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EPA Region 8 Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

Volume XIV No. 3 Third Quarter 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to the EPA Region 8 Preparedness Newsletter.
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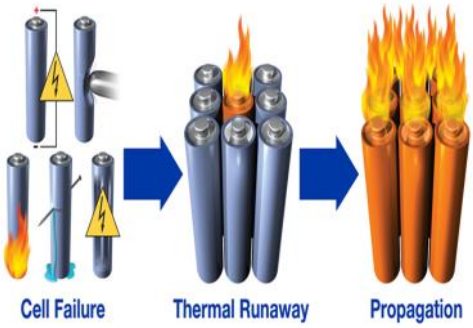
Lithium-ion Battery Awareness

Awareness of potential lithium-ion battery issues continue to be an emerging concern around the region as well as across the U.S. Lithium-ion battery fires are on the rise as these batteries can be found almost anywhere. Typically, lithium-ion batteries are found in Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), electric vehicles, micro-mobility, cell phones, e-cigarettes, and power tools just to name a few examples.

Lithium-ion batteries are typically configured (or wired) in series or parallel designs depending on the intended use. Due to the close proximity of the batteries to each other, fires can occur when one or more of the battery cells are damaged. Battery cell damage can include, but is not limited to overcharging, overheating, batteries in too hot/too cold environments and physical damage to the actual battery. When these batteries are damaged, their behavior can become unpredictable, and fires could occur at any time. A domino effect can occur if a battery enters thermal runaway which is when heat in one battery triggers other neighboring batteries and propagates throughout the entire battery system. Once lithium-ion batteries catch fire, these items can burn without oxygen, therefore a fire cannot be extinguished by smothering it. Current typical recommendations are to let the fire burn itself out if the surrounding environment can be controlled appropriately.



If there is a lithium-ion battery fire, the next concern is the toxic atmospheres these fires can produce. These toxic vapors can include carbon monoxide, hydrogen fluoride, and hydrogen chloride which have been measured by air monitoring equipment. Once these fires are extinguished, re-kindle is common and can happen anywhere from minutes to months after the initial incident.

Currently, end-point recycling centers are the best option for proper disposal. The EPA Lithium-Ion Battery Task Force has been stood up to further analyze this issue and effective methods for managing lithium-ion battery fires. You can follow the current guidance at: response.epa.gov/R4LithiumIonBatteryOutreach. If you have further questions specific to Region 8, you can contact Eric Sandusky for more information.

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Indian Country Outreach

The EPA Region 8 Oil Section team conducted a regulatory compliance assistance workshop in Riverton, WY on August 27, 2024, aimed at improving future compliance rates and increasing petroleum facility spill prevention and preparedness capacity. There were 48 attendees from petroleum production facilities, terminals, and refineries subject to the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) and Facility Response Plan (FRP) regulations under the Clean Water Act, as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Over a dozen members of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe tribes, were there representing the Wind River Energy Commission (WREC), their contracted facility operator, MI3 Petroleum Engineering (MI3), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Participant feedback indicates that the workshop helped attendees learn how to improve their FRPs; enhance spill prevention, preparedness, and response capabilities through more focused exercises and drills; and better understand how to be successful during EPA inspections and government-initiated unannounced exercises (GIUEs).

On August 28, 2024, the same team visited the tribally-owned Circle Ridge Field Battery facility on the Wind River Indian Reservation with WREC and MI3 personnel to conduct a facility walk-through, provide regulatory and technical assistance, and ensure the facility has an adequate FRP. After the site visit ended, EPA and WREC drove to several abandoned or orphaned oil production facilities on the reservation to see uncontrolled oil discharges from wells leased and permitted by BIA and the Bureau of Land Management on behalf of the tribes years ago. The purpose of these visits was to assess the potential for catalyzing Department of Interior (DOI) efforts to cleanup these well sites using BIL funding and to determine if EPA had authority and jurisdiction to conduct a removal action at these sites on behalf of the tribes to remove abandoned oil production equipment, plug and abandon the wells, and perform surface reclamation after removing contaminated soils. Discussions with WREC, DOI, and the U.S. Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center are already underway to formulate a path forward and explore funding mechanisms to get chronic leaking well sites cleaned up for the tribes. If you have further questions, you can contact Steve Merritt for more information.

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RMP Rules

Do you find the Risk Management Rule a bit confusing? You are not alone, but we are here to help. There are a multitude of deadlines coming up if you are a facility that is subject to the RMP, so be sure to read below. Keep in mind that currently, we are subject to the RMP Reconsideration Rule. So the following deadlines are shown below:

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

P2/P3 RMP facilities need to conduct a notification drill by the end of this year. Responding P2/P3 facilities need to conduct your first table top exercise by the end of 2026. In conducting these tasks, you should be working with your local emergency planning committees (LEPCs)-do you know who your LEPC is? Has your facility been working and meeting with your LEPC? This is the perfect time to start and be a partner with emergency management in your community. Your LEPCs will also need to allot time to be a useful participant in your exercises, so be sure to not wait until the last minute to begin planning and execution of your exercises. If you are not connected with your LEPC, consult the following table for your state's list of LEPC's.

