



EPA Emergency Response

Does your community have commercial properties with:

- Abandoned buildings housing containers of chemicals, hazardous waste or oil,
- Improper storage of chemicals, hazardous waste or oil,
- Contaminated soil or drinking water, or
- Poor compliance with environmental or worker protection standards?

EPA can help! The Agency's Emergency Response and Removal Program conducts cleanup operations at hazardous waste sites, responds to chemical and oil spills, and removes abandoned chemicals from communities before the materials cause direct harm to the public or the environment.



ABANDONED CHEMICALS

EPA Responds promptly to investigate reports of chemicals (drums, pails, bottles, storage tanks, or other containers) in abandoned commercial or industrial buildings. If EPA determines that a site containing abandoned chemicals presents an immediate and substantial threat to public health and safety, EPA can take corrective action by directing the responsible party to clean up and remove the materials or by initiating a Removal Action under Superfund authorization.

Superfund generally holds the owners of property responsible for cleanup costs and Superfund contains an exemption from liability specifically for Governmental entities, such as municipalities. More information on this exemption is available through the Regional Public Liaison.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The EPA Regional Public Liaison serves as a point of contact for the public, industry and government representatives to resolve concerns and provide information and guidance on Superfund issues.

EPA has trained community affairs specialists who can assist local municipalities in resolving environmental concerns and who can provide information on a wide range of environmental matters.

EPA can provide speakers for public meetings, and community organizations such as the Senior Citizens Center, veterans groups, and schools.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

EPA can assist a community where a local industrial or commercial facility has been identified as a chronic violator or non-cooperative, or where there have been documented citizen complaints of odors or chemical spills.

CHEMICAL SPILL RESPONSE

EPA provides technical assistance (including air monitoring) and logistical support to local organizations responsible for responding to emergency chemical spills and air releases. EPA can fund a spill cleanup in the absence of appropriate response actions by the responsible party. In addition, improper storage or segregation of chemicals in warehouses may pose the threat of a release, which EPA can take action to correct. EPA also responds to investigate reports of illegal dumping or abandonment of chemicals and/or hazardous waste.

OIL SPILL RESPONSE

EPA responds to oil spills to ensure proper cleanup, and investigates reports of discharges of oil from facilities and reports of improperly stored oil.

PHONE NUMBERS

for New York and New Jersey

OIL or ABANDONED CHEMICALS

EPA Emergency Hotline
(732) 906-6850

National Response Center
(800) 424-8802

New York State (DEC) Hotline
(800) 457-7362

New Jersey (DEP) Hotline
(877) WARN-DEP

EPA REGIONAL PUBLIC LIAISON
(888) 283-7626

For more information, please visit our
website at:
www.epa.gov/region02



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EPA



Guide for Emergency Environmental Cleanup in Your Community



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