



Border and Transportation Security: Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

The TSA is responsible for intermodal transportation security planning, prevention and protection measures, and preparedness initiatives. The TSA is implementing a National Intermodal Transportation Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (NITSEEP) as a mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of the transportation industry's security plans and ensure the national transportation system's preparedness to withstand or respond to a terrorist attack. The TSA recognizes the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) as an effective tool for the transportation industry to use to meet the intent of TSA regulations. Therefore, the TSA recommends that owners and operators subject to its regulations follow the guidelines set forth in HSEEP to fulfill the program requirements. This will increase the awareness of responsible agencies of the critical processes, issues, and activities that arise during and following a transportation security incident as well as mitigation strategies.

The TSA will deliver a series of exercises and requisite training to port communities to:

- Foster and support institutional relationships within the port environment, including the transportation industry, transportation security managers, emergency managers, enforcement agencies, emergency responders, medical professionals, media and security personnel, and all others involved in preparing for and responding to a transportation security incident
- Develop stakeholder proficiency with checklists and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for continuity of transportation operations during and after a transportation security incident, and recommend training and other actions based on evaluated exercises
- Establish an environment conducive to supporting a sustained information sharing process and routine interaction between responsible agencies and the transportation industry involved in managing transportation systems during a transportation security incident

Emergency Preparedness and Response: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)

The CSEPP is a partnership between FEMA and the U.S. Army that intends to help communities surrounding the eight U.S. chemical stockpile sites enhance their abilities to respond to a chemical agent emergency. CSEPP exercises focus on partnerships among Federal, State, and local jurisdictions involved in the program, which is administered through the States.

CSEPP communities have been recognized nationally for their ability to respond to all hazards. Many of the lessons learned via CSEPP are used in industry; CSEPP uses partnerships with other public safety organizations to ensure that this knowledge has the greatest benefit for the most people.

CSEPP activities include:

- Improving public warning capabilities
- Building and upgrading state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs)



- Training emergency managers and first responders
- Conducting functional exercises (FEs) to improve readiness
- Increasing public knowledge and understanding of protective actions
- Installing and testing filtration systems for schools to ensure children's safety
- Studying emergency response options to determine the best way to protect communities
- Training doctors and nurses to treat victims of chemical agent exposure

Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program

The mission of the REP Program is to enhance planning, preparedness, and response for all types of peacetime radiological emergencies among Federal, State, and local governments and the private sector and to ensure that adequate offsite emergency plans and preparedness are in place and can be implemented by State and local governments. Emergency plans must protect the health and safety of the public living in the vicinity of commercial nuclear power plants and must be evaluated through biennial exercises.

Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)

The purpose of the MMRS is to develop or enhance existing emergency preparedness systems to effectively respond to a public health crisis, especially a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incident. Through preparation and coordination, local law enforcement, fire, hazardous materials (HazMat), emergency medical services (EMS), hospital, public health, and other first-responder personnel plan how to more effectively respond during the first 48 hours of a public health crisis.

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP)

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) establishes an exercise program that meets the intent of section 4202(a) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90), amending section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA).

As described in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP 40 CFR 300), PREP focuses on exercise and evaluation of government area contingency plans and industry spill response plans (i.e., oil and hazardous substances). PREP is a coordinated effort of the four Federal agencies with responsibility for oversight of private-sector oil and hazardous substance pollution response preparedness: the USCG, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Transportation Research and Special Programs Administration, and U.S. Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service. These agencies worked with Federal, State, and local governments; the oil and marine transportation industry; cleanup contractors; and the general public to develop the program.

PREP meets the OPA mandate for exercises and represents minimum guidelines for ensuring overall preparedness within the response community. It also recognizes the economic and operational constraints faced by those affected by the exercise requirements. The guidelines, which are reviewed periodically through a public workshop process, outline an exercise program that satisfies the exercise requirements of the four Federal regulatory agencies.



