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EPA Region 8 Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

Volume XIV No. 4 Fourth Quarter 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to the EPA Region 8 Preparedness Newsletter.

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Innovations in Emergency Management

Preparing for emergencies is not a one-size-fits all activity. Emergency managers, local planning committees (LEPCs), and first responders need to constantly adapt to the needs of their respective communities as they may ebb and flow due to many factors. Three counties in Colorado are leveraging information from Emergency Management and their LEPC and have taken innovative steps in forwarding their mission in emergency planning.

Adams County

Michael Bean with the Adams County Emergency Management found that when conducting outreach, community members could not really comprehend why so much care has gone into planning and preparedness. Adams County found that creating a publicly accessible map on ArcGIS that shows all Tier II facilities (for security purposes only included facility names and addresses) gave citizens a visual representation of what may be located near their homes, schools, or workplaces. Adams County intends to use this map for public education and awareness and will carry a hard copy to outreach events.

Adams County has also instituted a board on their LEPC consisting of all major players in the LEPC (fire, law enforcement, EMS, hospitals, facilities, public health, public works, and most importantly two seats for citizen representatives). This ensures broad representation at our meetings for setting strategy and making decisions and also improves outreach to partners in those areas.

The goal of Adams County is to encourage more citizen/industry interaction. They want to invite industrial facilities to public events, and citizen board reps to attend facility tours, to improve relationships between citizens and facilities at a very grassroots level.

Weld County

Weld County Emergency Manager David Burns has been working on the integration of adding premise alerts to their CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) systems to alert first responders of a known chemical facility they might be responding to. If this is something you may be interested in implementing in your respective county, there are some considerations to make:

- Are your CAD systems capable of sending premise alerts and can they accept attachments?
- Who will input the information into the CAD systems and how might that be completed?
- Test the function of the systems with first responders after entering a few facilities to ensure it functions as intended and they have the information they need to respond effectively to a hazardous environment.
- Most importantly, provide training to first responders and dispatchers before implementing the process to ensure everyone understands the function of the alerts.

Innovations in Emergency Management, cont'd.

Boulder County

Chris Wetzel, a lieutenant with the City of Lafayette Fire Department is particularly passionate about his project to provide facility information that is more useful to first responders. What he has found from the fire engines is that too much information can be overwhelming as responders have to process and take information into consideration which can slow down the time it takes to implement a plan, particularly in an unfolding emergency. Lieutenant Wetzel wants to address the difference between "information" and "actionable knowledge", which is also a large task that LEPCs undertake.

The team in Boulder County has created Tier II facility files in their jurisdiction and created an individual file for each of them.

- Inside of that file is the Tier II report, site plans, a google earth image, a preliminary plume model for a worst case scenario in a release, and any other information the facility may provide (emergency response plans, contact info, etc.)
- That file is linked to a QR code for each of the facilities that has been attached to that address in their CAD system, which is the system that gives responders information from dispatch to the rigs like maps, phone numbers, communications channel assignments, and notes on the incident (for example is it a fire or a medical call and what the callers are saying on the 911 line).
- The QR codes are linked to the files and the files can be updated as information changes or is updated but that does not require the QR code to change into the dispatch software. This is significant for two reasons:
 1. Information changes are common and if that information is attached to the CAD system directly, (such as a PDF) any changes require the dispatch centers to input new PDFs with each change which is a huge workload for them and easy to get missed.
 2. Additionally, many fire departments can be dispatched by several communications centers so that info needs to be updated in all of those dispatch centers. The QR code allows a single upload for the dispatch centers that does not need to be done again. The file can be changed in a singular location and that info will be available across all the locations where the QR code is located or accessed.

If you would like to know more about the projects discussed above, please reach out to Bre Bockstahler (bockstahler.breann@epa.gov) who can provide contact information.

RMP Rules

Have you completed your first notification drill yet? The deadline is close, don't be out of compliance!

The chart below shows the deadlines under the RMP Reconsideration Rule that remains in effect:

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.

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.

Operation Salt Shaker

EPA Region 8 recently conducted a multi-region exercise in Salt Lake City on November 13th and 14th. The November functional exercise dubbed “Operation Salt Shaker” was a culmination of over a years worth of effort which brought together Incident Management Team members from EPA Regions 8, 9, and 10.

