



FEMA

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REGION 6 Preparedness, Response, and Prevention Update

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Guidance on the Use of Chemical Countermeasures on Inland Oil Spills; *information retrieved from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.*

Introduction: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recognizes the major role of local government responders as the first line of defense for mitigating threats to public health and the environment from spills of oil and hazardous substances. In recognition of this role, EPA tries to provide local responders with the tools necessary to safely and effectively mitigate such incidents. Chemical countermeasures are one of these tools, but their use must be authorized and carefully managed. This information describes that process where countermeasures are proposed for use on inland events such as fuel spills that may affect navigable waters. These include any surface waters and conduits to them, including road ditches and storm drains.

What are chemical countermeasures? Any element, compound, or mixture that coagulates, disperses, dissolves, emulsifies, foams, neutralizes, precipitates, reduces, solubilizes, oxidizes, concentrates, congeals, entraps, fixes, makes the oil more rigid or viscous, reduces the harmful effects or otherwise helps remove the oil from the environment. This includes biological additives, dispersing agents, surface washing agents, surface collecting agents, burning agents, and any other miscellaneous oil spill control agents.

Which ones can be used? For spills that have the potential to reach navigable waters, either directly or by runoff, the chemical countermeasure must be listed on the Product Schedule found at Subpart J of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP).

When can they be used? Free product should first be recovered and/or removed to the extent practical. Provisions must be made to contain and recover runoff from the treated area if there is a threat that it might reach navigable waters. Approval is unlikely in situations where there are concerns with groundwater contamination (i.e., shallow aquifers, Karst geology) that might affect navigable waters. Caution must be used when applying chemical countermeasures into a closed conduit, such as a sanitary sewer or storm sewer. Many countermeasures, particularly dispersants, break the fuel into small droplets and increase vaporization. In these cases, use only products specifically designed for vapor suppression.

When is approval necessary? Product Schedule listing does NOT imply or confer pre-approval for use. It means only that the agent has met the performance testing requirements set forth in the NCP. Authorization is required for use in EVERY case where navigable waters may be affected. In cases where it is certain that no runoff can reach navigable waters, authorization is not required. An example of this might be treatment of a road surface to reduce slickness.

Who can give approval? The NCP at Subpart J requires authorization from the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC), with concurrence from the Regional Response Team (RRT) and other affected agencies. In cases where use of chemical countermeasures is necessary to prevent or substantially reduce an immediate hazard to human life, the OSC may authorize use of the agent without RRT concurrence for the emergency phase of the operation.

How do I request approval? During a spill event, contact an OSC at the 24-hour EPA Region 6 Hotline number: 866.372.7745.

What information is needed to consider approval?

- Exact location of spill
- Type and amount of material spilled
- Justification for countermeasure use
- Potential health/environment impacts
- Name of countermeasure proposed
- Product MSDS
- Rate and method of application
- Estimated volume proposed
- Nearest surface water
- Forecasted weather conditions
- Monitoring strategy
- Material recovery strategy

Additional Information:

- National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP); 40 CFR Part 300 Subpart J: http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/pdfs/900_920.pdf
- NCP Product Schedule: <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/pdfs/schedule.pdf> Or call 202.260.2342
- NCP Product Schedule Notebook, with detailed information on listed products: <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/pdfs.notebook.pdf>
- Product Schedule Q & A: <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/pdfs/ncpqna.pdf>
- Oil Program Overview: <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/overview.htm>

Local Government Reimbursement Letters from EPA

information retrieved from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

EPA Headquarters has approved applications for the Local Government Reimbursement (LGR) program from the following communities in EPA Region 6; Guadalupe County, Texas and El Paso, Texas. Congratulations to both communities!

Guadalupe County is eligible for an award of \$ 2,084.31 for costs incurred responding to a fire involving a hazardous substance on December 7, 2003.

El Paso is eligible for an award of \$ 3,747.91 for costs incurred responding to an abandoned hazardous substance on March 25, 2004 and a second award of \$916.27 for costs incurred responding to a suspected anthrax release on June 11, 2005.

The Local Government Reimbursement Program provides federal funds to local governments for costs related to temporary emergency measures conducted in response to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances. The program serves as a "safety net" to provide supplemental funding to local governments that do not have funds available to pay for these response actions.

Eligible local governments may submit applications to EPA for reimbursement of up to \$25,000 per incident. On February 18, 1998, EPA published a new LGR regulation that simplifies and streamlines the process for applicants. EPA has designed the reimbursement process to be very straightforward. Local governments obtain and complete a simple LGR application form that requires a local government to provide basic information about the incident, document its response costs by attaching copies of receipts, and certify that certain program requirements have been met.

An applicant may receive a reimbursement check from the federal government in as little as three months after EPA receives the application. Local governments can take action today to help ensure that they are eligible to participate in the LGR program in the future.

