

Chemical Emergencies Work Group Final Charge

Chemical Emergencies: preventing, preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating chemical incidents.

Chemical emergencies can be devastating to human and animal populations, the environment, and the economy. Safeguarding public health requires analyzing and eliminating vulnerabilities; identifying and communicating information about hazards; and reducing risks through the development and implementation of effective emergency prevention, preparedness, and response plans. While many public and private agencies have roles in chemical emergency prevention, preparedness and response, coordination among concerned parties has not been optimized. Further, there remain shortcomings, gaps, and redundancies in the chemical emergency preparedness system.

This group will make recommendations on issues including the prevention of chemical emergencies, chemical infrastructure security, monitoring of chemical facilities and events, and the preparedness and response capabilities of 1) emergency management officials; 2) state and local public health agencies and their governing boards; 3) responders, receivers, and providers on the local, state, tribal, and federal levels; 4) the chemical industry; and 5) affected, or potentially affected communities.