You can consult the general RMP Reconsideration page or consult Chapter 8 in the RMP Guidance for updates to the Emergency Response Program for details.

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RMP Rules, cont'd.

Colorado	https://dhsem.colorado.gov/dhsem/councils-committees-enterprises/hsac/hsac-subcommittee-information/colorado-emergency
Montana	https://des.mt.gov/Response/SERC1
North Dakota	https://www.des.nd.gov/contact/countytribal-contacts
South Dakota	https://danr.sd.gov/Agriculture/Inspection/Tier2/docs/LEPC_Contact_List.pdf
Utah	https://dem.utah.gov/local-emergency-planning-committees-lepc/
Wyoming	https://hls.wyo.gov/programs/serc/lepcs

The Safer Communities through Chemical Accident Prevention (SCCAP) regulation is the upcoming update for the Risk Management Program. The SCCAP currently will be effective in May 2027, so be aware of those changes on the horizon. Highlights of the SCCAP include changes to:

- **Natural Hazards**-Revising the definition to include meteorological, environmental and geological phenomena that could negatively impact facility.
- **Power Loss**– Evaluation of standby/emergency power systems and operating procedures.
- **Facility Siting**-Evaluation of the placement of processes, equipment, buildings.
- **Safer Technologies and Alternatives Analysis**-Requiring a safer technologies and alternatives analysis, and in some cases, implementation of reliable safeguard measures for certain facilities in industry sectors with high accident rates.
- **Root Cause Analysis** and **Third Party Compliance Audits**– Requiring third-party compliance audits and root cause analysis incident investigation for facilities that have had a prior accident.
- **Employee Participation-**allow for employee recommendations.
- **Emergency Response**-Enhancing facility planning and preparedness efforts to strengthen emergency response by ensuring chemical release information is timely shared with local responders and a community notification system is in place to warn the community of any impending release
- **Information Availability**-Increased transparency by providing access to RMP facility information for communities nearby.

For more information, you can consult the EPA Risk Management Program Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention Final Rule webpage or email Bre Bockstahler.

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Updated AirNow Fire and Smoke Map

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service released an updated version of the popular AirNow Fire and Smoke Map to provide millions of people in the U.S. with more information they can use to protect themselves from wildfire smoke.

The updated Fire and Smoke Map has a new look and feel, is designed to load more quickly, and includes information not available in the previous versions, such as:

- Air quality monitoring information on coarse particle pollution and ozone, both of which can increase because of wildfire smoke.
- More information on individual wildland fires, including the type of fire and level of fire activity, when available.
- Information from low-cost fine particle sensors in Canada, in cooperation with Environment and Climate Change Canada.

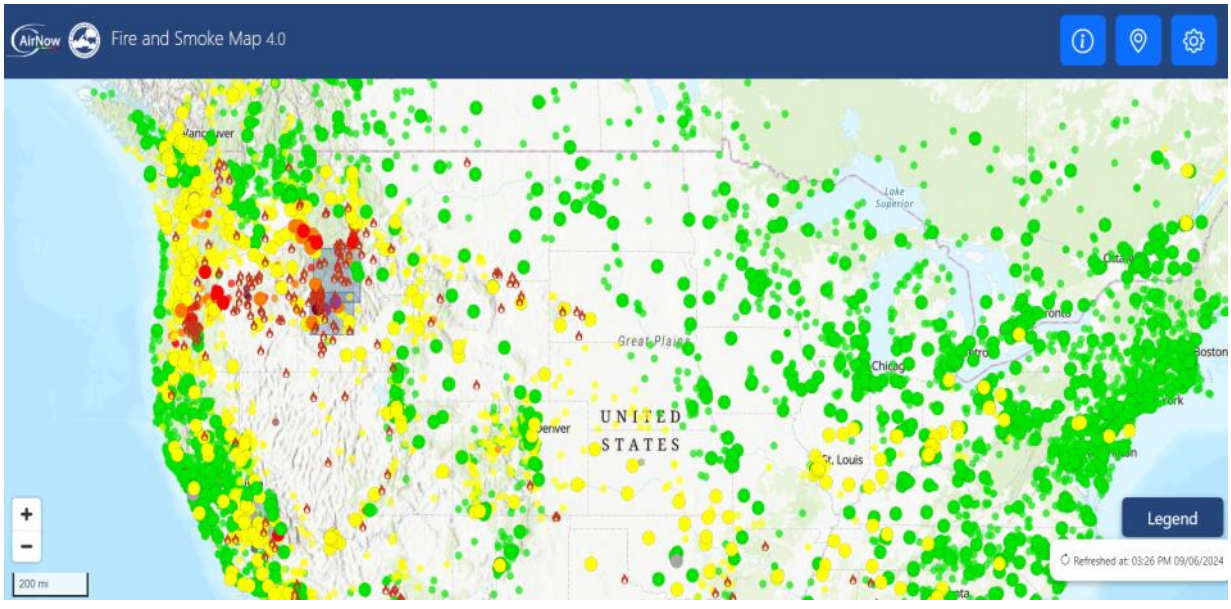
You can view the Fire and Smoke Map on the AirNow website or select the smoke icon on the bottom right of the AirNow smartphone app. To view the map in Spanish or to select a modified AQI color scale for users with certain color vision deficiencies, click the settings icon at the top right corner of the map.

