



# U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS ACTIVITY FACT SHEET

## CHEMICAL STOCKPILE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) is a unique partnership that unites the U.S. Army, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), multiple federal departments and agencies, two States, many local governments, volunteer organizations, and the private sector. Its mission is to enhance existing local, installation, tribal, State, and Federal capabilities to protect the health and safety of the public, workforce, and environment from the effects of a chemical accident or incident involving the U.S. Army chemical stockpile.

The Army has safely stored this country's chemical agents since World War I. 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 until the chemical stockpiles are eliminated, leading to the creation of CSEPP in 1988. This partnership helped these communities by enhancing emergency plans and providing chemical accident response equipment and warning systems for emergencies. Emergencies may include tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, fires, hazardous material spills or releases and transportation and industrial accidents.

Originally, CSEPP comprised 10 states, 40 counties, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) located in Oregon. Maryland, Indiana, Illinois, Alabama, Arkansas, Utah, Washington, Oregon, and the CTUIR completed their CSEPP mission and were closed out of the program.

CSEPP continues to support the communities surrounding the two remaining chemical weapons stockpiles at Blue Grass Chemical Depot, Kentucky, and Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado. The communities and states join the Army and FEMA to practice keeping the public safe in the unlikely event of a chemical stockpile accident. CSEPP training gives emergency responders – such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical teams – skills and knowledge they can use every day.

The program combines the efforts of local, state and federal agencies and jurisdictions. 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 and FEMA, provide funding, training, guidance and technical support and expertise. Federal agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services lend their expertise in specific areas of the program. Community and public participation in and knowledge of the program are essential to its success.



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### What has this program accomplished?

Communities and states have reaped the benefits in improved emergency facilities, equipment, training and planning. These enhancements increase their ability to deal with more likely emergencies such as transportation accidents involving hazardous materials, floods and fires. 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.

CSEPP also has been a major driver for development of emergency preparedness doctrine and policies, both within the Army and in civilian practice at the federal, state and local level.

CSEPP guidance also has advanced the art of emergency management in a number of areas, and served as the basis of the most important national-level guides in the emergency management world, including the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program, the national guide for homeland security exercises.

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