



Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control (DEODC) Emergency Preparedness (EP) Team

We are a multi-disciplinary team consisting of environmental scientists, epidemiologists, health educators, industrial hygienists, laboratory scientists, physicians, and toxicologists.

Our goal is to identify and reduce risks from chemical releases and other hazards in California and to minimize their health impacts on workers, first responders, communities, and vulnerable populations.

What We Do

- Direct and mobilize DEODC resources in the event of an occupational or environmental emergency impacting public health
- Provide scientific guidance and technical assistance to local, state, and federal agencies
- Conduct surveillance of chemical releases and other hazards in California
- Carry out public health investigations of exposures and health impacts of chemical and other hazardous material emergencies
- Use the following tools in preparation for or following an event:
 - *Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)*, a rapid needs assessment to aid public health practitioners and emergency management officials in determining the health status and basic needs of the affected community following a disaster or evaluating general community preparedness
 - *Assessment of Chemical Exposures (ACE)*, a rapid registry and public health investigation following a large scale chemical or hazardous material incident
- Identify vulnerable areas and communities and use our response experiences to prevent new occurrences of chemical emergencies
- Create risk communication messages and fact sheets; maintain a library of response resources
- Develop guidance on occupational health and safety issues; provide assistance with emergency response planning
- Provide laboratory-based technical assistance for the identification of potential chemical hazards
- Evaluate our group's and other agencies' emergency responses to improve capabilities and effectiveness
- Share what we learn with workers, employers, and the community



How To Reach Us

DEODC EP Team maintains a 24/7/365 Duty Officer system. We can be reached through the CDPH Duty Officer pager at 916-328-3605 or by email at deodc.ept@cdph.ca.gov.
[EP Team website](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/Pages/Emergency-Preparedness-Team.aspx): (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/Pages/Emergency-Preparedness-Team.aspx>)