PREP requires each industry response plan holder and government area contingency plan holder to engage in a series of exercises aimed at assessing the entire plan over a 3-year cycle. Most of these exercises are conducted wholly within the plan holder's organization each year, including:

- Quarterly notification exercise to assess internal communications and coordination
- Quarterly emergency procedures exercise to assess initial actions of facility or vessel personnel in the event of a spill emergency
- Equipment deployment exercise to assess capability of response personnel and equipment in executing response strategies contained in the plan (semiannually if owned, annually if contracted)
- Annual spill management team exercise to assess plan holder's spill response management organization and its ability to implement and manage response plan strategies and resources
- Unannounced exercise using one or more of the above exercise types to assess ongoing readiness to respond quickly in an emergency (at least annually)

Government and industry plan holders also interact in external exercises. For example:

- Federal agencies initiated a maximum of four unannounced exercises in each contingency planning area, in which the government oversight agency requires an industry plan holder to initiate response to a small discharge, including equipment mobilization and deployment.
- Once every 3 years, each USCG and EPA contingency planning area holds an area exercise involving major joint government and industry plan holders to assess cooperation, compatibility, and adequacy of strategies. It must include both the spill management team and equipment deployment exercises.

Spill of National Significance (SONS) Exercise Program

A SONS is a rare catastrophic oil or hazardous substance spill event that captures national attention and requires the coordinated response of multiple Federal and State agencies over an extended period of time.

The USCG SONS Exercise Program increases awareness of USCG response protocols in place for responding to a catastrophic spill event. The exercise allows senior administration officials at both the regional and national levels to practice emergency interaction with Congress, the States, and industry in a nonemergency environment. The program's major objectives are:

- Increase national preparedness for a SONS scenario by engaging all levels of spill management in a coordinated response.
- Improve, through practice, the ability of the National Incident Commander (NIC) organization to manage a SONS incident.
- Maintain awareness by agency heads and lawmakers in Washington, D.C., of their role during a SONS response.



A SONS exercise typically consists of field, regional, and headquarters components all connected by a common scenario. The field-level exercise is a full-scale exercise (FSE) that tests the area contingency plan for one or more port areas. The NIC-level exercise tests a regional contingency plan and internal USCG policy directives and their ability (as they relate to the NIC) to effectively manage a SONS and supports the field and headquarters components. The headquarters-level exercise brings together senior agency officials and industry representatives to discuss interagency issues and responsibilities. It tests the national contingency plan and appropriate USCG policy as they relate to a SONS response.

SONS exercises are conducted approximately every 2 to 3 years, alternating among East Coast, Gulf Coast, West Coast, and Great Lakes scenarios.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Exercises

An act of terrorism (or a large-scale natural disaster) that targets the U.S. civilian population will require rapid access to large quantities of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies; such quantities may not be readily available unless special stockpiles are created. No one can anticipate exactly where a terrorist will strike, and few State or local governments have the resources to create sufficient stockpiles. Therefore, a national stockpile has been created as a resource for all.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 tasked the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with defining the goals and performance requirements of the SNS program (formerly the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile) as well as managing the actual deployment of its assets. In 2004, management of the program was returned to the HHS. The HHS works with the DHS and other governmental and nongovernmental partners to upgrade the Nation's response capacity. Ensuring capacity is developed at the Federal, State, and local levels to receive, stage, and dispense SNS assets is critical to the success of this initiative.

The SNS program is committed to participating in one external (defined as involving an actual deployment of personnel and material) exercise each month. The SNS exercise lifecycle formalizes the process the SNS program uses to receive, process, and approve requests for exercise participation. The SNS exercise lifecycle spans more than 10 months: 9 months before and 1 month after the date of the exercise. Requests for SNS exercise support should be submitted a minimum of 9 months before an exercise; SNS exercise support is in high demand and may exceed the program's current capability. The SNS program also needs recovery time to refit specialized cargo containers and prepare them for shipment to the next exercise. The program prioritizes requests based on the order of receipt; the educational value of the request; previous opportunities provided to the requesting agency; resource requirements; and the exercise's proposed goals, objectives, and plans. Only the office of the director has the authority to commit SNS program participation in an exercise.