

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In a world that increasingly relies on chemicals, the transportation, handling, and storage of those substances concern everyone. Hazardous chemical spills and exposure affect individuals, families, communities, and the ecological health of the entire planet.

Good planning is essential to safe chemical handling. That is why any organization that deals with hazardous chemicals will have:



- An emergency response team in place, or
- Made arrangements with an outside contractor to respond to chemical emergencies.

Although you do your best to avoid accidents, mishaps with toxic chemicals still occur. When a hazardous chemical spills in your plant, you need to know the correct steps to take.

Where Are the Regulations?

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) standard. It is found at 29 CFR 1910.120.

Some employers covered by HAZWOPER decide to evacuate all employees in the event of a chemical emergency. These employers do not allow workers to assist in handling the spill and must have an emergency action plan (EAP) in place. Regulations covering EAPs are found at 29 CFR 1910.38.