

# STATE OF COLORADO

Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor  
Martha E. Rudolph, Executive Director

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S.      Laboratory Services Division  
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530      8100 Lowry Blvd.  
Phone (303) 692-2000      Denver, Colorado 80230-6928  
TDD Line (303) 691-7700      (303) 692-3090  
Located in Glendale, Colorado  
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us>



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

## COLORADO CHEMPACK OVERVIEW:

The Chempack program is a federally managed initiative for the forward placement of nerve agent antidotes to treat patients and responders with nerve agent or organophosphate exposure in both the pre-hospital and hospital phase of response. Colorado houses 27 Chempack units that are strategically located across the state.

Due to the nature of the antidotes that are stored in Chempacks (they need to be administered quickly) Colorado has identified a central point of contact (statewide) for medical facilities and first responders to call to request these assets. The single point of contact for a Chempack request is The Colorado State Patrol (CSP). In addition to the single point request model and associated standard operating procedure for the CSP, CDPHE has worked with local hospitals, dispatch centers, emergency managers and EMS agencies to develop a series of templates which will expedite the process of Chempack Request and Deployment during an event.

CDPHE is the main point of contact for Chempack Host Facilities for any Chempack planning and preparedness activities, questions, or concerns. However, CDPHE does not have an operational role in the activation of a Chempack. A Chempack container does not require authorization from the State Health Department or any other executive level staff/governmental officials or orders.

Chempack is to be opened in order to save human lives, in an event that local or mutual aid resources are not sufficient to respond quickly enough to save lives.

## CHEMPACK TEMPLATES:

There are five different template protocols that complete a Chempack Event:

1. **Chempack Request and Receipt Protocol:** This is the protocol for all facilities/agencies to use in the event that they need to request and receive Chempack
2. **Request Management Protocol:** This is the protocol that CSP follows upon receiving a request for Chempack
3. **Host Facility Deployment Protocol:** This is the protocol for facilities to rapidly deploy the Chempack they house
4. **Transport Agency Deployment Protocol:** This is the protocol for agencies that have been designated to transport Chempack for a particular Host Facility
5. **CDPHE Duty Officer Protocol:** This is the protocol for CDPHE to follow in coordinating with CDC, the Host Facility for the verification of details and recovery of product after the event response is over

*These templates have been developed with input from first responders through a series of drills and full scale exercises in different regions of the state with participation from players representing every agency that has a role in a Chempack event.*

## CHEMPACK PROTOCOLS: PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:

- Identify key internal stakeholders as appropriate to develop the Chempack protocol relevant to your agency
- Engage your local emergency manager and local public health agency as appropriate
- Engage your local law enforcement partners; educate them on the Chempack program and your protocol. *See below, "A Note on Security"*
- The template is yours to modify as you see fit. Ensure that you are incorporating necessary steps relevant and specific to your community and partners
- If you feel you need to make significant modifications to the template please contact CDPHE, as we need to ensure that modifications don't change the associated protocols held by other agencies that have a role in a Chempack event

**Planning Considerations Specific to Chempack Host Facilities:**

- You will need to identify a primary mode of transport for the Chempack, and are encouraged to identify a back-up mode of transport
- The nature of a Chempack event requires that your designated mode of transport be available for 24/7 notification, extremely fast response and capable of speedy delivery
- Exercises and drills have shown that ambulances prove to be very efficient modes of transportation for the Chempack. One standard size ambulance can carry the contents of two hospital Chempacks
- A Hospital Chempack container weighs a total of 741 pounds (591 pounds of product + 150 pounds for the container itself)
- An EMS Chempack container weighs a total of 463 pounds (313 pounds of product + 150 pounds for the container itself)
- Determine your internal notifications:
  - What internal staff/departments need to be notified in order to deploy the Chempack?
  - What role does each of those staff/departments play in preparing the Chempack for transport?
  - What internal staff/departments need to be notified for situational awareness only?
- Identify and provide CDPHE with the 24/7-phone number CSP will contact to activate the Host Facility Deployment Protocol
- Work with your designated transport partner to pre-identify the location that the Chempack contents should be picked up at
- Though the Chempack containers are on wheels they are extremely heavy and can be difficult to move. You are encouraged to develop a deployment plan that allows you to unload the contents onto rolling carts at the Chempack storage site so that you are moving only the boxes of medications-not the entire Chempack container itself to the transport vehicle
- Once partners are familiar with the protocol and their role, a Chempack can be deployed in 15 minutes from the time the Host Facility receives the notification to deploy
- **Host Facilities that need to access the Chempack during an event will still need to follow the request and receipt protocol to address the inventory management of the product. Even though the Chempack is in-house, the Host Facility must contact CSP and adhere to the request protocol.** This is necessary so that CSP knows that Chempack is not fully or partially available in the event that additional Chempack requests come in.
- Depending on the nature of the event, your designated transport partner will need to transport Chempack contents either to a hospital, or to the scene of an event/in the 'field'. Discuss the expectations and limitations of the Chempack transport agreement to include the following potential issues:
  - How far are they willing/able to transport Chempack contents?
  - Is there potential to work out a relay/secondary transport at a certain distance they will not travel beyond?

