



# Paratus

## EPA Region 8 Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

Volume XIV No. I First Quarter 2024 Newsletter

### Welcome to the EPA Region 8 Preparedness Newsletter.

Feel free to page through the entire newsletter or click on the links to the stories you want to read first.

[New EPA Regulations](#)



[CAMEO Training](#)



[Region 8 Outreach Activities](#)



[ASTI Training](#)



[CISA Updates](#)



[OSHA Updates](#)



[2024 ERG Update](#)



[EPA Enforcement Case Settlement](#)



[FEMA Updates](#)



[Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Documents](#)



[Next Page](#)

## Revised RMP Rule (SCCAP) Announced

### Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention Rule Signed

EPA is strengthening its [Risk Management Program](#) regulations ([40 CFR Part 68](#)) following a review of the existing RMP requirements and after considering comments on the [2022 Proposed Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention \(SCCAP\) rule](#). The revisions further protect vulnerable communities from chemical accidents, especially those living near facilities in industrial sectors with high accident rates. The amendments include several revisions and amplifications to the accident prevention program requirements, enhancements to the emergency preparedness requirements, increased public availability of chemical hazard information, several changes to regulatory definitions and points of clarification.

Final amendments to the rule include:

- Requiring a safer technologies and alternatives analysis, and in some cases, implementation of reliable safeguard measures for certain facilities in industry sectors with high accident rates.
- Advancing employee participation, training, and opportunities for employee decision-making in facility accident prevention:
  - \* Reiterating the allowance of partial or complete process shutdowns in the event of a potential catastrophic release.
  - \* Implementing a process to allow employees and their representatives to anonymously report specific unaddressed hazards.
- Requiring third-party compliance audits and root cause analysis incident investigation for facilities that have had a prior accident.
- Enhancing facility planning and preparedness efforts to strengthen emergency response by ensuring chemical release information is timely shared with local responders and a community notification system is in place to warn the community of any impending release.
- Emphasizing the requirement for regulated facilities to evaluate risks of natural hazards and climate change, including any associated loss of power.
- Increased transparency by providing access to RMP facility information for communities nearby.

You can find more information including:

[Fact Sheets for Communities](#) and [Fact Sheet for Regulated Facilities](#)

## CWA Hazardous Substance Planning Regulations

On March 21, EPA finalized new safeguards for communities and the environment from facilities that store and could discharge dangerous chemicals into a river, lake, or other waterbody. These protections build on EPA's recent issuance of the "Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention Rule," which contains the strongest ever safety provisions to prevent and address explosions and other accidental airborne releases from chemical facilities.

“As climate change increases the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, planning and preparedness for these incidents are especially important,” said Clifford Villa, EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Land and Emergency Management. “These new requirements will help protect the environment and communities by ensuring that facilities have planned for and can respond to worst-case discharges of hazardous substances, particularly in communities with environmental justice concerns, which are disproportionately located in proximity to industrial facilities.”

These response plans are an important tool to ensure facilities are prepared to respond to a worst-case discharge of hazardous substances. The final rule requires various components to be included in the response plans, including hazard evaluation, personnel roles and responsibilities, response actions, and drills and exercises.

EPA anticipates that approximately 5,400 facilities will meet the criteria to submit a facility response plan. Additionally, the final rule provides a process for EPA Regional Administrators to assess facilities on a case-by-case basis and, if appropriate, to require a facility to develop a response plan based on, among other things, concerns related to potential impacts of a worst-case discharge on communities with environmental justice concerns.

In developing the final rule, EPA considered input received during the 120-day public comment period. The final rule revised the proposed criteria to lower the threshold quantity of Clean Water Act hazardous substances on site to more comprehensively screen for facilities that could cause substantial harm to the environment.

Regulated facilities are required to submit response plans to EPA within 36 months of the effective date of the rule. During this time, the agency is committed to conducting outreach and providing compliance assistance to the regulated community and implementing organizations to help them understand the requirements.

