipment, baseline surveys, etc.).



OSHA Updates

Department of Labor Announces Rule Expanding Submission Requirements for Injury, Illness Data Provided by Employers in High-Hazard Industries

The U.S. Department of Labor announced a [final rule](#) that will require certain employers in designated high-hazard industries to electronically submit [injury and illness information](#) – that they are already required to keep – to the department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The final rule takes effect on Jan. 1, 2024. OSHA will publish some of the data collected on its website to allow employers, employees, potential employees, employee representatives, current and potential customers, researchers and the general public to use information about a company's workplace safety and health record to make informed decisions. OSHA believes that providing public access to the data will ultimately reduce occupational injuries and illnesses.

OSHA Fatal Facts: Confined Space Fire

OSHA has released a Fatal Facts document about a confined space fire. Two contract workers died of smoke inhalation and multiple blunt-force injuries during maintenance work on the inner walls of a connected pair of pulp bleaching towers at a paper mill. [Access the document here.](#)

RMP Reconsideration Compliance Dates

Are you an RMP facility? Does your facility have one or more of the 140 regulated substances above threshold quantities in a covered process? Do not forget that you have outstanding requirements and new upcoming requirements under the RMP Reconsideration Rule.

- Facilities must coordinate annually with local response organizations and document that coordination. Attending your LEPC meetings is a perfect way to satisfy this requirement.
- Your facility must have its plan developed for conducting field and table top exercises by December 2023.
- The execution of the first annual notification drills will need to be completed by December 2024.
- Your first tabletop exercise will need to be completed by December 2026 then every three years thereafter.
- If your facility has an accident with an off-site impact, you must hold public meeting within 90 days of that accident.

If you have not already, reach out to your LEPC. This organization has already been established to help facilitate these requirements. Make sure your LEPC and other local responding organizations know if your facility would need assistance in the event of a chemical release or perhaps your facility could provide assistance to the community with the resources your company has.

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>

TIER 2 Submit: <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/tier2-submit-software>

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

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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.

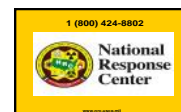
RMP: <https://www.epa.gov/rmp> **EPCRA:** <https://www.epa.gov/epcra>

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.



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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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