



CHEMPACK

Fact Sheet



WHAT IS CHEMPACK?

- Nationwide program funded by the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR)
- A first responder asset that provides antidotes to individuals exposed to intentional or accidental nerve agent release.
- Forward placement of nerve agent antidotes provided to state and local governments as a sustainable resource that increases the capability to respond quickly to a nerve agent event.



WHY CHEMPACK?

- The mission of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Program is to deliver critical medical assets to the site of an emergency within 12 hours.
- In the event of accidental or intentional nerve agent release, 12 hours is too long for immediate, initial treatment.
- Many states lack sufficient nerve agent antidotes, and many local hospitals have limited supplies of treatments for nerve agent exposures.
- Antidotes have variable shelf lives, and replacing them is costly.



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WHAT ARE NERVE AGENTS?

- Class of organic chemicals known as organophosphates, which include common pesticides as well as nerve agents.
- As the name suggests, nerve agents attack the human body's nervous system. This class of chemicals interrupts neurotransmitters that signal muscles to contract.
- Nerve agent poisoning leads to contraction of pupils, profuse salivation, convulsions, involuntary urination and defecation, and eventual death by asphyxiation (as control is lost over respiratory muscles).
- Most nerve agents are easily vaporized or aerosolized, therefore, the primary entry method into the body is through the respiratory system.

STORAGE

- CHEMPACK containers are self-contained units placed in centralized locations, enabling first responders to administer life-saving antidotes quickly. There are two types of containers:

EMS Containers

- Geared to first responders
- 85% auto injectors
- 454 casualty capacity

Hospital Containers

- Geared to clinical care
- 85% multi-dose vials
- 1,000 casualty capacity



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MONTANA CHEMPACK

- Montana has **7** CHEMPACK host sites.
 - Each host site has 1 **EMS** container to treat up to 454 casualties.
- Each (Montana) Local and Tribal Health Jurisdiction, including their emergency response partners, should have a written plan detailing accessing and transporting CHEMPACK assets. Plans should be reviewed and updated yearly.
- Multiple agencies and disciplines must collaborate to develop the CHEMPACK plan, ensuring local responders can access and distribute CHEMPACK assets during a chemical event.



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