

24-hour emergency response

To report a spill, call the
**National Response Center at
800-424-8802**

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
217-782-3637

Indiana Department of Environmental
Management
317-233-7745

Michigan Department of Environmental
Quality
800-292-4706

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
800-422-0798

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
800-282-9378

Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources
800-943-0003

**The National Response Center
receives emergency calls and
forwards them to EPA and the States.**

Who Pays?

EPA's goal is to make the responsible parties clean up their own hazardous substances. However, in an emergency situation where human health and the environment is affected and when those responsible cannot be found, or when they will not cooperate, EPA responds without delay. In an emergency, funding is provided by the Superfund (CERCLA) account. The potential responsible parties will then be required to pay for any cleanup.

EPA Region 5 handles the cleanup of sites that range from mercury poisoning and hazardous waste spills at plants and on highways, to homes sprayed with methyl parathion, a toxic pesticide.

- Region 5 has cleaned up more than 1,000 Emergency Response/Removal sites since 1981.
- Informing the community about environmental cleanups has been and will continue to be a priority.

**For more information about the
EPA Region 5 Emergency
Response Program, contact:**

Ginny Narsete
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. EPA Region 5
Emergency Response Branch
77 West Jackson Blvd. (SE-5J)
Chicago, IL 60604
800-621-8431 or 312-886-4359
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. CST

www.epa.gov/region5

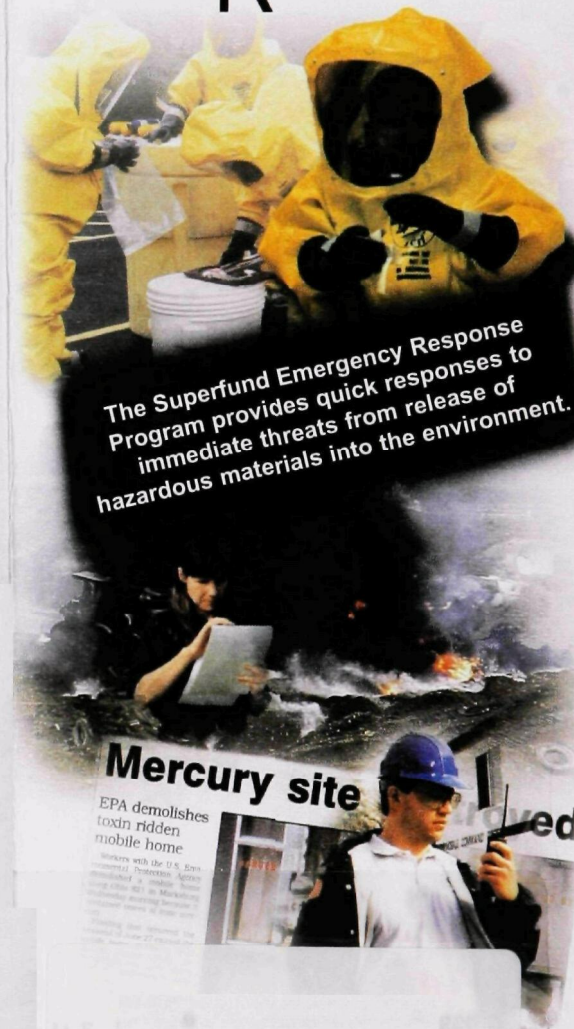


United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

EPA 905-F-00-002

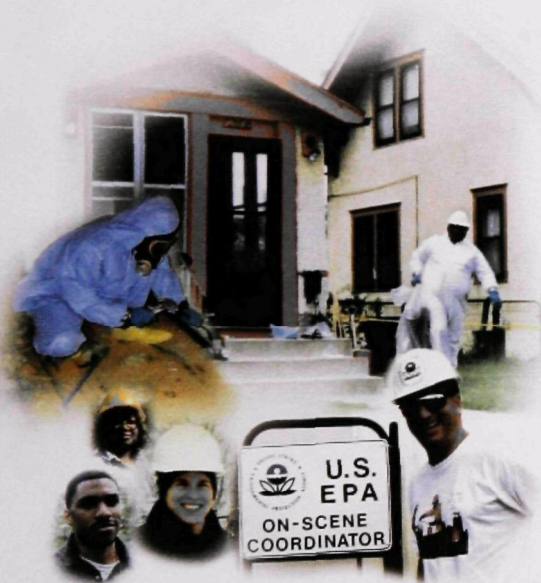
Region 5
Emergency Response Branch
March 2000

Emergency Response



Superfund Emergency Response

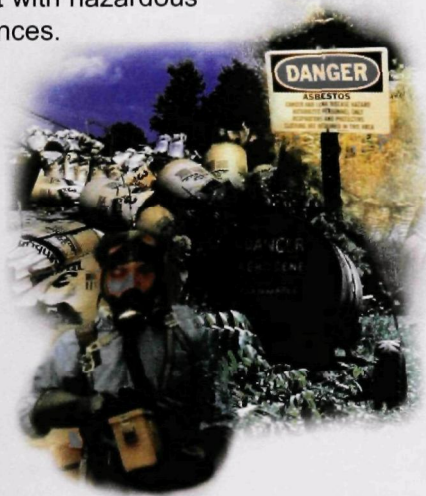
While the first priority is to eliminate dangers to the public — to make sites safe for those who live or work nearby, Federal Emergency Response on-scene coordinators (OSC's) respond to direct threats to the environment that may seriously affect natural or economic resources. Situations requiring emergency response actions include the uncontrolled release of hazardous or toxic materials, such as truck or train accidents, chemical fires or explosions, leaking drums and vats, tire fires, and oil spills.



OSC's work with other first responders, such as firefighters, police and emergency medical technicians, as well as with officials from other Federal, State, and tribal agencies.

Removal Actions

Superfund Removal actions typically involve cleanups to eliminate the sources of contamination (leaking drums, vats, tanks, lagoons, etc.) and to prevent direct human contact with hazardous substances.



Community Involvement

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes the importance of keeping the public informed during emergency response actions. Community Involvement staff work with public officials, the news media, and the public to provide updated information on hazards to the local community, evacuation plans and issues, health concerns, and the status of clean-up efforts.



Types of Emergency/Removal Actions

Classic Emergency

Cleanup or stabilization actions must be initiated within hours or days after completion of the preliminary assessment, regardless of cost or duration of the response.



Time - Critical

Cleanup or stabilization actions must be initiated within six months after discovery.



Non-Time Critical

Cleanup or stabilization actions may be delayed for six months or more after completion of the preliminary assessment.

