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## EPA Activities under EO 13650: Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security

Facilities storing and using hazardous chemicals are found in all types of communities, including Indian Country. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), along with other federal agencies, is working to improve safety at chemical facilities.

### What is Executive Order (EO) 13650?

Responding to recent catastrophic chemical facility incidents in the United States, President Obama issued Executive Order (EO) 13650 "Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security" on Aug. 1, 2013. The focus of EO 13650 is to reduce risks associated with hazardous chemical incidents. Reducing risk to owners and operators, workers, and communities may be achieved by enhancing the safety and security of chemical facilities. EO 13650 directed the federal government to:

- Improve operational coordination with state, tribes and local partners
- Enhance federal agency coordination and information sharing
- Modernize policies, regulations and guidance, and
- Work with stakeholders to identify best practices

The June 2014 status report for the President, [Actions to Improve Chemical Facility Safety and Security – A Shared Commitment](#), summarized the federal government's progress. Actions to date, findings and lessons learned, challenges, and short and long-term priority actions to improve chemical facility safety and security are found in the report: [https://www.osha.gov/chemicalexecutiveorder/final\\_chemical\\_eo\\_status\\_report.pdf](https://www.osha.gov/chemicalexecutiveorder/final_chemical_eo_status_report.pdf).

Additional accomplishments are identified in the June 2015 factsheet:

<https://www.osha.gov/chemicalexecutiveorder/EO13650FS-ImprovingChemicalFacilitySafety.pdf>.

### What is EPA doing to improve coordination with state, tribes and local partners?

EPA is working with states, tribes, and local partners to encourage and support emergency planning efforts at the local levels. Better understanding of the statutes and regulations helps local emergency planners and responders to prepare for emergencies.

EPA developed a factsheet that provides background on the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). EPCRA is the law governing local preparedness for chemical emergencies and public awareness of chemicals in their communities.

- *How to Better Prepare Your Community for a Chemical Emergency: A Guide for State, Tribal and Local Agencies:* [http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-07/documents/state\\_tribal\\_local\\_guide\\_factsheet\\_7-10-2015\\_2.pdf](http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-07/documents/state_tribal_local_guide_factsheet_7-10-2015_2.pdf).

EPA, along with key federal partners (Department of Homeland Security, Department of Labor, Department of Justice, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Transportation) developed a monthly Listserv in October 2014. The goal of the Listserv is to identify and share timely, pertinent new policies, guidance, and training resources that may be useful to the State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs) and Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (TERCs).

- *SERC-TERC Updates:* TERCs and SERCs are encouraged to share *Updates* with their stakeholders. Tribal partners working on EO-related issues may request to be included on the Listserv distribution via [SERC-TERC.Updates@epa.gov](mailto:SERC-TERC.Updates@epa.gov).

### What is EPA doing to enhance federal agency coordination and information sharing?

Under EO 13650, EPA and its federal partners initiated several activities to improve federal agency coordination and information sharing. These ongoing activities are aimed at building capability for each agency's chemical facility data systems to automatically share information, provide updates, and receive new facility records in real time. The continual exchange of data among federal programs will provide each agency with a consolidated and comprehensive facility profile, while maintaining the appropriate balance between safety and security.

### What is EPA doing to modernize regulations and guidance?

On July 31, 2014, EPA issued a Request for Information (RFI) to update the Risk Management Plan (RMP) rule. The RFI sought comment on potential revisions to modernize EPA's regulations, guidance, and policies as required under EO 13650. The public comment period closed October 29, 2014. View public comments online: [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

*EPA is developing a proposed rule and intends to engage in formal tribal consultation with all federally recognized tribes, to explain the proposed rule elements and receive input.*

In coordination with other key agencies, EPA has also developed documents to identify best practices and improve chemical risk management. These documents are intended to provide guidelines on safer handling of chemicals and lessons learned for managing ammonium nitrate.

- *Chemical Safety Alert: Safer Technology and Alternatives* – This alert introduces safer technology concepts and general approaches, explains the concepts and principles, and gives brief examples of the integration of safer technologies into facility risk management activities. [http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/alert\\_safer\\_tech\\_alts.pdf](http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/alert_safer_tech_alts.pdf).
- *Revised Chemical Advisory: Safe Storage, Handling, and Management of Ammonium Nitrate* – Issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), this revised chemical advisory provides information on the hazards of ammonium nitrate (AN) storage, handling and management. It also provides lessons learned for facility owners, operators, emergency planners and first responders from recent incidents involving AN. [http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/alert\\_safer\\_tech\\_alts.pdf](http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/alert_safer_tech_alts.pdf).

### What is EPA doing to identify best practices?

Under EO 13650, EPA and its federal partners have developed a process for collecting and sharing chemical safety and security best practices using the OSHA chemical executive order webpage. The public can submit and obtain best practice information relating to industry, first responders, environmental, community, and labor groups, and federal, state, local, and tribal governments. <https://www.osha.gov/chemicalexecutiveorder/LLIS/index.html>.

### Where can I find more information?

EPA's EO 13650 webpage: <http://www2.epa.gov/rmp/executive-order-improving-chemical-facility-safety-and-security>.

Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP, & Oil Information Center:  
800-424-9346 or 703-412-9810  
Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST

If you are interested in consulting with EPA on the RMP rule, please contact William (Nick) Nichols, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Tribal Coordinator: 202-564-1970 or [nichols.nick@epa.gov](mailto:nichols.nick@epa.gov).