



Actions to Improve Chemical Facility Safety and Security

Responding to recent catastrophic chemical facility incidents in the United States, President Obama issued Executive Order (EO) 13650 "Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security" on August 1, 2013. The focus of the EO is to reduce risks associated with hazardous chemical incidents to owners and operators, workers, and communities by enhancing the safety and security of chemical facilities. A Federal Interagency Working Group led by the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for the Office of Infrastructure Protection (DHS); Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); and the Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, in coordination with the Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) oversees chemical facility safety and security.

Through the analysis of the current operating environment, existing regulatory programs and stakeholder feedback, a consolidated Federal Action Plan was created to address five elements:

- Strengthening community planning and preparedness
- Enhancing Federal operational coordination
- Improving data management
- Modernizing policies and regulations
- Incorporating stakeholder feedback and developing best practices

The Working Group has implemented the following actions since the release of the EO:

Strengthening Community Planning and Preparedness

The Interagency Working Group, in collaboration with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments and private sector partners, is working to develop, re-energize, and enhance programs to assist the following: State Emergency Response Commissions (SERC), Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (TERC), Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC), and Tribal Emergency Planning Committees (TEPC). This is critical to improving chemical facility safety and security across the country. Actions include:

- EPA expects to release an on-line training module on key requirements for SERCs/TERCs and LEPCs/TEPCs under the *Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)* this summer. EPA also hosted 32 Local Leadership Planning Committee (LEPC) workshops from May – September 2014. There are over 390,000 facilities covered by EPCRA, making these efforts a vital component of our work to strengthen chemical facility safety throughout the nation.
- DHS/FEMA is working with the 10 counties with the highest combination of Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) and Risk Management Program (RMP) facilities to ensure they are using the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), which provides public notification of incidents at local chemical facilities.
- ATF is transmitting explosives contacts to SERCs to establish greater relationships and facilitate better communication between local responders and facilities, assist responders in discussing explosives storage information, and enable authorities to develop training for emergencies involving explosives plants and storage facilities. DHS has created a list of government-approved training courses for first responders and emergency planners which are available on the [EO website](#).