

## Typical Federal Roles During a Hazardous Materials Disaster

Agency/Center	Responsibility
<b>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</b>	<p>Responsible for coordinating all civil emergency planning, management, mitigation, and assistance functions of the Federal government. Under Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA Title III), FEMA is the primary Federal agency responsible for planning and related training for hazardous materials emergency management. This encompasses accidents at manufacturing, processing, storage, and disposal facilities, as well as hazardous materials in transit by highways, on water, by rail, and by air.</p> <p>FEMA provides resource information, technical and financial assistance to States for developing emergency plans for hazardous materials accidents and other types of emergencies, and assists State and local governments in hazardous materials training. FEMA also assists States and communities by interpreting Federal planning guidance, providing advice on plan preparation, and reviewing completed plans. FEMA regional staff are available to provide this support. When emergency exercises are conducted, FEMA regional officials provide support by reviewing the plans, observing exercises to test the plans, and providing technical evaluation of how well the plans worked.</p> <p>Finally, FEMA is available to provide financial relief in the event of an incident so serious that local and State funds prove inadequate.</p>
<b>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</b>	<p>The primary mission of the EPA is to protect and enhance our environment. EPA is the lead agency responsible for carrying out Title III reporting requirements, hazardous waste site operations, and Superfund site cleanup activities. EPA also conducts technical and environmental training programs related to hazardous materials, and chairs the 14-agency National Response Team (NRT). At the request of community officials, EPA can provide technical expertise on the full range of environmental contamination issues.</p>
<b>Department of Transportation (DOT)</b>	<p>Establishes the nation's overall transportation policy. It bears the primary responsibility for issuing standards and regulations relating to the transportation of hazardous materials nationwide. (Hazardous materials that are transported only within a State's borders are regulated by State</p>

	<p>law.) DOT is heavily involved in identifying safer modes of hazardous materials transport and has significant regulatory, research and development, and training functions in this area. DOT trains and inspects carriers and shippers of hazardous materials to ensure that they are in full compliance with regulatory guidelines.</p>
<p><b>Department of Energy (DOE)</b></p>	<p>Provides the framework for a comprehensive and balanced national energy plan through the coordination and administration of the energy functions of the Federal government. Its primary responsibilities in the hazardous materials arena involve radioactive waste generated by the nuclear weapons program or by nuclear reactors that supply energy. DOE provides assistance in the removal and storage of hazardous materials.</p>
<p><b>Department of Defense (DOD)</b></p>	<p>Responsible for maintaining personnel, equipment, and other resources for potential use in military conflict. DOD also conducts hazardous materials courses at five military installations, primarily for military personnel responsible for the handling and control of such substances. DOD laboratories and installations can be a source of expertise, equipment, and supplies for use in local chemical emergencies.</p>
<p><b>Department of Labor</b></p>	<p>The purpose of the Department of Labor is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners of the United States, to improve their working conditions, and to advance their opportunities for profitable employment in carrying out this mission.</p>
<p><b>Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)</b></p>	<p>Under the Department of Labor, OSHA is responsible for establishing rules and standards to ensure that occupational environments are safe for workers. As part of this function, OSHA regulates employee safety and health at hazardous waste operations, in work environments where hazardous materials are present (primarily chemical industries), or during emergency response to incidents involving hazardous materials.</p>