



## U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

### Exercises

#### Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program

**Exercises:** Millions of Americans do them every day to stay in shape and improve skills. Some jog, ride a bike or play tennis. For others, exercise means aerobics, a Saturday afternoon touch football game or a walk around the block.

But, there's another kind of exercise you may hear about and see in your community – Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) exercises.

**CSEPP Exercises** are staged imitations of accidents. These exercises provide your elected officials and administrators and fire, police, emergency medical services and volunteer personnel with the most realistic way, outside of a real emergency, to practice the decision-making and response skills necessary to protect your health and safety in the event of a real accident.

Testing and validating emergency response plans is not a new idea. Many communities, state and federal agencies and private industries, such as commercial nuclear power plants, have been exercising emergency plans and procedures for years.

#### Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program

Your community has plans in place to deal with a wide variety of emergencies – tornadoes, floods, fires, earthquakes, hurricanes or accidents on the highways, railways or at industrial plants.

CSEPP is responsible for testing its plans and procedures through exercises at each community near one of this country's seven chemical

munitions stockpiles. The goal of these exercises is to make sure officials and emergency responders have the equipment, facilities and a plan to protect your health and safety if a stockpile emergency puts you at risk.

CSEPP exercises test the entire emergency response effort. Exercise players, officials and responders, practice managing and coordinating emergency activities among the various agencies, the neighboring communities and the Army installation. Exercises help your community test various capabilities such as medical response, shelters and procedures to protect special populations (schoolchildren and nursing home residents).

All exercises are evaluated in order to assess the overall effectiveness of emergency plans and procedures. As a result of the evaluations, problem areas are identified and, if necessary, improvements are made.

#### Emergency Exercises In Your Community

You may learn about an upcoming exercise in your community on radio or TV, in the newspaper or from a friend or family member. You may also see response activities during the exercise.

The important thing to remember is that the exercise is a staged accident – not a response to a real emergency. Listen to the messages on radio or TV that state, "This is a test." In a real emergency, messages would instruct you to take specific actions to protect yourself and your family.

For more information, contact the CMA Public Affairs Office at (410) 436-3629 (800) 488-0648