



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program

What Is CSEPP?

CSEPP stands for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program. CSEPP, a joint partnership between the Army and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), improves preparedness in the communities surrounding the nation's five remaining chemical weapons stockpiles, in the unlikely event of an accident.

CSEPP is one facet of the multi-hazard readiness program in five U.S. communities that prepares for natural and man-made emergencies of all kinds. Depending on the location of the community, such emergencies may include tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, fires, hazardous material spills or releases and transportation and industrial accidents.

Why Is This Emergency Preparedness Effort Needed?

The Army has safely stored this country's chemical agents since the time of World Wars I and II.

In 1985, Congress ordered the Army to destroy the stockpiles and to provide "maximum protection" to the public who live and work in communities near the stockpiles now and until the chemical agents are eliminated.

The congressional mandate came about for a number of reasons, including:

- The munitions are obsolete and may be deteriorating while in storage
- This country seeks a world-wide ban on the production, retention and use of such munitions and agents

- Public and official recognition and concern about the risks associated with storing and using these chemical agents has increased in recent years
- Earlier studies of emergency preparedness capabilities of the communities near the stockpiles indicated inadequacies or shortfalls, to varying degrees, and the need for enhancement of existing emergency plans, training, equipment and/or facilities.

Where Are These Stockpiles Located?

The stockpiles are located in five communities in the continental United States. Because one of the five stockpile sites is near state borders, 25 counties in six states participate in the program. The Army stockpile sites and participating states are:

- Blue Grass Chemical Activity located on Blue Grass Army Depot (Kentucky)
- Pueblo Chemical Depot (Colorado)
- Deseret Chemical Depot (Utah)

Who's Involved In This Emergency Preparedness Program?

Local and state emergency services, as well as public health, environmental, fire and rescue, law enforcement and medical services agencies have major roles, along with elected and appointed officials.

The Army, as custodian of the stockpiles, and FEMA, which has long-standing experience in preparing for and dealing with all kinds of emergencies, provide funding, training, guidance

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and technical support and expertise. Other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, also lend their expertise in specific areas of the program.

The program combines the efforts of local, state and federal agencies and jurisdictions. Community and public participation in and knowledge of the program are essential to its success.

What Has This Program Accomplished?

Communities and states have reaped the benefits in improved emergency facilities, equipment, training and planning. Many of these enhancements increase their capabilities to deal with more likely emergencies such as transportation accidents involving hazardous materials, floods and fires, in addition to a chemical stockpile emergency.

Program enhancements include new command and public/media information facilities, communications equipment, sirens and tone-alert radios to warn and instruct the public, computerized planning and accident assessment tools, automated on-post and off-post communication systems and improved emergency personnel training.