The exercise scenario focused on a theoretical earthquake occurring along the Wasatch Front near Salt Lake City, Utah. EPA Region 8 set a number of objectives for the series of exercises which included:

- Identifying initial EPA coordination and operational activities for an earthquake incident;
- Outline a concept of operations for conducting a



wide

area Emergency Support Function #10 (Oil and Hazardous Materials release), reconnaissance, prioritization, and response/recovery activities;

- Document and pre-plan procedure to enable cross-over for regional contractors for response logistics and operations;
- Identify an information flow and management process for collection, metrics, processing and use of data;
- Provide response experience for recently trained On Scene Coordinators, Incident Management Teams trained in Key Leadership Positions in a large-scale disaster response;
- Provide coordination processes, pre-planning, team building and comradery between Regions 8, 9 and 10 (Back Up Regions) in a large-scale disaster response.

If you have further questions on the exercise, you can contact Luke Chavez (chavez.luke@epa.gov) for more information.



Twenty Years of NIMS

FEMA Releases the 20 Years of NIMS report

FEMA released the [20 Years of the National Incident Management System \(NIMS\) Report](#), a comprehensive review marking two decades of progress since the establishment of NIMS. NIMS guides all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector on how to work together most effectively to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from incidents. For the past 20 years, NIMS has served as the nation's standard for managing all-hazards incidents. The report highlights the evolution of NIMS and showcases success stories from across the nation.

The 20 Years of NIMS report is a testament to the collaborative efforts of emergency management professionals across the country and provides insights into the future direction of incident management practices. It highlights lessons learned and best practices for implementing NIMS in various settings and improving national preparedness and resilience.

EPA HQ Updates

Updated List of Lists

Major changes have been made to the October 2024 version of the List of Lists. The list now includes the addition of the Clean Water Act Hazardous Substances. You can view this new format at: www.epa.gov/epcra/consolidated-list-lists

EPCRA, RMP and Oil Information Center

The EPCRA, RMP, and Oil Information Center (or "Call Center") is a publicly accessible service that provides information on the regulatory requirements for Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), the Risk Management Program (RMP) rule and Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) and Facility Response Plan (FRP) rules.

You can reach the Call Center at 800-424-9346 or at their new email at: infocenter-chemical-oil@epa.gov.

There is also a database of frequently asked questions that you can access [here](#).

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 15, 2025 – 1-3 pm ET](#)

[Register for April 15, 2025 – 11 am-1 pm ET](#)

[Register for July 17, 2025 – 2-4 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 18, 2025 – 12-3 pm ET](#)

[Register for May 21, 2025 – 10 am-1 pm ET](#)

[Register for August 21, 2025 – 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.

Western Regions SERC/TERC Meeting

Are you affiliated with a State or Tribal Emergency Response Commission (SERC/TERC) in EPA Regions 8, 9, or 10? The annual Western Regions meeting will be in Salt Lake City, Utah and January 28th and 29th, 2025. Use the [Event Brite link](#) to RSVP and we hope to see you there!



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Toxics Release Inventory

Toxics in the Community: TRI for Local and Tribal Governments

What do local and tribal government representatives need to know about the Toxics Release Inventory? In this webinar recording, TRI Program staff, the Local Government Environmental Assistance Network, and the Environmental Law Institute discuss how the TRI can help local and tribal governments respond to community concerns and protect community health. Local and tribal governments can use TRI data in many ways, including to support emergency planning, inform siting and permitting decisions, and protect fence-line communities who may be exposed to toxic chemical releases from nearby facilities. [Watch recording](#)

Complete 2023 TRI Dataset Available

EPA has published updated TRI data about toxic chemical waste management that occurred during 2023 at more than 20,000 industrial and federal facilities across the country. Among the updated online 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. Other online TRI tools and data files are available via the [TRI Toolbox](#).

Rail Car Training

DOT PHMSA Grant Funded Rail Car Training

The University of Findlay's All Hazards Training Center, in partnership with The Center for Rural Development, has received additional funding from DOT PHMSA to continue providing the FREE Rail Car Incident Response for Crude, Ethanol and Other Flammable Liquids Training.

