

# Key Planning Factors and Considerations for Response to and Recovery from a Chemical Incident

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The United States faces a wide array of chemical threats and hazards, including, but not limited to, the unintentional release of toxic chemicals in an industrial or transportation setting and the deliberate weaponization of toxic chemicals by various types of malicious actors. Such threats and hazards have the potential to cause significant harm or disruption to the general public (including large-scale injury and mortality), first responders, critical infrastructure systems, the environment, and/or the delivery of vital community services. Chemical incidents present many distinct challenges for communities of any size or capability.

The *Key Planning Factors and Considerations for Response to and Recovery from a Chemical Incident* (Chem KPF) document provides emergency planners with critical information and links to additional technical resources to facilitate preparedness planning and inform the response to and recovery from all types of chemical incidents. The document is intended to serve as a bridge between highly technical information used by the hazardous materials community and the operator-level all-hazard incident response and recovery approach used by the emergency management and first responder communities. Additionally, it features “user-friendly” guidance to help emergency planners address the question: “How do the response to and recovery from chemical incidents differ from the approaches and protocols used to manage the effects of more traditional incidents (e.g., hurricanes, floods, wildfires, etc.)?”



While the Chem KPF document does not encompass the totality of the planning process nor all chemical incident issues, it serves to provide a foundation for planning for non-technical audiences. The Chem KPF also provides guidance for addressing the “core capabilities” outlined in the *Oil and Chemical Incident Annex (OCIA) to the Federal Interagency Operational Plans (FIOPs) for Response and Recovery*. The seven principal focus areas examined within the Chemical KPF document are summarized on the following page.



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