Download the AirNow app:

Apple App Store: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/epa-airnow/id467653238

Google Play Store: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.saic.airnow

Learn more about the AQI.



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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 October 7, 2024 – 11 am-1 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 November 7, 2024 – 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.

CAMEO Training

CAMEO for Planning

Understand the hazardous material threat in your jurisdiction. Experienced instructors will train you how to use the Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) Suite software to facilitate planning for hazardous material incidents. This training focuses on CAMEO Data Manager (DM), CAMEO Chemicals, and MARPLOT. Find more information and register here.

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; four 2-hour webinars on the remaining 4 days. Two sessions left in 2024:

Session 3: Oct. 17 – Nov. 14 (Thursday webinars)

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ASTI Training Opportunities

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, rapid "grab and go" rescue by first responders, and methods of containment and control of ammonia events using proper methods, 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.

NASTTPO Mid-Year Workshop

Registration is open for the National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) Mid-Year Workshop in Houston, Texas on October 14-16.

Early bird registration fee prior to Oct. 4, 2024 will be $315.00. Late registration fee will be $345.00 made after the 4th. Please pre-register for the conference so an accurate head count can be made. Registration may be completed at any time and payment taken later by contacting Mark Howard howardm5589@gmail.com or paying at the workshop.

***Intended topics* (more to come):**

- **Lithium-Ion Battery Response**
- **How States are Funding EPCRA Administration - Creative Ways to Fund Your LEPCs, SERCs**
- **Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant How States are Managing and Allocating Funds**

You can consult the NASTTPO website for more information.

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HazMat Roundtable Report

On May 21–22, 2024, the 2024 HazMat Roundtable was hosted by the National Fire Academy (NFA) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Sponsored by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the event was attended by HazMat technical specialists and practitioners from over 20 organizations including its host, sponsors, and other organizations. Organizations in attendance included the EPA, CHEMTREC, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), NASTTPO, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to name a few.

The goal of the Roundtable was to discuss challenges in HazMat preparedness, offer recommendations and solutions to these challenges, and review the accomplishments and best practices that the Roundtable members and their organizations have been doing in the HazMat arena since the 2021–2022 Roundtable meetings.

The objectives of the Roundtable included:

- Prioritizing HazMat preparedness issues that have been previously identified and discussed at prior Roundtable sessions,
- Determining ways and processes to leverage the work that is currently being done, and
- Discussing new HazMat preparedness issues and challenges, as well as emerging trends and technologies that can be used to help address these challenges.

This report describes the Roundtable discussions, provides high-level summaries of the Roundtable member presentations and updates, and details the HazMat Roundtable's feedback, recommendations, and suggested plans of action.

Fall 2024 RRT Meeting

The fall Regional Response Team (RRT) meeting is scheduled for October 23-24, 2024. The meeting will be held in our EPA office downtown Denver. The agenda will be forthcoming however if you have further questions you can reach out to Gina Cristiano at cristiano.gina@epa.gov.

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Around Region 8

Outreach Activities in Region 8 did not take a summer break this year. If you would like us to come speak at your meeting, need training on upcoming regulations or new issues in hazardous materials response, or need help with exercises, be sure to reach out to Bre Bockstahler (bockstahler.breann@epa.gov) or Ben Sharaf (sharaf.benjamin@epa.gov) and we are happy to help.

In July, EPA Chemical Preparedness Team personnel conducted a chemical-based table top exercise in Great Falls, MT. The exercise was well-attended for the county-sponsored exercise that included participants from state DEQ, local DES, first responders, the local air force base, public works, chemical facilities and numerous non-profit entities in attendance.

At the Davis County Utah LEPC Meeting, the Chemical Preparedness Team presented information on EPCRA, including planning for chemical releases, and the use of the CAMEO Suite Products.