This training is provided to ensure the responder and emergency management community is educated about the dangers and unique hazards presented with rail car incidents. This training will enhance the ability of emergency responders and managers to assess the scene of a rail car incident, understand the resources needed to remediate the emergency situation, including how the railroad industry plays a critical role in the response. Hands-on scenarios using a rail car simulator are conducted during the training which is provided onsite at your facility. The training is available anywhere in the U.S.

If you would like to learn more about this FREE training or schedule the course in your region, please contact Tim Saltzman at 419-672-1852 or timothy.saltzman@findlay.edu.

CAMEO Updates

Tier2 Submit and CAMEO Data Manager Software Updates Released

The official versions of [Tier2 Submit 2024](#) and [CAMEO Data Manager 4.4.0](#) for report year 2024 are now available on the EPA website. See the download pages for a list of specific changes in each program.

If you're required to complete an annual Tier II form under EPCRA, Tier2 Submit is a free desktop program that can be used to make an electronic version of the completed Tier II form. It includes all the fields from the federal form, as well as additional fields that are required or requested by some states. [Check with your state, tribe, or territory](#) to see if they use Tier2 Submit for submissions and to review the general Tier II reporting requirements and procedures for your area.

You can import facility, chemical inventory, and contact information from Tier2 Submit into the free CAMEO Data Manager desktop program, which also includes modules for incidents, routes, resources, and special locations that may be of use for emergency response and EPCRA planning activities.

For questions, review the help topics in the programs or contact the RMP Reporting Center via email (RMPRC@epacdx.net) or phone (703-227-7650) on weekdays from 8 AM to 4:30 PM Eastern Time. A Tier2 Submit tutorial is also provided on the download page.

For more details and to subscribe for future updates, see the official [Tier2 Submit and CAMEO Data Manager release announcement](#) that was sent to the CAMEO News Service subscribers.

Fall RRT Meeting

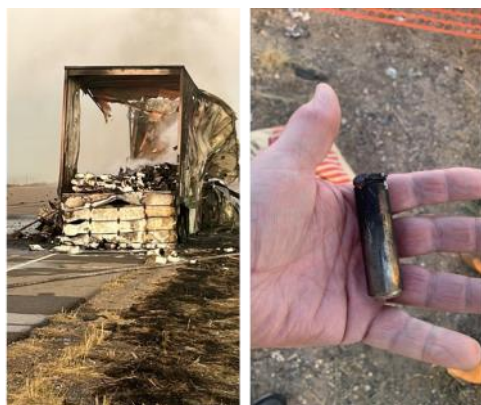
The 2024 Fall Regional Response Team VIII (RRT VIII) was held October 23rd-24th at the EPA Region 8 Headquarters in Denver, CO. One area of focus for this meeting was to discuss the subarea contingency plans that Region 8 recently drafted. Region 8 is currently working to incorporate RRT member comments into the plans. The RRT's provide a regional mechanism for the development and coordination of preparedness activities before a response action and the group can authorize certain activities or provide response resources during an emergency.

If you have questions on the RRT, you can consult: response.epa.gov/R8RRT or Gina Cristiano at cristiano.gina@epa.gov.

NREL Lithium Ion Battery Training

In mid-November, EPA On-Scene Coordinators, subject matter experts, and contractors from the EPA-led Lithium-Ion Battery Task Force held a training session at the National Renewal Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado. This task force has extensive knowledge and experience in lithium-ion battery (LIB) responses throughout the United States as well as has conducted numerous experiments on the behavior of lithium-ion batteries in varying conditions.

This hazard awareness training focused on the fundamentals of LIBs and their applications in personal electronics, micro-mobility devices, Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). The training also provided attendees with the opportunity to learn and



engage with members of the hazardous materials and

emergency management communities. The course covered battery basics, de-energization, air monitoring, site cleanup, transport and disposal as well as case studies of prior incidents.

There were attendees from fire districts across the

Denver Metro area as well as NREL with robust discussions on response techniques and even the future of lithium-ion battery usage.

EPA Region 8 has a new website at: response.epa.gov/R8BatteryOutreach where you can find more information. The documents listed include battery experimentation and reports,

the presentation from this training session as well as information from the National Firefighter Registry.

If you have more questions on the training, you can contact [Bre Bockstahler](#) and for technical questions, you can reach out to [Eric Sandusky](#).



