



Recent media reports remind us that we continue to face ongoing and evolving threats. The U.S. Intelligence Community assesses the likelihood of a mass casualty attack using chemical or biological material in the Homeland in the near term is low. However, it is prudent to recognize that lone actors - including criminals and homegrown violent extremist inspired by terrorist leaders or by literature advocating the use of chemical or biological materials - may attempt small scale attacks.

Community level response planning for a chemical release (either accidental or nefarious) is critical to minimizing loss of life, protecting critical infrastructure, and reducing the spread of chemical contamination. Fortunately, many communities have already established integrated (fire, police, EMS, public health) response plans, and have worked with local industries to identify amounts and locations of chemicals of concern. Many communities have also developed plans to respond to a chemical release at local critical infrastructure (like transit systems or event venues) that may be attractive targets for terrorists. Some communities have developed resources to aid in response like specialized hazardous materials teams, medical countermeasure caches, or mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.

If your community has decided to become better prepared for a possible chemical release there are several sources of information, best practices, and guidance specific to the chemical threat are available. Below are links to just some of the many resources available.

Resources	Best Use
<a href="#">American College of Medical Toxicology Consultation Services: Directory of Inpatient Medical Toxicology Services</a>	Toxicant Management Consultation
<a href="#">American College of Medical Toxicology Consultation Services: Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry Consultation Network</a>	Toxicant Management Consultation
<a href="#">ATSDR Medical Management Guidelines</a>	Toxicant Management
<a href="#">ATSDR's Toxicology FAQs for Chemical Agents</a>	Crisis Communication
<a href="#">CDC Chempack</a>	Incident preplanning: Toxicant Management, Antidotes
<a href="#">CDC Clinical Laboratory Response Network</a>	Toxicant Management Diagnostics
<a href="#">CDC's Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication Quick Guide</a>	Crisis Communication
<a href="#">Chemical Hazards Emergency Medical Management</a>	Education and Training
<a href="#">CHEMM-Intelligent Syndrome Tool (CHEMM-IST)</a>	Toxicant Management
<a href="#">Department of Homeland Security and Department of Health and Human Services. Patient Decontamination in a Mass Chemical Exposure Incident: National Planning Guidance for Communities. 2014</a>	Toxicant Management
<a href="#">DOT Emergency Response Guidebook: A Guidebook for First Responders During the Initial Phase of a Dangerous Goods/Hazardous Materials Transportation Incident. 2012</a>	Incident preplanning: Decontamination
<a href="#">Edgewood Chemical Biological Center. Guidelines for Mass Casualty Decontamination during a HAZMAT/Weapon of Mass Destruction</a>	Toxicant Management

<a href="#">Incident, Volumes I &amp; II</a>	
<a href="#">Federal Bureau of Investigation fields the Hazardous Materials Response Unit (HMRU)/Hazardous Evidence Response Team Unit (HERTU)</a>	Incident preplanning: Decontamination
<a href="#">Local and City Health Departments: Directory</a>	Specialized Response Teams
<a href="#">Local Emergency Planning Committees</a>	Toxicant Management Consultation
<a href="#">National Guard Bureau Civil Support Team-WMD</a>	Incident preplanning: Hazard Vulnerability Assessment/Situational Awareness
<a href="#">National Library of Medicine's Special Information Services:Disaster Course Digital Go Bag</a>	Specialized Response Teams
<a href="#">NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards. United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 2010</a>	Education and Training
<a href="#">OSHA Best Practices for Hospital-Based First Receivers of Victims from Mass Casualty Incidents Involving the Release of Hazardous Substances</a>	Toxicant Management
<a href="#">Regional Poison Centers</a>	Incident preplanning: Decontamination
<a href="#">US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense Consultation Services</a>	Toxicant Management Consultation
<a href="#">Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER)</a>	Toxicant Management

### Other Resources

Chemical Emergency Speed Dial: 24/7 On-Call Resources

- Regional Poison Center: 1-800-222-1222 (any chemical emergency)
- Chemtrec: 1-800-424-9300 (hazardous material spills)
- National Response Center: 1-800-424-8802 (major oil or chemical release)
- Local and State Health Departments (report unusual illness, suspected epidemics, obtain epidemiologic and laboratory support):
  - Local Health Departments: For a map with directory for your locality go to: <http://www.naccho.org/about/lhd/>
  - State Health Departments: For a map with directory for your state go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/international/relres.html>

The DHS Office of Health Affairs stands ready to assist you as you endeavor to strengthen your response. If you need assistance, or want to speak with other communities who have already developed integrated response programs, please contact us at [Healthaffairs@HQ.DHS.GOV](mailto:Healthaffairs@HQ.DHS.GOV).