

CHEMPACK ACCESS PROGRAM (Strategic National Stockpile)

In the event of a chemical attack or large-scale pesticide/poisoning incident, resources such as the federal pharmaceutical stockpile (Strategic National Stockpile or SNS) may be accessed. The SNS assets generally arrive in less than twelve (12) hours to a centralized Receipt, Storage and Staging (RSS) location; however, require re-distribution from the RSS site to hospitals and users.

What if SNS supplies are needed quickly?

Due to the rapid timeframe necessary to utilize these pharmaceuticals in exposure events to nerve agents or pesticides, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Division of Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) has pre-deployed various caches to regions, including hospital locations in the South Central Mountain Regional Task Force (SCMRTF) region. SNS supplies available for immediate deployment include (a) CHEMPACKS – pharmaceuticals with materials ready to be utilized at hospital facilities, and (b) EMS packs - ready-to-use materials such as auto-injectors which can be used in the field. Certain hospitals within the region maintain these SNS supplies under contract with CDC and in concert with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH).

How can these assets be accessed?

The SCMRTF CHEMPACK Plan identifies locations for both type of supplies and the process for their rapid deployment to the field and user hospital locations. Notification of a county emergency dispatch center (Public Safety Answering Point) initiates the process. The Plan identifies release and acceptance requirements and protocol necessary to implement rapid use, as well as the logistics to quickly move materials to user locations and return (securely) unused materials. Rapid movement is essential for the effective use of these pharmaceuticals. Deployment flow charts are found with this fact sheet (see reverse).

Who is involved in the planning and use process?

All Task Force Emergency Management Coordinators (EMA) are notified when a deployment occurs and may facilitate the preplanned movement. The CHEMPACK Plan is maintained as an annex to the SCMRTF SNS Plan, and as an annex to each hospital Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), each EMS service EOP and each county EOP.

What if these rapid supplies are insufficient?

CHEMPACKS are available in adjoining Task Forces and states, and can be accessed through the County EMA and PEMA.

Where can I acquire additional information?

For additional information, contact your County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) or:

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