

CHEMICAL STOCKPILE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM (CSEPP)

Since World War I, the Army safely stored this country's stockpiled chemical agents. In 1985, Congress ordered the Army to destroy the stockpiles and to provide maximum protection to the people who lived and worked in communities near the stockpiles until the chemical agents were eliminated.

In 1988, the Army launched the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP), teaming with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and with state and local emergency management officials. Managed by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity, CSEPP improved the Army's ability to protect these stockpile communities

by enhancing their emergency plans and providing chemical accident-response equipment and emergency-warning systems.

CSEPP worked closely with communities surrounding the eight chemical weapons stockpiles in the continental United States through final stockpile destruction and site closure. In 2023, the Department of Defense completed stockpile destruction at Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, and Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado, the Nation's final two stockpiles. Colorado's CSEPP closed in February 2024. CSEPP continues to support stockpile closure operations in Kentucky until the chemical agent contaminated rocket warheads at Blue Grass Army Depot have been eliminated.

Communities are better prepared because of CSEPP

CSEPP conducted annual emergency preparedness exercises in the stockpile communities. These real-time simulated emergencies provided local first responders and hospital personnel, state and local emergency management officials, the Army and FEMA the critical training required to keep the public safe in the unlikely event of a chemical stockpile accident.

While the Department of Defense completed destruction of the Nation's chemical weapons stockpile in 2023, the stockpile communities will continue to reap

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Local first responders carry out chemical decontamination procedures during annual CSEPP exercises involving local, state, and federal emergency management officials.

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the benefits of the improved emergency facilities, equipment, training and planning that CSEPP provided. Many of these enhancements increased their capabilities to deal with more likely emergencies, such as transportation accidents involving hazardous materials, floods, tornadoes and hurricanes, earthquakes, and fires.

Other program-furnished upgrades include new command and public information facilities, communications equipment, sirens and tone-alert radios, computerized planning, and accident-assessment tools, automated on-post and off-post communication systems and improved training of emergency personnel. When the storage mission is complete, the program will leave a legacy of state and local communities prepared, ready, and resilient against all hazards.



In a real-time CSEPP exercise, participants overpack a simulated leaking chemical munition into a Multiple Round Container, designed for this purpose.