

STATE OF TEXAS CHEMPACK PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide general information for host sites and coordinating partners about the CHEMPACK program in the state of Texas. This document describes how health departments, host sites and other coordinating partners will activate and utilize assets of the DSHS/CDC/CHEMPACK program in response to a nerve agent incident. In addition, this document is a resource to assist host site planners and attempts to resolve certain gaps in awareness that exist among the coordinating partners.

BACKGROUND

A deliberate or accidental nerve agent release can occur anywhere in the United States or its territories. A local nerve agent release may require additional supplies of nerve agent response drugs exceeding local assets on-hand. The “forward” placement of CHEMPACK assets will expedite delivery of additional drug supplies to locations that require them in the event of an emergency. CHEMPACK contain medications to treat symptoms of nerve agent exposure.

USE OF CHEMPACK MATERIAL

All decisions to deploy a container or part of its content will be made at the local level to avoid delays in treatment to those exposed to nerve agents or organophosphates.

Usage of CHEMPACK countermeasures is warranted to use as a life-saving measure, and/or if an alternative means of procurement is not available in a timely manner to support a medical emergency. Product removed and used from the CHEMPACK container cannot be charged to the patient. Product must be removed by the case only, any unused portion will not be returned to the CHEMPACK container. This product will then become a part of the host facilities current inventory.

HOST SITES

Host agencies receiving the CHEMPACK must ensure that the storage locations be of a proper size, plan to provide adequate lighting, ventilation, temperature, sanitation, humidity, space, and security conditions for storage of pharmaceuticals, in accordance with CDC guidelines. Host agencies ensure the appropriate storage and security of CHEMPACK assets, and maintain staff training and proficiency. Storing sites must implement internal exercises and evaluations to ensure successful use of CHEMPACK in a time of need.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Two scenarios have been identified as most likely to occur. The first is the hospital having to open the container to treat patients at that hospital because the exposed individuals are transferred to the hospital.

The second scenario is for deployment of the CHEMPACK assets to the field or a non-host hospital or facility. This could be a few boxes or the entire container. Boxes should not be opened before transport and only boxes should be transported, not the container itself.

Below are the general actions that should take place for each scenario. Responsibilities will vary by jurisdiction due to CHEMPACK container locations and availability of local resources. The scenarios and actions detailed below should be used as a basis for streamlining local and regional planning efforts including patient care. *Note: These are general scenarios; operations may vary according to the discretion of a particular Health Service Region.*

SCENARIO 1

The following summarizes the process of a CHEMPACK container utilized internally by a hospital:

Activation	Host site hospital/facility: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Authorize use of assets and open CHEMPACK container to treat patients as necessary➤ Notify Health Service Region (HSR) immediately; contact information included in container➤ Notify local emergency management; instruct EM to notify local public health➤ Notify Regional Advisory Council (RAC), as needed	
	Local Emergency Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Receive notification of CHEMPACK container opening and use of assets➤ Notify DDC of CHEMPACK activation➤ Coordinate transport of assets, as requested	Health Service Region (DSHS): <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Receive notification of CHEMPACK container opening and use of assets➤ Notify DSHS central office➤ Notify RAC (or receive notification from RAC if they know first)
	Regional Advisory Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Receive notification from HSR (or immediately notify HSR if situation is known first)	

SCENARIO 2

The following summarizes the sequence of events during CHEMPACK activation for transport from CHEMPACK host site to field deployment or a non-host site:

Activation	First responders and Non-host site/hospitals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Diagnosis of nerve agent exposure(s) ➤ Assess need for additional assets ➤ Call in request to nearest host CHEMPACK hospital/site ➤ Call in request to dispatch 	Host site hospital/facility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Receive request from first responders or non-host site ➤ Authorize request and deployment of assets ➤ Notify Health Service Region (HSR) immediately; contact information included in container ➤ Notify local emergency management; instruct EM to notify local public health
Notification and Operations	Local Emergency Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Receive notification of CHEMPACK asset deployment ➤ Notify DDC of CHEMPACK activation ➤ Coordinate transport of assets, as requested 	Health Service Region (DSHS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Receive notification of CHEMPACK container opening and use of assets ➤ Notify DSHS central office ➤ Notify RAC (or receive notification from RAC if they know first) ➤ Coordinate transport of assets, as requested
	Regional Advisory Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Receive notification from HSR (or immediately notify HSR if situation is known first) 	

Points of Contact

Poison Control

Physician-toxicologists and specially trained nurses and pharmacists are available 24/7 at the Texas Poison Control Network (1-800-222-1222) and can advise healthcare providers in the appropriate management of affected patients.

DSHS CHEMPACK Contact Information

Health Service Regions Main Phone Line	
1	806-744-3577
2/3	817-264-4500
4/5 N	903-595-3585
6/5 S	713-767-3000
7	254-778-6744
8	210-949-2000
9/10	915-834-7675
11	956-423-0130
Central Office	512-776-7111