For more information on the final rule, please see [EPA's Clean Water Act Hazardous Substance Facility Response Plans website](#).

## Activities Around the Region

First quarter 2024 is off to a roaring start filled with exciting activities happening in the region. If you are interested in more information about these activities or want direct contact information, be sure to reach out to us.



South Metro Fire District and Arapahoe County OEM located in the southern Denver metropolitan area hosted a HazMat Team expo in February. This was a meet and greet opportunity for area HazMat groups including the local Space Force Base. These groups were able to familiarize themselves with

apparatus and personnel available within the southern Denver metro area and meet colleagues to potentially collaborate with for large scale responses. EPA Region 8 brought their emergency response vehicle and a local towing company along with South Metro displayed a fire blanket demo with a brief discussion on how they responded to a recent electric vehicle fire.



FEMA hosted an exercise featuring a catastrophic earthquake scenario occurring in Utah that included participation from EPA Region 8, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Utah Division of Emergency Management, and numerous other federal and state agencies in February. This exercise was incredibly beneficial for participants as it helped demonstrate numerous considerations in the event of a large earthquake. EPA is conducting further planning and assessment related to possible chemical threats associated with this sort of scenario which will include examination of facility data and community impacts using plume models and other available tools. By holding exercises as a federal consortium, the groups can perfect the various processes that might go into responding to a similar disaster in our region.

## Activities Around the Region, cont'd.

The Utah SERC and EPA Region 8 hosted a review on table top exercises the day before the Utah LEPC conference in March. Attendees reviewed two separate scenarios including a chlorine release and an ethanol train derailment scenarios. Attendees were able to take home both scenarios to adjust for their constituents for future exercises.



Utah Department of Public Safety hosted its annual Utah LEPC conference in March with well over 125 attendees. The packed conference agenda featured topics including updates on the SCCAP regulation, HMEP updates and HazMat training opportunities, a brief presentation on Lithium-Ion battery response, a case study featuring a mercury clean-up response, an LEPC panel highlighting best practices, civil support team capabilities, a case study on oil spill response and challenges that arose, and EPA OSC case study and avoiding liabilities in emergency planning.

## Western Regions SERC/TERC Conference

EPA Regions 8, 9, and 10 co-hosted the 2024 Western Regions SERC/TERC conference in Clark County, Nevada in February. The two day conference was in-person after years of being virtual with a great turn-out. The conference had numerous states and federal agencies across the three regions in attendance with informative sessions and collaborative opportunities. You can find presentations here: [response.epa.gov/WesternSERC2024](https://response.epa.gov/WesternSERC2024) The date for the 2025 conference has not been determined as of press time but will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. We hope to see you there!



## CFATS Update

### Six Months Since Lapse of CFATS Statutory Authorities

On January 28, 2024, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) marked six months since Congress allowed the statutory authority for the [Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards \(CFATS\) program](#) (6 CFR Part 27) to expire. Since CISA can no longer enforce compliance with the CFATS regulations at this time, this means that CISA cannot require facilities to report their chemicals of interest or submit any information in the Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT), perform inspections, or provide CFATS compliance assistance, amongst other activities. In other words, CISA can no longer require high-risk chemical facilities to implement cyber and physical security measures in order to ensure that dangerous chemicals stay out of terrorists' hands. CISA urges Congress to reauthorize CFATS in order to ensure that security is in place at high-risk facilities and to better protect our communities, local first responders, and facility personnel.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

## CISA Announcements

CISA is excited to announce new additions to our library of ICT Supply Chain Risk Management (SCRM) resources, available at <https://www.cisa.gov/ict-supply-chain-resource-library>. These resources are designed to empower State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs) in their outreach to both municipal and private sector facility operators. Whether for proactive planning or post-incident mitigation explore these comprehensive tools and guidance to gain valuable insights into identifying, assessing, and mitigating potential supply chain vulnerabilities.

