

Supporting the Army's Response Capabilities to a Chemical Warfare Agent Accident or Incident: The Service Response Force Flyaway Disc

Argonne National Laboratory designed and developed a compact disc (CD) to support the U.S. Army's Service Response Force (SRF) in responding to a chemical agent accident or incident (CAI) at the Army's chemical weapons storage/demilitarization installations. The SRF can use the Flyaway Disc en route to a CAI to "get smart" on installation policies and procedures; command directives and guidance; and local, state, and federal environmental and emergency response requirements. The disc can also support the SRF during operations on the ground. Containing approximately 400 documents and more than 230 megabytes of information, the CD is in HTML format to allow quick access to needed information. Development of these types of information tools can greatly facilitate emergency response operations.

PROBLEM/OPPORTUNITY

Depending on the nature and severity of the chemical agent accident or incident (CAI), the headquarters-based Service Response Force (SRF) would be mobilized. The SRF, a mobile task force, is made up of individuals with specialized capabilities from various agencies within the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense (DOD). Preparing the SRF is an important and technically challenging aspect of a CAI response. Hundreds of different types of emergency response and environmental policies, directives, laws, forms, regulations, and guidance could apply. The situation is even more complicated by each location having a unique geopolitical environment and a distinct array of regulatory and other requirements that may apply.

APPROACH

The SRF determined that it needed a means of "getting smart quickly" en route to a CAI, and of obtaining necessary information while on the ground. While use of the Internet for this purpose is a reasonable alternative, accessibility may be difficult while en route, and accessibility of phone lines or high-speed hookup capabilities on the ground could become problematic. The compact

disc (CD) was selected as the best approach for supporting the SRF, and Argonne's Environmental Assessment (EAD) and Decision and Information Sciences (DIS) Divisions worked jointly to design and develop it.

With the expectation that the CD would contain many megabytes of information and hundreds of documents, it had to allow quick, intuitive access to needed information. With the assistance of SRF members, Argonne identified the types of documents that should be included on the CD, collected electronic versions of the identified documents, ensured that they were up to date, and developed an intuitive folder format to organize the information so as to allow ready access to vital information. Argonne designed the CD using HTML programming so that it would operate much the same as an on-line library.

The HTML folders, shown in the graphic on this fact sheet, include (1) Army pamphlets, field manuals, and guides; (2) Army regulations; (3) Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) policy and guidance; (4) DOD directives, instructions, and guides; (5) executive orders and presidential directives; (6) federal agency guidance; (7) federal regulations; (8) federal statutes; (9) reporting and documentation forms;

(10) installation-specific resources; and (11) Web resources. The bulk of the documents contained on the CD are in installation-specific folders tailored to installation operations.

RESULTS

The first edition of the SRF Flyaway CD contained approximately 400 documents and more than 230 megabytes of information. It was distributed to SRF responders prior to the CSEPP/SRF exercise held at the U.S. Army Pine Bluff Arsenal in February 2004. The CD became a very popular tool for responders. It served well as a research tool and one-stop shop to provide the SRF with needed information. While it was designed as a tool for use en route to and during a CAI, it can also serve as a research library of applicable emergency response documents.

FUTURE

Similar information tools can be developed to support comparable emergency response operations. The CD approach would be especially useful for government installations such as U.S. Department of Energy research facilities, military bases, national security complexes, airports, and large metropolitan areas such as state capitols.

SRF FLYAWAY DISC 

Service Response Force Chemical Stockpile Flyaway Disc

This disc contains information and references to support Service Response Force (SRF) operations during response to an emergency at a Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) chemical stockpile installation. It includes federal, Army and CSEPP references that apply to any installation, as well as installation-specific information for each site.

The information on this disc was collected during April and May, 2003 from numerous sources. It represents the most recent information available at that time.

The information on the disc is organized according to the topics shown on the buttons to the left. The [Information Architecture diagram](#) provides a more detailed view of the directory structure.

For more information about the Flyaway Disc, contact:

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency