

County of Plumas Emergency Operations Plan

FUNCTIONAL ANNEX C

ChemPack Deployment

Purpose:

The CHEMPACK project, part of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Program, is designed to provide a “forward” and sustainable resource of chemical and nerve agent antidotes throughout the United States. Managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), each CHEMPACK EMS cache provides enough chemical and nerve agent antidote to treat 450 people in the event of an accidental or deliberate release of a nerve agent or organophosphate compound. Five CHEMPACKS are stored at secure sites within the California Mutual Aid Region III and have been placed to maximize geographic coverage.

For maximum effectiveness, CHEMPACKS need to reach affected patients within 60 minutes or less.

Policy:

Plumas County Public Health Agency (PCPHA) has access to five sites hosting the northern most CHEMPACK caches in California. It will be the responsibility of designated responders to evaluate the need for CHEMPACK deployment to our county in an emergency and to contact Dispatch (PSAP) to request the closest or easiest accessible cache.

Legal Authority:

CHEMPACK is a component of the federal Strategic National Stockpile Program (SNS) operated by the CDC for the benefit of U.S. civilian populations. In the case of an accidental or deliberate release of a nerve agent or potent organophosphate compound, time will be of the essence to minimize morbidity and mortality. CHEMPACK, unlike other state or federal assets, does not require their approval for deployment.

Need to Deploy:

The need to deploy will be determined by the existence of an emergency requiring a nerve agent antidote. Nerve agents are extremely toxic organophosphate type chemicals, including GA (tabun), BG (sarin), GD (soman), GF (cyclosarin), and VX, which attack the nervous system and interfere with chemicals that control nerves, muscles, and glands. They are odorless and invisible and can be inhaled, absorbed through the skin, or swallowed. Nerve agent antidotes counteract the effects of nerve gases by 1) decreasing symptoms and 2) regenerating an enzyme that is wiped out by the nerve gases.

Decision to Deploy:

The decision to deploy, break the seal on, or move a CHEMPACK container from its secure location will be limited to any of the following events:

1. Release of a nerve agent or potent organophosphate with human effects or immediate threats too great to adequately manage with other pharmaceutical supplies available.
2. Large or unusual occurrence of patients presenting with signs and/or symptoms consistent with nerve agent or organophosphate exposure or intoxication.
3. A credible threat of an imminent event of a magnitude likely to require the assets of the CHEMPACK.
4. An event with potential to create a release with human exposure (e.g. a transportation accident with fire or loss of container integrity).
5. Any event which, in the judgment of a County Health Officer, Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC), hazardous materials team, county OES coordinator, or other official designated by the county, justifies the decision to deploy the CHEMAPCK.

Activation Protocol:

Requests for deployment of CHEMPACK can be made by the Incident Commander (IC) or Medical Group Supervisor at the scene of a suspected nerve agent or organophosphate release with known, suspected, or potential contaminated, exposed or affected patients. The medical officer at the base hospital may also authorize release of CHEMPACK after consultation with the on scene IC.

All CHEMPACK requests must include:

1. The nature and severity of the release/ exposure, the number of patients, and the potential number of patients that may self present at the receiving facility.
2. Location including GPS coordinates (if available)
3. Access routes for ground and air
4. Weather and wind information
5. Any hazards for delivery personnel

Deployment Procedure:

- The final decision to deploy the CHEMPACK will rest with the Health Officer or designee. In the event that contact with the Health Officer is delayed and the situation clearly warrants immediate action, designated Public Health staff may elect to request CHEMPACK assets after consultation with the base hospital or the on- scene IC.
- The Health Officer or designee shall immediately notify the Region III Regional Disaster Medical Health Specialist (RDMHS) of any CHEMPACK movement from the secure location. The RDMHS will notify the California Department of Public Health who will then notify the CDC.
- During normal business hours if a CHEMPACK deployment request is received from the Dispatch Center, it will be forwarded on immediately to the PCPHA CHEMPACK coordinator or designee for the request to be initiated.

- After hours, weekends and holidays, the CHEMPACK request will be made to the on-call Environmental Health or Public Health Nurse. The on-call person receiving the request should immediately place a return call to Dispatch at 530-283-6300 to verify the request. Upon validation, the PSAP (dispatch) will immediately notify the closest and/or most accessible CHEMPACK cache site of the need and determine the best route and type of transportation to the delivery site. Dispatch will provide the estimated time of arrival so they can notify the requesting entity. Remember, time is of critical importance in the delivery of the CHEMPACK to the scene.
- Upon notification that CHEMPACK has been requested and deployment has begun, the necessary amount of antidotes will be made ready for transport.
- Notify Dispatch of method of transport and estimated time of arrival.
- Appendix C charts identify the number of medications and supplies needed to treat mass casualties suffering from organophosphate nerve agent or acute pesticide exposure. The breakdown is for 450, 250, or 125 casualties and is intended for field use.
 - Determine which chart applies by locating the approximate number of casualties in the grey box at the top of the chart.
 - Request the appropriate number of cases of each item as listed in the Dark Blue column of that chart.
- Complete CHEMPACK Tracking Release and Receipt of Materiel form. Appendix A.
- Post-event documentation must include the following:
 - A complete description of the incident or event involving CHEMPACK resources including times, location, and agencies involved.
 - A list of approving officials.
 - An inventory of used and unused CHEMPACK contents including transfer documentation.
 - An after action report of CHEMPACK deployment effectiveness will be completed by Public Health. This should be completed with input from all involved agencies.
- Any unused CHEMPACK contents will be returned to the CHEMPACK location it was received from.