

After a review of the plan and SOPs, communities implement any necessary modifications. Local, State, and Tribal Government officials, industry, and the FEMA coordinator identify available training programs based on identified needs. A tabletop exercise also may be conducted prior to the full-scale exercise.

The Exercise

The final phase of CHER-CAP is a full-scale HAZMAT field exercise with “live” props, such as a tanker truck, rail car, or fixed facility, with simulated smoke, leaking liquid, and casualties. The exercise typically involves 100 to 300 participants and lasts approximately 4 hours. Peer evaluators from nearby jurisdictions observe the exercise and record their observations. A final report is prepared and submitted to the participants following the exercise.

FEMA offers CHER-CAP as a voluntary program to prepare for HAZMAT accidents or intentional incidents.



For more information regarding CHER-CAP, contact your FEMA Regional Office or State emergency management agency; and visit the FEMA website:
www.fema.gov/pte/carep.htm

Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300

www.fema.gov/pte/carep.htm



CHER-CAP

Comprehensive
HAZMAT
Emergency
Response

CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM





The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



The Federal Emergency Management Agency is offering the *Comprehensive HAZMAT Emergency Response – Capability Assessment Program (CHER-CAP)* to assist local communities in improving their HAZMAT emergency response capabilities. CHER-CAP also will enhance the work FEMA has begun in *Project Impact* by providing a technological hazards component toward building disaster-resistant communities throughout the Nation.

CHER-CAP uses the skills and resources of local, State, Tribal, and Federal Governments, and industry to identify and address local jurisdictions' HAZMAT preparedness needs. It also enhances the community's ability to operate within the National Response System, as described in the National Contingency Plan. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transportation are key Federal partners in CHER-CAP.

How CHER-CAP Works

ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED in FEMA Region VI, CHER-CAP involves the commitment of people from responder agencies at the local, State, Tribal, and Federal Government levels and from industry. CHER-CAP is conducted in phases spanning a total of four to six months. Communities interested in undertaking CHER-CAP notify their State emergency management agency. The State then selects jurisdictions for participation.

CHER-CAP's purpose is to:

- Identify opportunities for plan revisions
- Identify communication needs
- Identify resource needs
- Improve coordination
- Identify and accomplish required training
- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Improve individual performance
- Serve as a Train-the-Trainer initiative for additional jurisdictions
- Test plans and systems in a comprehensive exercise
- Motivate public and private officials to support emergency programs
- Increase general awareness of proficiency and needs
- Improve Federal-State-Tribal Government-local-industry emergency management relationships

LEPC and Industry Involvement

AFTER SELECTION of a CHER-CAP community by the State, an initial meeting is held between FEMA and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to discuss the scope of CHER-CAP and the time that will be needed to conduct the program. Following a commitment by the community, information gathering begins — including emergency response plans, any existing mutual aid agreements, agency specific SOPs, existing data on hazardous substances in the community, documentation regarding training previously undertaken, and training needs. Most CHER-CAP initiatives eventually include fire, police, emergency medical services, public works, health and environmental agencies, public officials, and hospitals in addition to industry.