***A Note on Security:***

The Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) will conduct a security and threat assessment at the time the Chempack is activated. If the CIAC determines that a security escort or presence should accompany the Chempack, CSP will dispatch a local trooper to escort the transport agency. The Chempack protocols prompt this communication where appropriate to ensure that the hospital and transport agency know whether or not this is being provided, and what their estimated time of arrival is. Unless told otherwise, the transport agency is to depart immediately when Chempack is loaded and ready. In the event that the escort is not there by the time transport is ready, they are to leave, and they can coordinate meeting up en route. CSP can assist this communication. We recommend you engage your local law enforcement partners on this planning so they are aware of the Chempack program, your Chempack protocol and this security information. Some Host Facilities have agreements with local law enforcement to provide a secure escort regardless of CIAC recommendation. This is your decision.

*All completed templates must be submitted to CDPHE for final review and feedback.*

**COLORADO CHEMPACK PROGRAM-NEXT STEPS:**

- Beginning in 2011, CSP will conduct monthly notification drills to host and designated transport agencies. Those agencies can expect to be drilled unannounced once a year
- CDPHE has two Training Chempacks that can be transported anywhere you would like to conduct an exercise and/or training. Please contact CDPHE to discuss Chempack training /exercise opportunities that are available throughout the year
- CDPHE is currently developing a Chempack online training module scheduled to be complete in Spring 2011
- Flight transport agencies have not yet been engaged on Chempack planning. In many cases, it can be more efficient to transport patients to Chempack resources vs. Chempack resources to patients. However, as this planning unfolds CDPHE will keep you apprised of all efforts and recommendations.

- CDPHE is working with border states to share Chempack location information and work through any cross-border requests for those that are closer to Chempacks stored outside the State of Colorado
- CDPHE will be working to develop clinical/dosing guidance and training materials to be housed with the Chempacks
- All Host facilities will receive a revised MOU from CDPHE that needs to be reviewed by all appropriate individuals (i.e. security, pharmacy, administration etc.) and returned to CDPHE
- CDPHE will distribute Chain of Custody forms that have been developed specifically for Chempack to all hospitals.
- CDPHE will provide Host facilities with materials to attach to their Chempack containers (labels, chain of custody forms, deployment checklists etc.)
- CDPHE is currently exploring the potential to pre-label the contents of the Chempacks into 'sub-Chempack' units. This would be useful in the event that the Chempack needed to be split up and deployed to more than one location at a time. It would also be useful in the event that the requestor only wanted to receive a portion of the Chempack rather than the entire contents. This planning is not yet complete.

**CURRENT ACTION ITEMS (2010-2011):**

- ✓ Review this document, contact CDPHE with questions
- ✓ Engage your internal and external partners as appropriate
- ✓ Review and complete the Protocol appropriate to your agency
- ✓ Host Facilities-Provide CDPHE with the 24/7 phone number for Chempack activation/deployment
  - Provide CDPHE with the 24/7 phone number for your designated transport partner(s) activation/deployment
- ✓ **Submit your protocol to CDPHE for feedback and final approval (in accordance with the due date outlined in your 2010-2011 HPP grant deliverables)**