



Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program

CSEPP Overview

The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) works closely with communities around the Nation's two remaining U.S. Army chemical weapons stockpile locations in Colorado and Kentucky to enhance emergency preparedness. The priority of CSEPP is building capabilities and partnerships that help potentially impacted communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from a chemical emergency. CSEPP unites the U.S. Army, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), other Federal entities, two States, local governments, volunteer organizations and the private sector in whole community partnerships that enable communities to protect their citizens.

The Department of Defense is destroying chemical weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado and at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky. Risk to the surrounding communities from the storage and disposal of chemical weapons remains until destruction is complete. CSEPP is committed to its preparedness mission until the chemical stockpile is destroyed.

Community Preparedness

Preparing for any type of emergency begins with you. The best way to prepare is to know more about risks in your community. Know how officials will alert you if disaster strikes. Develop a family emergency plan and have a disaster supply kit ready.

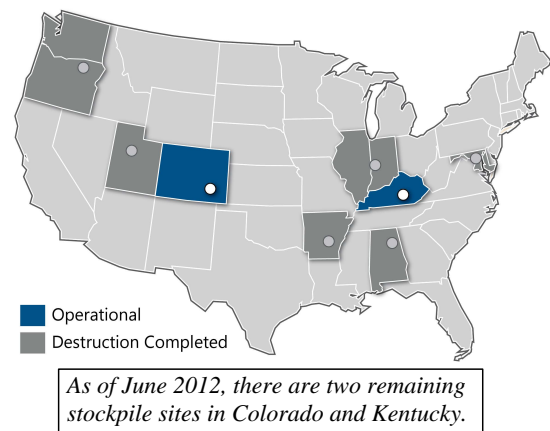
For more information on the Colorado CSEPP, please visit www.preparepueblo.com. For more information on the Kentucky CSEPP, please visit www.PrepareKY.com. Both of these websites have tools and resources to help you, your family, and your community be ready in the event of an emergency.

Chemical stockpile emergency preparedness capabilities are tested each year during exercises with the two communities. State and county partners, along with the Army and FEMA, practice keeping the public safe in the unlikely event of a chemical stockpile accident. Exercises are important for measuring CSEPP's performance and testing emergency plans,

and CSEPP training gives emergency responders skills and knowledge they can use every day.

Program History

FEMA began providing preparedness assistance to communities near U.S. Army chemical stockpile sites in August 1988. CSEPP began with 10 states, 40 counties, and one tribal nation. The U.S. Army safely completed disposal of chemical weapon stockpiles at Aberdeen Proving Ground (Md.), the Newport Chemical Depot (Ind.), the Pine Bluff Arsenal (Ark.), Anniston Army Depot (Ala.), Umatilla Chemical Depot (Ore., Wash., Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), and the Deseret Chemical Depot (Utah).



After the elimination of the chemical weapon stockpiles, the CSEPP communities were systematically closed out of the program; however, the CSEPP best practices and lessons learned were transferred to all-hazards emergency preparedness within these communities.

As chemical destruction activities continue in Colorado and Kentucky, FEMA Regional and Headquarters CSEPP staff work with the State and local partners to assess response capabilities, identify preparedness gaps, and to provide and monitor CSEPP funding. The whole community partnerships that have been established through CSEPP help each community strengthen its ability to respond to emergencies through improved facilities, equipment, planning, training, and exercises.