The Chemical Preparedness Team virtually presented at the Wheatland County Montana LEPC where the importance and benefits of an LEPC were discussed. For LEPCs that may not have been active for some time or if there are new members of the LEPC, a discussion on the activities that the LEPC can do to prepare for chemical facility releases can be very useful.

Chemical Preparedness Team Members and On-Scene Coordinators virtually presented at a Montana Department of Emergency Services (DES) Coordinators meeting and discussed the role and responsibilities of LEPCs, EPAs Response Capabilities, and awareness of Lithium-Ion Batteries.

Multiple Emergency Management Branch (EMB) personnel presented at the Colorado LEPC conference in Breckenridge, CO back in August. This year's conference had over 125 attendees from all over the state and even neighboring states looking to expand their own outreach activities. Lithium-ion batteries, the use of Tier II data, EPA regulation updates and risk communication were among the many topics discussed.

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Around Region 8, cont'd.

In September, EPA Region 8 partnered with Utah Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (UT DERR) to hold UT Chemical Compliance Workshop for Industries. One session was held in Salt Lake City and another session was held virtually. Between both sessions, there was over 125 participants. Topics in this half day workshop included spill reporting and state and federal perspectives on emergency response, the new SCCAP rule and the Clean Water Act Facility Response Plans, Tier II Reporting and What to Expect When You're Inspected.

CISA Resilience Planning Framework

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) published a supplementary 'how-to' guide to assist stakeholders in executing the planning approach laid out in CISA's Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework (IRPF).

Dubbed the IRPF Playbook, this resource is intended for any critical infrastructure stakeholders involved in resilience planning. It uses a recipe-style list of inputs, processes, and fictional scenarios allowing users to better understand how best to implement the IRPF. The Playbook walks through the IRPF's five steps and core IRPF and resilience concepts to help users contemplate their resilience objectives and develop an approach to incorporate elements of the IRPF into their planning activities.

The IRPF Playbook highlights useful resources and provides a hypothetical illustration of how a community might incorporate infrastructure resilience into planning using the various steps of the IRPF.

The IRPF Playbook and the Framework are available on the Resilience Planning Program | CISA webpage. If you have questions or would like additional information on the IRPF Playbook or the IRPF itself, please email Resilience_Planning@cisa.dhs.gov.

For more resilience resources, visit the Shields Ready page

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Preliminary 2023 TRI Data Released

EPA has published preliminary Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data about chemical releases, waste management, and pollution prevention activities that took place during 2023 at more than 20,000 federal and industrial facilities across the country. For 2023, 21 chemicals were added to the TRI list, and facilities were required to report on these if the reporting thresholds for each were met. The chemicals included nine per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) added to the TRI chemical list per the requirements of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The 2023 preliminary data were reported by facilities in covered industries that manufactured, processed or otherwise used substances on the TRI chemical list above threshold quantities during 2023.

The public can use these data to:

- Identify how many TRI facilities operate in a certain geographic area (e.g., a ZIP code),
- Identify which chemicals are being managed by TRI facilities and in what quantities, and
- Find out if a particular facility initiated any pollution prevention activities in the most recent calendar year.

Freight Railroads to Provide HazMat Information

DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) announced a final rule that requires railroads to proactively provide first responders with real-time, electronic information about rail hazmat shipments to the primary Public Safety Answering Point (for example, a 9-1-1 call center or emergency responder phone app such as the AskRail Mobile App) as soon as the railroad is aware of an accident or incident involving hazardous materials.

The final rule requires all railroads to generate, in hard copy and electronic versions, real-time train consist information for shipments containing hazardous materials. Required information includes the quantity and position of the hazardous materials on the train, the train's origin and destination, emergency response information, and a designated emergency point of contact at the railroad.

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FEMA National Resilience Guidance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released the National Resilience Guidance (NRG). The NRG offers a unifying vision of resilience and the principles and steps all communities and organizations can take to increase their resilience in every sector and discipline. With the goal of increasing community and national resilience, the guidance will promote a common understanding of resilience, emphasize the critical relationship between chronic community stressors and acute shocks, address the roles of individuals, organizations, and all levels of government, provide an actionable approach to resilience planning and implementation, incorporates a community resilience maturity model that walks through concrete steps to build resilience.

FEMA will host a series of 60-minute webinar sessions in September and October to discuss the NRG and additional resources available to help new and experienced resilience practitioners improve their communities' resilience.

To view the document and learn more about the webinar sessions, please visit the FEMA website at National Resilience Guidance | FEMA.gov.

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

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

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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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Phone: 307-522-8001
jim_wamsley@rswy.net

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 May 2024)

Questions? Call the EPCRA, RMP, and Oil Information Center at (800) 424-9346 or epcra-rmp-oil-infocenter@epa.gov

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

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800-227-8917

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