



CHEMPACK

Fact Sheet



What is CHEMPACK?

- Nationwide program funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- A first responder asset that provides antidotes for individuals exposed to intentional or accidental nerve agent release.
- Forward placement of nerve agent antidotes provided to state and local governments as a sustainable resource that increases the capability to respond quickly to a nerve agent event.

Why CHEMPACK?

- The mission of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Program is to deliver critical medical assets to the site of a national emergency within 12 hours.
- In the event of accidental or intentional nerve agent release, 12 hours is too long for immediate, initial treatment.
- Many states do not have sufficient stocks of nerve agent antidotes and many local hospitals only carry limited supplies of treatments for nerve agent exposures.
- Antidotes have variable shelf lives and replacing them is costly

What are Nerve Agents?

- Class of organic chemicals known as organophosphates, which include common pesticides as well as nerve agents .
- As the name suggests, nerve agents attack the nervous system of the human body. This class of chemicals interrupt neurotransmitters that signal muscles to contract.
- Nerve agent poisoning leads to contraction of pupils, profuse salivation, convulsions, involuntary urination and defecation, and eventual death by asphyxiation (as control is lost over respiratory muscles).
- Most nerve agents are easily vaporized or aerosolized, therefore, the primary entry method into the body is the respiratory system.

Storage

CHEMPACK containers are self contained units placed in centralized locations to enable first responders to quickly administer life-saving antidotes. There are two types of containers:

EMS Containers

- Geared to first responders
- 454 casualty capacity

Hospital Containers

- Geared to clinical care environment
- 1,000 casualty capacity

NOTE: The container name does not imply the container can only be used by EMS or Hospitals. The names refer to pharmaceutical packaging within the container. Montana's CHEMPACK assets consist of EMS containers housed at hospitals in key areas of the state.

USE

CHEMPACK is designed to TREAT exposed and symptomatic victims,
NOT prevent individuals from becoming ill.

CHEMPACK use is authorized ONLY when the number of patients exceeds available supply.

While assets are available for response to terrorism, assets may be used to supplement local supplies during an accidental nerve agent release or pesticide exposure.

Requests must be made from a competent requesting authority, such as public health, emergency manager, hospital, EMS or any other entity identified by the local public health jurisdiction.

Montana CHEMPACK

- Montana has **8 CHEMPACK** host sites.
Each host site has 1 EMS container equipped to treat up to **454 casualties**.
- Each (Montana) local health jurisdiction has a written plan detailing how they will access and transport CHEMPACK assets. Plans are reviewed and updated yearly.
- Multiple agencies and disciplines must work together to develop the CHEMPACK plan to ensure the local responders can rapidly access and distribute CHEMPACK materials during a chemical event.

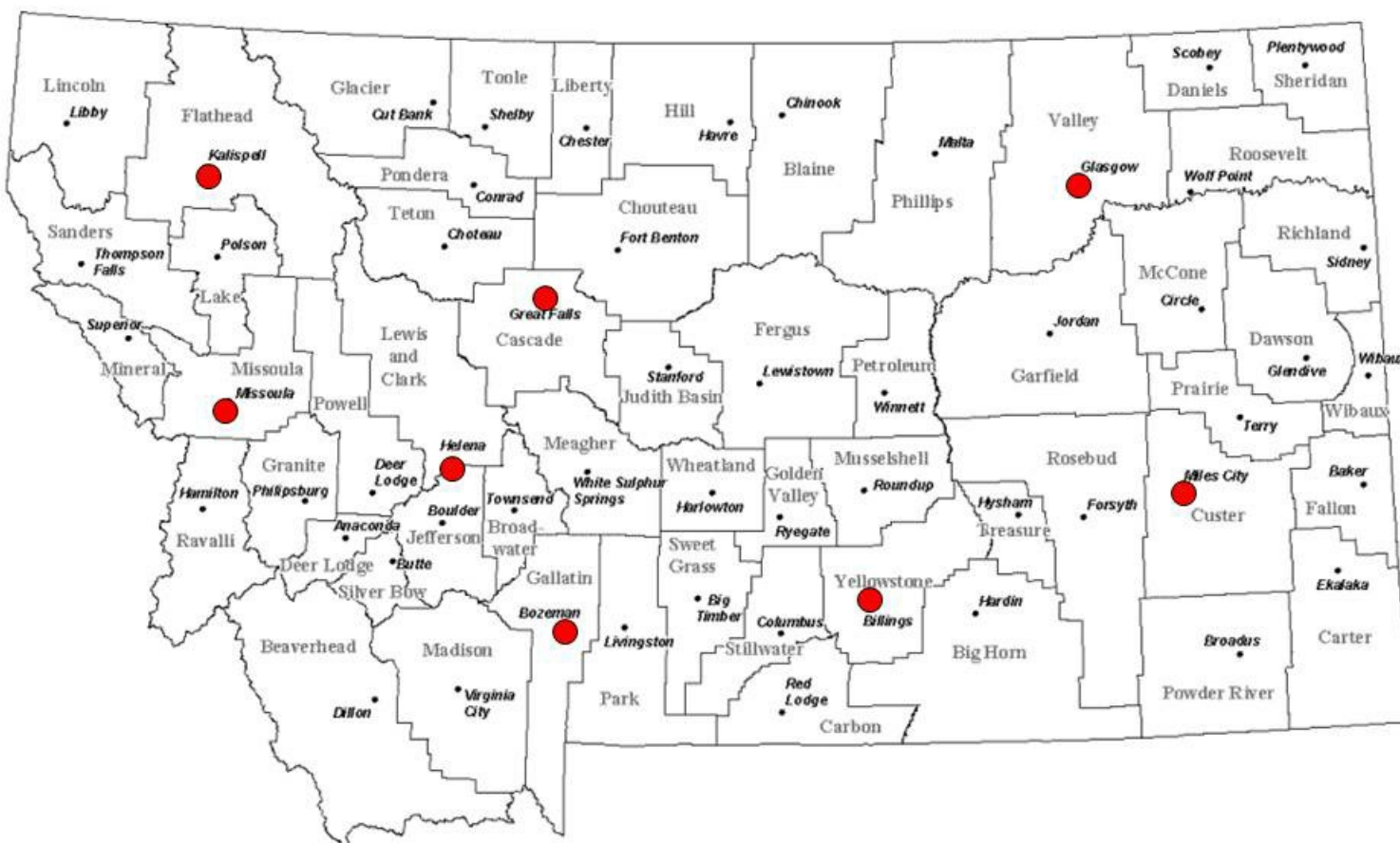
1,340

Host Sites in all states, territories, island jurisdictions, and District of Columbia

1,960

CHEMPACK Containers in the United States

CHEMPACK Sites



90%
of the U.S.
population is
within 1 hour
of a
CHEMPACK