## Update to ERG

The 2024 version of the Emergency Response Guide (ERG) is slated for a mobile app release of April 1 (if you have the 2020 version already downloaded, then the updated app will be available) and the full PDF files posting on April 4. State Coordinators should be receiving their books within the next four weeks if they have not already at press time. The ERG Summary of Changes is already live on the [website](#) along with our “#GotMyERG” social media toolkit. Sign up for our GovDelivery updates and you'll receive the press release as soon as it's available:

<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDOTPHMSA/subscriber/new>.

## 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 April 8, 2024 – Noon-2 pm ET](#)

[Register for July 11, 2024 – 1-3 pm ET](#)

[Register for October 7, 2024 – 11 am-1 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 May 6, 2024 – Noon-3 pm ET](#)

[Register for August 7, 2024 – 11 am-2 pm ET](#)

[Register for November 7, 2024 – 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](mailto:ChemLock@cisa.dhs.gov).

## EPA Lithium-Ion Battery Task Force

Do you have questions about lithium-ion battery fires and what EPA is doing about them? EPA has a national task force compiling lessons learned from previous responses (including a management guide from the Maui wildfire response) and information from other partners working on this issue. You can consult: [response.epa.gov/R4LithiumIonBatteryOutreach](https://response.epa.gov/R4LithiumIonBatteryOutreach) which is a repository for all things lithium-ion battery fires related to EPA. This site is constantly updated, so be sure to consult this often as we learn more information. For questions in Region 8, our contacts are Eric Sandusky ([sandusky.eric@epa.gov](mailto:sandusky.eric@epa.gov)) and Joe Payne ([payne.joe@epa.gov](mailto:payne.joe@epa.gov)).

# FEMA Announcements

## FEMA Updates the Climate Risk and Resilience (ClimRR) Portal

The [Climate Risk and Resilience Portal \(ClimRR\)](#) is an award-winning, free, national online source for sophisticated climate data down to the neighborhood level. ClimRR provides easy access to climate data to integrate future conditions into Hazard Mitigation Plans, land use plans, infrastructure design, and FEMA's [Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool \(RAPT\)](#).

ClimRR data is available for changing hazards: extreme temperatures (hot and cold), cooling and heating degree days, heat index, wind, fire weather index, precipitation/no precipitation under two carbon emission scenarios. The updated portal lets users visualize and analyze future climate hazards combined with local demographic and infrastructure data. Enhanced features include:

- New Consolidated Local Reports Assessing Future Climate Hazards and Community Impacts
- New Maps, Charts & Visualizations
- Improved Educational Features to Interpret Climate Hazard Data Points

## FEMA Releases 2023 National Preparedness Report

FEMA released the [2023 National Preparedness Report](#), highlighting the state of the nation's preparedness at all levels of government while examining the risks the nation faces and the capabilities available to address them. With the cost and frequency of disasters increasing markedly over previous decades, emergency managers must continue to adapt, forge new partnerships, and anticipate challenges to help individuals and communities.

This year's report provides a data-driven picture of national preparedness and emergency management trends with focused discussions on four core capabilities:

- Fire Management and Suppression.
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management.
- Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services.
- Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction.

This year's report provides concrete recommendations that partners and stakeholders across the whole community can take to increase the nation's resilience.

To read the full report, go to [fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness#reports](https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness#reports).



## CAMEO Training

### CAMEO for Planning

Understand the hazardous material threat in your jurisdiction. Experienced instructors will train you how to use the Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) Suite software to facilitate planning for hazardous material incidents. This training focuses on CAMEO Data Manager (DM), CAMEO Chemicals, and MARPLOT. [Find more information and register here.](#)

This month-long class includes: online classroom with 24/7 access to weekly lessons, videos & activities; weekly, scheduled live Q&A webinars; 1-hour Zoom call on the first day of class; four 2-hour webinars on the remaining 4 days. Two sessions left in 2024:

