



The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program identifies and regulates high-risk chemical facilities to ensure they have security measures in place to reduce the risks associated with their chemicals. Under CFATS, facilities that DHS has identified as high-risk are required to develop and implement security plans that meet applicable risk-based performance standards (RBPS).

RBPS 9 - Response at a Glance

RBPS 9 - Response is the performance standard that addresses emergency response planning and training.

The work that high-risk chemical facilities do with first responders and law enforcement to ensure emergency response measures are in place prior to an incident bolsters our nation's security. Planning and training are important to ensure that facility personnel, onsite security, law enforcement, and first responders are ready to respond to external and internal security incidents.

Security incidents might include theft or diversion of a chemical; an onsite fire, explosion, or release; or other types of containment issues. Having established relationships, lines of communication, and plans in place can assist in reducing the impact of these incidents.

Examples of security measures that fall under RBPS - 9 include identifying hazards, planning an effective response, identifying the number of responders and the response skills needed for different types of adversary events, and equipping and training response personnel in order to maximize their efficiency and knowledge of a site.

Security Response Vs. Emergency Response

It is important not to confuse a "security response," which is intended to engage and neutralize adversaries, with the broader "emergency response," which follows an attack and attempts to reduce the severity of the event. The initial "security response" has tactical considerations, whereas the "emergency response" relates to the more traditional efforts to contain the damage and mitigate the consequences of a security incident. Facilities should address both security response and emergency response in their planning.

Crisis Management Plan

Facilities should develop and maintain a comprehensive crisis management plan that contains strategies for responding to different types of security incidents, including:

- Security Response
- Emergency Response
- Post-Incident Security
- Evacuation
- Notification Control
- Contingency Plans

Crisis management plans generally include documented agreements with offsite responder services, including:

- Ambulance/Medical Support
- Firefighting Support
- Marine Support
- Environmental Restoration Support
- Hazardous Spill/Recovery Support
- Explosive Device Disposal Support



RBPS 9 - Response
Develop and exercise an emergency plan to respond to security incidents internally and with assistance of local law enforcement and first responders. (DHS Photo)

Conduct Drills and Training

Once a plan has been created and approved, training, drills, and exercises (such as tabletop and full scale exercises) play a vital role in maximizing and testing the efficiency of the response plan to a security incident. Involving local first responders when preparing the plan and conducting drills can carry significant benefits for the facility in the event of an incident.

DHS Compliance Assistance and Outreach

DHS has developed a variety of resources to facilitate compliance with CFATS:

- The **Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) Help Desk** provides timely support to chemical facility owners and operators. Please contact the CSAT Help Desk at 1-866-323-2957, or at csat@dhs.gov.
- The **CFATS Knowledge Center** is an online repository of Frequently Asked Questions, articles, and documents relating to CFATS. Please visit the CFATS Knowledge Center at csat-help.dhs.gov/.
- **Chemical Security Inspectors and other DHS subject matter experts** are available to provide guidance to facilities through outreach meetings, calls, and other engagements. Please direct inquiries to CFATS@hq.dhs.gov.
- **CFATS Tip Line** provides for anonymous chemical facility security reporting. If you believe a facility is violating the CFATS regulations, contact the CFATS Tip Line at 1-877-394-4347 (1-877-FYI 4 DHS), or at CFATSTips@hq.dhs.gov.



Additional References and Resources

- Risk-Based Performance Standards Guidance: www.dhs.gov/publication/cfats-rbps-guidance
- DHS Guidance for the Expedited Approval Program: www.dhs.gov/cfats-expedited-approval-program
- Computer Security Resource Center: www.csrc.nist.gov
- General Accepted Principles and Practices for Securing Information Technology Systems www.csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-14/800-14.pdf
- Security and Privacy Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations: www.nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-53r4.pdf
- Chemical Sector Cybersecurity Framework Implementation Guidance: www.dhs.gov/publication/chemical-cybersecurity-framework-implementation-guidance

Contact Information

For more information, please visit www.dhs.gov/chemicalsecurity. To ask a DHS representative for a presentation about the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) regulatory program, please contact CFATS@hq.dhs.gov.