

National Toxic Substance Incidents Program

The National Toxic Substance Incidents Program (NTSIP) helps prevent or reduce harm caused by spills and leaks of toxic substances. Through NTSIP, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) collects and combines information from many sources. NTSIP information can be used to prevent or plan for responses to toxic substance spills and leaks. NTSIP has three key features: the national database, state surveillance, and response teams.

National database

Working with the US Department of Transportation, ATSDR has built a national database of toxic substance incidents. Combining data from different sources gives a clearer picture of why and where incidents are occurring. This allows officials to plan for or prevent them. NTSIP information is available to federal agencies, state and local officials, emergency responders, researchers, and others.

State surveillance

Seven states (Louisiana, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Utah) contribute data to NTSIP. The state health departments collect information about spills that happen in these states. The health departments also map the locations of toxic substances. This includes places that toxic substances are made, stored, used, and shipped. Collecting these data along with spill data will help identify high priority problem areas. States can then target and evaluate prevention efforts. ATSDR and states will promote safer substances and processes, known as green chemistry, in high priority communities and industries as a primary means of prevention. Other state and federal agencies and their partners can use these data to learn more about reducing harm caused by toxic substances.

Response teams

State and local health departments can request help responding to large-scale toxic substance spills. Through its Assessment of Chemical Exposures (ACE) teams, ATSDR can provide

- data collection tools,
- scientists to help collect exposure information, and
- scientists to help to collect and test samples.



On January 5, 2005 in Graniteville, SC a train crash released 90 tons of chlorine gas killing 9 people and injuring 250 more. (Photo courtesy of EPA)



NTSIP is modeled in part after ATSDR's former Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance (HSEES) Program.

For more information about NTSIP visit our website www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ntsip/ or email us at NTSIP@cdc.gov.

For assistance with handling a chemical emergency dial the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100.

For non-urgent information about ACE email ATSDRACE@cdc.gov.

For historical HSEES information visit www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HS/HSEES/.