Session 2: May 28 – June 25 (Tuesday webinars)

Session 3: Oct. 17 – Nov. 14 (Thursday webinars)

## TRI Updates

### New 'Catalog of Applied TRI Data Uses'

There's a new way to find examples of how organizations and individuals have used Toxics Release Inventory (EPCRA 313) data over the years. The searchable 'Catalog of Applied TRI Data Uses' collects examples of these uses—in reports, websites, publications, and other resources—in one place. It's intended to offer ideas of how others might incorporate TRI data into various informational, research, and environmental improvement efforts. Search the catalog at <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/catalog-applied-tri-data-uses>.

### 2024 Tribal Assistance Coordination Group Conference; May 6 - May 10, 2024; Phoenix, AZ

## Tribal Coordination Conference

The Tribal Assistance Coordination Group Conference brings together tribal emergency managers and program personnel, federal emergency management personnel, volunteer organization active in disasters personnel, state, local and non-government organizations involved in emergency management professionals to share the latest program information and best practices for all hazard emergencies and disasters.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

## ASTI Training

### **Ammonia Safety & Training Institute (ASTI) presents Safety Day training and chemical Tabletop Exercises (TTX) available to local industry and community responders**

- ASTI formed the National Safety Day Coalition together with IIAR, RETA, and GCCA to present safety and emergency response preparedness training at minimal cost to the attendees.
- ASTI worked with Region 9 EPA to create ammonia Tabletop Exercises based upon the One Plan four stages of response; focused on engaging local, state, and federal emergency response plans.
- ASTI organizes and leads a local committee of industry, public safety, and governmental leaders to create Safety Day presentations and Tabletop Exercises.
- Sample topics include: hazard analysis, health & safety concerns, critical task readiness, e.g., emergency system control, rapid “grab and go” rescue by first responders, and methods of containment and control of ammonia events using proper methods e.g., personnel protective equipment, decontamination, teaming agreement with public safety responders, monitoring systems, and command team coordination and communications readiness to address on-site and off-site life safety and environmental receptors.

Event schedule updated regularly on ASTI website at [www.ammonia-safety.com](http://www.ammonia-safety.com).

For a current list of events: [Event Schedule](#)

Contact ASTI via email at [asti@ammonia-safety.com](mailto:asti@ammonia-safety.com) or call 831-761-2935 for more information.

## NASTTPO Workshop

### **2024 NASTTPO Annual Workshop; April 22 - 25, 2024; Charlotte-Southpark, NC**

The National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) is made up of members and staff of SERCs, TERCs, LEPCs, various federal agencies, and private industry. Members include state, tribal or local government employees with Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (EPCRA) program responsibilities, such as health, occupational safety, first response, environmental, and emergency management agencies. [Find more information and register here.](#)

# OSHA Updates

## OSHA Emergency Response Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

[OSHA](#) is publishing a proposal to update an existing standard and expand safety and health protections for emergency responders, including firefighters, emergency medical service providers and technical search and rescue workers. OSHA issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to modernize the agency's "Fire Brigades" standard — first published in 1980 — as



its protections for a narrow set of industrial and private firefighters have become outdated.

Currently, OSHA regulations protect emergency responders' safety and health in a patchwork of decades-old, hazard-specific standards. Not designed as comprehensive emergency response standards, they fail to address the full range of job hazards faced by today's emergency responders. The newly named "Emergency Response" standard updates safety and health protections in line with national consensus standards for a broad range of workers exposed to hazards that arise during and after fires and other emergencies. The proposal will include major changes for protective clothing and equipment and significant improvements in safety and health practices that the industry generally accepts as standard procedures.

The proposed rule requires employers to obtain baseline medical screening for all emergency responders and ensure continued medical surveillance for responders when they are exposed to the byproducts of fires and explosions more than 15 times annually. The proposal also includes a variety of other requirements to better protect both workers whose primary job is emergency response and those whose emergency response duties are in addition to their regular daily work duties.



