# Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards: The Role of First Responders

**Chemicals are vital to our Nation's economy, and reducing the risk of hazardous chemicals from being weaponized is a shared commitment between the Federal government, the private sector, and members of the community, including law enforcement, hazmat, and first responders.**

## What Is CFATS?

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program identifies and regulates facilities determined to be high-risk to ensure they have security measures in place to reduce the risk of certain hazardous chemicals being weaponized. Under CFATS, facilities must report possession of any chemicals of interest (COI) listed in the regulation possessed at or above certain quantities to CISA. These chemicals could be used by a terrorist to cause harm if deliberately released or stolen and misused as weapons.



Facilities that CISA has identified as high-risk are then required to develop and implement security plans that meet the risk-based performance standards (RBPS). CISA and high-risk chemical facilities work in unison with state and local emergency responders and law enforcement to ensure that appropriate emergency response measures are in place in the event of an incident.

More than 60,000 facilities—ranging from oil refineries and microchip manufacturers, to fisheries and universities—have reported possessing chemicals to CISA. More than 150 Chemical Security Inspectors (CSIs) are located in communities nationwide to assist high-risk facilities identify security measures that are appropriate to their chemicals and conduct inspections to ensure agreed-upon security measures remain in place.

## The Vital Role of First Responders

Security plans for CFATS-covered facilities must address not only cyber and physical security measures, but also training, standard operating procedures, and response capabilities. The inclusion of first responders when developing an emergency plan and conducting exercises establishes relationships, improves the responders' understanding of the facility's layout, and enables both the facility and local law enforcement to take quick and decisive action in the case of an event.

## How can First Responders Assist CISA?

- **Meet your Region's Chemical Security Inspectors.** Inspectors can assist emergency responders and law enforcement with identifying CFATS-covered facilities, identifying the chemicals those facilities possess, and understanding the risks associated with those chemicals. For information on contacting an inspector, email CFATS@hq.dhs.gov or visit www.dhs.gov/request-cfats-presentation.

- **Participate in Facility Drills and Exercises.** Emergency responders and law enforcement are often invited to participate in drills and exercises in their areas of responsibility. Take advantage of these opportunities; they can assist in understanding the layout and potential hazards at the facility. Additionally, these drills help alert participants to resources that may be needed in an event of a chemical incident.

- **Seek Out Training Opportunities.** Find out if there are local training opportunities available. For instance, the Emergency Management Institute offers virtual tabletop exercises on a monthly basis. A complete listing of Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) exercise scenarios can be found at www.training.fema.gov/Programs/emiVTTX.aspx.

- **Report a Security Concern or CFATS Violation.** Call the CFATS Tip Line at 1-877-FYI-4-DHS (1-877-394-4347) or send an email to CFATSTips@hq.dhs.gov. For additional information, please visit www.dhs.gov/report-cfats-violation.

# Chemical-Terrorism Vulnerable Information (CVI)

Information about the security operations of CFATS-covered facilities is categorized as "Chemical-terrorism Vulnerability Information" (CVI) and requires certain protections from public disclosure or misuse. CISA provides each CVI Authorized User with a unique identification number. Except in exigent or emergency circumstances, CVI may only be disclosed to CVI Authorized Users with a need-to-know.

CISA encourages facilities to include emergency responders and law enforcement in the development and exercising of an emergency plan. While the majority of information needed by first responders is not CVI, certain situations may arise where CFATS-covered facilities would need to share some CVI with first responders. In these instances, the first responder should complete CVI training. CISA will then make a determination on their need-to-know. More information on CVI training can be accessed at www.dhs.gov/cvi-authorized-user-training.

# Tools and Resources for First Responders

- More than 150 Chemical Security Inspectors are available across the country to provide guidance on CFATS. To request a request a CFATS presentation, please visit www.dhs.gov/request-cfats-presentation.

- The Infrastructure Protection (IP) Gateway serves as the single interface through which federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners can identify, analyze, and manage risk, including information on chemical facilities covered under CFATS for officials with a need to know. Visit ipgateway.dhs.gov/eo13650 or contact IPGatewayHelpdesk@hq.dhs.gov for more information.

- The CFATS Knowledge Center is an online repository of FAQs, articles, and documents relating to CFATS that can be found by visiting csat-help.dhs.gov.

- Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) promotes critical infrastructure protection (CIP) by sharing CIP and emerging threats with Emergency Services Sector (ESS) departments and agencies nationwide. For more information, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/emr-isac.

- The Emergency Service Sector-Specific Agency (SSA) and the Emergency Services Sector Coordinating Council (SCC) is a collaborative effort among the private sector; State, local, tribal, and territorial governments; nongovernmental organizations; and Federal departments toward achieving shared goals. For more information, visit www.dhs.gov/emergency-services-sector.