Resources for Law Enforcement and First Responders

Homeland Security

Enhancing security and resilience across the chemical sector requires a collaborative effort by the private industry, public sector, and law enforcement. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provide law enforcement and first responder personnel, who have a need-to-know, access to information about chemical facilities and resources to help them plan, prepare and respond to chemical emergencies in their areas.

EPA's EPCRA — Protecting Public Health and the Environment in Communities

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) was established in 1986 to help communities plan for emergencies involving hazardous substances. EPCRA ensures that local communities and first responders have needed information on hazardous chemicals stored in their area, how they're transported, and the consequences in case of a potential release into the environment. This information is used to develop emergency response plans that community officials can use for chemical emergencies that may occur.

Facilities handling or storing any hazardous chemicals that require a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Hazard Communication Standard must submit an Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form, called a "Tier II Report." This report must be submitted annually to that facility's State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and local fire department to help them plan for and respond to chemical emergencies.

EPA's RMP — Mitigating Chemical Accidents in Communities

The Risk Management Program (RMP) was established in 1996 as a means of preventing and mitigating the consequences of chemical accidents. Owners and operators of facilities that manufacture, use, store, or handle any of the RMP's list of flammable and toxic substances above the threshold quantity are required to submit information to EPA that includes the facility's hazard assessment, accident prevention mechanisms, and emergency response measures. Facilities must update the plan every five years (or sooner if major changes occur). This plan provides local fire, police, and emergency response personnel with valuable information to prepare for and respond to chemical emergencies in their community.

DHS CFATS — Regulating Security at Nation's Highest Risk Chemical Facilities

The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) regulation was established in 2007 to address chemical security at high-risk chemical facilities that possess certain chemicals of interest (COI) at specific

quantities and concentrations. These COI give rise to three main security issues: release of toxic, flammable, or explosive chemicals; theft or diversion of chemicals; and sabotage of chemicals. Facilities that possess COI at the specific quantities and concentrations listed in Appendix A of the CFATS regulation must report their holdings via a Top-Screen survey. DHS uses this information to determine facilities that are high-risk and assign those facilities to a tier. Tiered facilities are required to implement security measures that reduce the risks associated with their COI being exploited in an attack.

DHS IP Gateway — Sharing CFATS Data for Preparedness and Response

The Infrastructure Protection (IP) Gateway is a centrally-managed repository of data DHS uses to share critical infrastructure information, including assessments, analytical products, and reports with first responders and law enforcement to help with planning, incident preparedness, and response efforts.

DHS shares certain CFATS data elements with authorized Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) agencies on a geospatial map to help these stakeholders identify and prioritize potential risks and develop a contingency plan to address those risks. IP Gateway uses three layers of information protection to ensure data stakeholders share is not exposed. This permission-based system allows DHS to share CFATS information while appropriately balancing safety and security risks. Level of authorized access is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

CFATS data is available in a For Official Use Only (FOUO) layer and a Chemical-terrorism Vulnerability Information (CVI) layer with an established "need-to-know". FOUO access allows users to view information on any chemical facility that has filed a Top-Screen (such as name and geospatial information) within their respective jurisdictions, whereas CVI access includes additional information, such as a facility's risk-based tier.

EPA Resources

- EPCRA program: www.epa.gov/epcra
- Risk Management Plan and RMP program: www.epa.gov/rmp
- Tier II Reporting Requirements: www2.epa.gov/epcra/state-tier-ii-reporting-requirements-and-procedures
- Contact the RMP Reporting Center by emailing RMPRC@epacdx.net
- Contacting your SERC or LEPC: www2.epa.gov/epcra/state-emergency-response-commissions-contacts or www2.epa.gov/epcra/local-emergency-planning-committees

DHS Resources

- CFATS program: www.dhs.gov/chemical-facility-anti-terroism-standards
- CFATS CVI Training: www.dhs.gov/cvi-authorized-user-training
- IP Gateway: www.dhs.gov/ipgateway
- The CFATS Knowledge Center is a repository of CFATS FAQs, articles, and more: csat-help.dhs.gov/
- Request a CFATS presentation or connect with your Regional Director by emailing cfats@hq.dhs.gov
- The CSAT Help Desk provides timely support for chemical facility owners and operators. Call 1-866-323-2957 or email csat@dhs.gov
- Contact the CFATS Tip Line to report a possible CFATS violation. Call 877-394-4347 (877-FYI 4 DHS)