Learn more about [OSHA's Emergency Response Rulemaking](#). The public can submit comments to the docket once the Federal Register formally publishes the proposed rule.

## Clean Air Act violation settlement

### Company pays fine, addresses Risk Management Program deficiencies

The EPA announced a Clean Air Act settlement in which Dyno Nobel, Inc. (Dyno Nobel) has agreed to pay a \$394,906 civil administrative penalty as part of an ongoing, multi-step effort to address violations of [Risk Management Program](#) (RMP) requirements at the company's ammonium nitrate production plant in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

An EPA inspection of the Dyno Nobel facility revealed several violations of RMP requirements related to the management of ammonia and chlorine. Deficiencies included failures to adhere to the Clean Air Act's RMP standards for process safety information, process hazard analysis, mechanical integrity and operating procedures at the plant.

The settlement, filed as a Consent Agreement and entered through a Final Order on March 8, 2024, follows Dyno Nobel's recent successful completion of several compliance actions required by a January 4, 2023, EPA Administrative Compliance Order on Consent (AOC). The company has been responsive to the prior order and has corrected all identified deficiencies to reduce the possibility of an accidental release or other harm.

This settlement is part of EPA's National Enforcement and Compliance Initiative to reduce risks from chemical accidents. The initiative focuses on improving compliance with environmental laws within the chemical manufacturing industry sector, where accidental chemical releases can pose serious risks to human health and the environment.

The Dyno Nobel facility is subject to Clean Air Act RMP regulations because it stores and processes large quantities of ammonia and chlorine. The RMP rule requires facilities holding more than 10,000 pounds of ammonia or 2,500 pounds of chlorine to develop a site-specific risk management plan and submit that plan to EPA.

Risk management plans address the proper design and maintenance of equipment such as pipes and vessels, a facility's emergency preparedness and the ability to minimize releases that may occur. These plans provide valuable information to local fire, police and emergency response personnel to prepare for and respond to chemical emergencies. Making these plans available to the public also fosters communication and awareness to improve accident prevention and emergency response practices at the local level.

For more information on the Clean Air Act and RMP rule requirements, please visit the [EPA RMP rule webpage](#).

## Oil SPCC/FRP Workshops

EPA Region 8 Oil Section personnel conducted two Facility Response Plan (FRP) Compliance Assistance Workshops in February in Williston and Fargo, North Dakota. The group provided instruction and materials to representatives of oil facilities so that they could develop approvable Facility Response Plans, successfully pass SPCC/FRP inspections and Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises (GIUEs).



Attendees included 26 representatives from oil refineries, pipeline terminals and storage facilities, oil production, vegetable oil producers, and soy processing facilities across the state of North Dakota.

If you are a facility subject to Oil Pollution Act and have questions or want to inquire about training opportunities, you can reach out to FRP coordinators Michael Porter ([porter.michael@epa.gov](mailto:porter.michael@epa.gov)) or Angie Villa ([villa.angie@epa.gov](mailto:villa.angie@epa.gov)).

## 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/chemicalexecutiveorder/index.html>

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. Amanda Hettinger, Co-Chair  
Phone: 303-692-2000  
amanda.hettinger@state.co.us

Mr. Mike Willis, Co-Chair  
Phone: 720-852-6694  
mike.willis@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

Mr. Dustin Willett, 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) 312-6345

**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](mailto:RMPRC@epacdx.net).

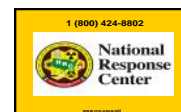
**RMP:** <https://www.epa.gov/rmp>    **EPCRA:** <https://www.epa.gov/epcra>

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

[Lists of Lists](#) (Updated December 2022)

**Questions?** Call the Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP, and Oil Information Center at (800) 424-9346 (Monday-Thursday).

**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-PSAS)  
Denver, CO 80202-1129  
800-227-8917

*This newsletter provides information on the EPA Risk Management Program, 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*

[Return to Top](#)