EPA's LGR Program is just a telephone call away. For more information about the LGR program, visit http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/respprev/lepc/lepc_lgr.htm, contact us at 800-431-9209 (LGR Help Line) or e-mail us at lgr.epa@epamail.epa.gov.

Cancellation of the CAMEO 20 Year Anniversary Conference

information retrieved from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

We sincerely regret to inform you that due to hurricane preparedness and a combination of natural disasters (tropical storms, wildfires, droughts, and flooding) across the country that have affected many of the potential conference attendees, we are cancelling the CAMEO 20 Year Anniversary Conference. We apologize for any inconvenience this decision may cause you, and we hope that your training needs can be met by the courses being offered at www.epa.gov/ceppo/cameo.

If you have already mailed your check or purchase order, it will be returned to you by U.S. Mail. Please be sure to cancel any hotel reservations if you have already made them.

Community Awards for Chemical Safety

information retrieved from the Chemical Education Foundation.

The Chemical Education Foundation (CEF) wants to honor the Outstanding Efforts of your LEPC! The CEF recognizes the active and important work of first-response community organizations through the Community Awards for Chemical Safety.

Your organization is vital to the community, and we want to know about outreach efforts taking place in your neighborhood! Tell us about your—

- Public Safety Efforts
- Chemical Industry Partnerships
- Chemical Safety Awareness Programs

NOMINATE YOUR LEPC!

VISIT www.chemed.org or CALL 703/527-6223 FOR DETAILS.

Region 6 LEPC Contacts and Coordinators

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	Paula McKinney	800-452-2791	pmckinney@beh.tdh.state.tx.us

Why, why, why, *contributed by Steve Mason.*

- Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?
- Why do banks charge a fee on "insufficient funds" when they know there is not enough?
- Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?
- Why doesn't glue stick to the bottle?
- Why do they use sterilized needles for death by lethal injection?
- Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?
- Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?
- Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?
- Why is it that no matter what color bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?
- Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?
- Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?
- Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?
- Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?
- Why do we try to keep the house as warm in the winter, as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?
- Why do you never hear father-in-law jokes?
- Why do you need a driver's license to buy liquor when you can't drink and drive?
- Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?
- Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?
- Why are there flotation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?
- Why are cigarettes sold in gas stations when smoking is prohibited there?
- Why are there locks on the door, if 7-11 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year?
- Why does Teflon stick to the pan, if nothing ever sticks to TEFLON?
- Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways?
- Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's called cargo?
- Why can't they make the whole plane out of the same substance they use for the indestructible black box?
- Why do noses run and feet smell?
- Why is it that when you're driving and looking for an address, you turn down the volume on the radio?
- Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
- Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- Why does an alarm clock "go off" when it begins ringing?
- Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?
- Why is it called tourist season if we can't shoot at them?
- Why do fat chance and slim chance mean the same thing?
- Why isn't "palindrome" spelled the same way backwards?
- Why is it so hard to remember how to spell MNEMONIC?
- Why is it called a TV "set" when you only get one?
- Why is it that doctors call what they do "practice"?
- Why do they make cars go faster than any legal speed limit in the country?
- Why is it, whether you sit up or sit down, the result is the same?
- Why is it called a "building" when it is already built?
- Why do they call them "apartments" when they are all stuck together?
- Why is there an expiration date on SOUR cream?
- Why does flammable and inflammable mean the same thing?
- Why is the word "monosyllabic" so long?
- Why is the word "abbreviate" so long?
- Why not move 10 miles away, if 75% of all accidents happen within 5 miles of home?
- Why do 'tug' boats push their barges?
- Why do we sing 'Take me out to the ball game', when we are already there?
- Why are they called 'stands' when they're made for sitting?
- Why do they lock gas station restrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?
- Why do sheep not shrink when it rains?
- Why did they call it the "Civil War" ... can wars be civil?
- ***The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends -- if they're okay, then it's you.***

CAMEO CORNER

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.epa.gov/region6/lepc

CAMEO Search:

What is the proper name for the chemical that has "flavoring" in the general description, the DOT label "flammable liquid", and the synonym "GBL"?

ALOHA Exercise:

At 3:16pm on August 28, 2006, a truck carrying pressurized canisters of Stibine collided with a passenger vehicle at the intersection of Laurel Street and Aston Street (an urban area) in Little Rock, Arkansas. The collision caused a 200 pound canister to rupture and instantly release its entire contents. The wind is 16mph out of the Southeast with a partially cloudy sky. The temperature is 98 degrees F with 78% humidity and no inversion.

What is the length of the threat zone for ERPG-2?

ANSWERS:

1. Dipropyl ketone
2. 1722 yards

Emergency Numbers for Spill Reporting in Region 6

Arkansas Dept. of Emergency Management	800-322-4012
Louisiana State Police	877-925-6595
New Mexico State Police	505-827-9126
Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality	800-522-0206
Texas Environmental Hotline	800-832-8224

National Response Center	800-424-8802
EPA Region 6	877-372-7745
CHEMTREC	800-424-9300