Continuous Release Reporting

Are you a facility that has to report a continuous release of hazardous substances under CERCLA and EPCRA? EPA defines a continuous release as a release of a hazardous substance that is continuous and stable in quantity and rate. EPA interprets "continuous" to mean a release that occurs without interruption or abatement that is routine, anticipated, and intermittent during normal operation or treatment process. "Stable in quantity and rate" means predictable and regular in amount and rate of emission [[40 CFR 302.8\(b\)](#)].

To assist you with reporting continuous releases, EPA has developed a [guide on the Reporting Requirements for Continuous Releases of Hazardous Substances](#) that includes forms for written reports. The guide provides an overview of the information required for the initial and first anniversary follow-up reports to assist your collection of the required information.

Where to Submit Continuous Release Reports for Releases of CERCLA Hazardous Substances and EPCRA Extremely Hazardous Substances

Continuous Release Reporting Requirements	National Response Center	State or Tribal Emergency Response Commission (SERC or TERC)	Local or Tribal Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC or TEPC)	EPA Headquarters
Initial Telephone Notification*	CERCLA Hazardous Substances	CERCLA Hazardous Substances and EPCRA Extremely Hazardous Substances	CERCLA Hazardous Substances and EPCRA Extremely Hazardous Substances	
Initial Written Report		CERCLA Hazardous Substances and EPCRA Extremely Hazardous Substances	CERCLA Hazardous Substances and EPCRA Extremely Hazardous Substances	CERCLA Hazardous Substances
Follow-up Notification (Anniversary Report)				CERCLA Hazardous Substances
Changes in Other Reported Information Letter				CERCLA Hazardous Substances

Forms routing to EPA should now be sent to EPA headquarters shown on the right. You can consult the [EPA's CERCLA and EPCRA Continuous Release Reporting webpage](#) for much more information and guidance.

U.S. Postal Service (USPS)	FedEx/United Parcel Service (UPS)
Office of Emergency Management 1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20460 Mail Code 5104A Attn: Continuous Release Report	Office of Emergency Management 1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20460 Room 1309 Attn: Continuous Release Report

Critical Infrastructure Security

Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month

Did you know that November was [Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience \(CISR\) Month](#)?

CISR Month is the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) annual effort to educate and engage all levels of government, infrastructure owners and operators, and the American public about the vital role critical infrastructure plays in the nation's security and why it is important to strengthen critical infrastructure resilience.

CISA is continuing with the enduring theme of **Resolve to be Resilient**. By asking everyone to prepare for and invest in resilience today, the nation will be able to withstand and recover more quickly in the event of an incident tomorrow. Explore the resources on the [Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience \(CISR\) Month webpage](#)—which includes a toolkit—and be sure to follow CISA on social media and join the **#BeResilient** conversation.

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/chemical-executive-order>

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

Colorado

Ms. Henry Mitchell, Co-Chair
Phone: 303-319-5684
henry.mitchell@state.co.us

Mr. Trevor Denney, Interim Co-Chair
Phone: 970-247-7674
trevor.denney@state.co.us

North Dakota

Mr. Darin Hanson, Chair
Phone: 701-328-8100
nddes@nd.gov

Montana

Mr. Brett Lloyd, Co-Chair
Phone: 406-417-9239
brett.lloyd@mt.gov

Mr. John Rasmann, Co-Chair
Phone: 406-444-5328
jrasmann2@mt.gov

South Dakota

Ms. Kaitlin Sherer, Chair
Phone: 800-433-2288
Contact: Kelsey.Newling@state.sd.us

Utah

Ms. Kim Shelley, Co-Chair
Phone: 801-536-4404
kshelley@utah.gov

Mr. Jess Anderson Co-Chair
Phone: 801-965-4062
jessanderson@utah.gov

Wyoming

Mr. Jim Wamsley, Chair
Phone: 307-522-8001
jim_wamsley@rswy.net

RMP Region 8 Reading Room: (303) 312-6034

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.

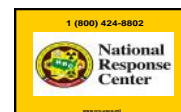
RMP: <https://www.epa.gov/rmp> **EPCRA:** <https://www.epa.gov/epcra>

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

[Lists of Lists](#) (Updated October 2024)

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

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-P)
Denver, CO 80202-1129
800-227-8917

This newsletter provides information on the EPA RMP, 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 EPCRA, and 40 CFR Part 112.2

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