

Cleanup of Apex Chemical Fire Site Still Days Away

- Crews won't begin cleaning up a site where a chemical fire last week prompted the evacuation of thousands of local residents until next week, officials said Wednesday.
- Only state, federal and insurance investigators have been allowed at the Environmental Quality Industrial Services site in recent days. They are investigating the cause of the fire last Thursday night.
- The federal Chemical Safety Board wrapped up its work at the site Wednesday after interviewing employees and taking photos and video of the site. Once investigators complete their work and the site is released back to EQ, the company will begin its own assessment so a cleanup plan can be developed, officials said.
- But before the cleanup can begin, the state Division of Waste Management needs to approve the plan.

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- A contractor hired by EQ continues to monitor the air quality at 13 points around the perimeter of the plant site.
- *After waiting days for EQ to provide information on what chemicals were at the site at the time of the fire, City of Apex N.C. officials hired their own environmental consulting firm to gauge the impact on the town.*
- "I know professional toxicologists have a way of explaining it to make it appear minimalistic. But when you use words like cyanide, arsenic and sulfur, the man or woman on the street becomes alarmed about that, and *I want to raise their comfort level,*" *Town Manager Bruce Radford said.*

North Carolina Fines Chemical Company for Apex Fire

- State regulators fined a chemical storage company more than \$550,000 for violations connected with an October fire that prompted a massive evacuation in the town of Apex, NC.
- Regulators said EQ did not comply with permit conditions, including disaster preparedness and prevention, emergency procedures and record keeping.
- The Oct. 5 blaze at EQ blanketed parts of Apex in a yellow-green haze, prompting town officials to urge as many as 17,000 people to evacuate. Residents were allowed to return two days later.
- EQ has 60 days to contest or pay the fine of \$553,225.

PRE-PLANNING

FIRE!

A stylized graphic of a fire hose nozzle. A blue and purple stream of water is shown spraying from the nozzle to the left. A yellow and orange flame-like spray is shown spraying from the nozzle to the right. The nozzle itself is a dark brown, teardrop shape pointing to the right.

EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION

- Designate Leader(s)
- Establish responsibility and authority
- Determine Objectives
- Develop or ensures current procedures are followed by:
 - Provide direction for assigning duties
 - Planning and directing operations ability to focus on ultimate goal by limiting peripheral distractions
 - Establish communication (internal/external)
 - Manage resources
 - Limit Liability/Expense

Elements of Emergency Response Plan

Pre-emergency planning and coordination with outside parties

Personnel roles, lines of authority, training and communication

Emergency recognition

Emergency alerting and response procedure

Safe distances and places of refuge (on-site)

Site security and control

Evacuation routes and procedures (off-site)

Emergency medical treatment and first aid

Decontamination

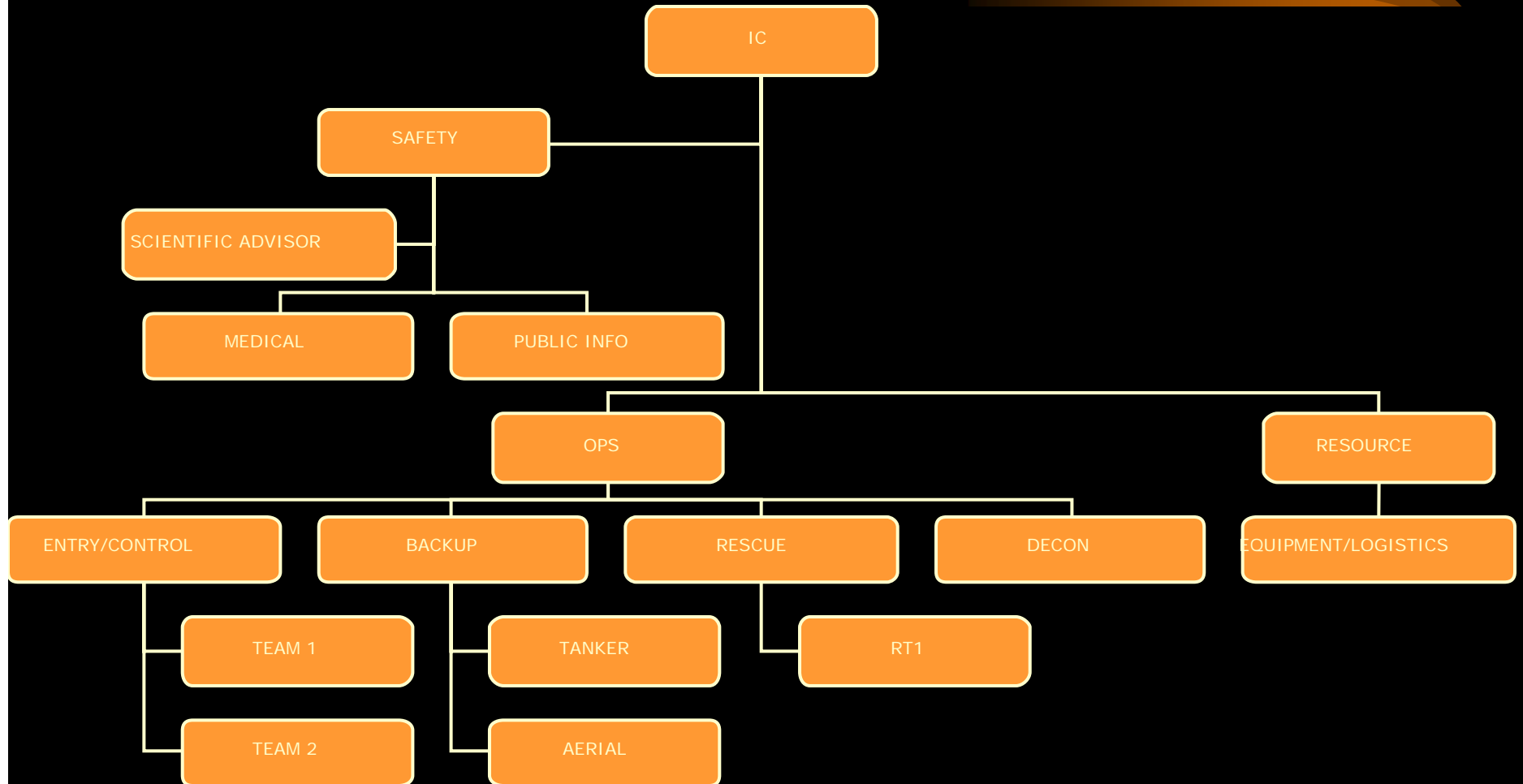
Critique of response and follow-up

PPE and emergency equipment

Pre-emergency planning and coordination with outside parties



Personnel roles, lines of authority, training and communication



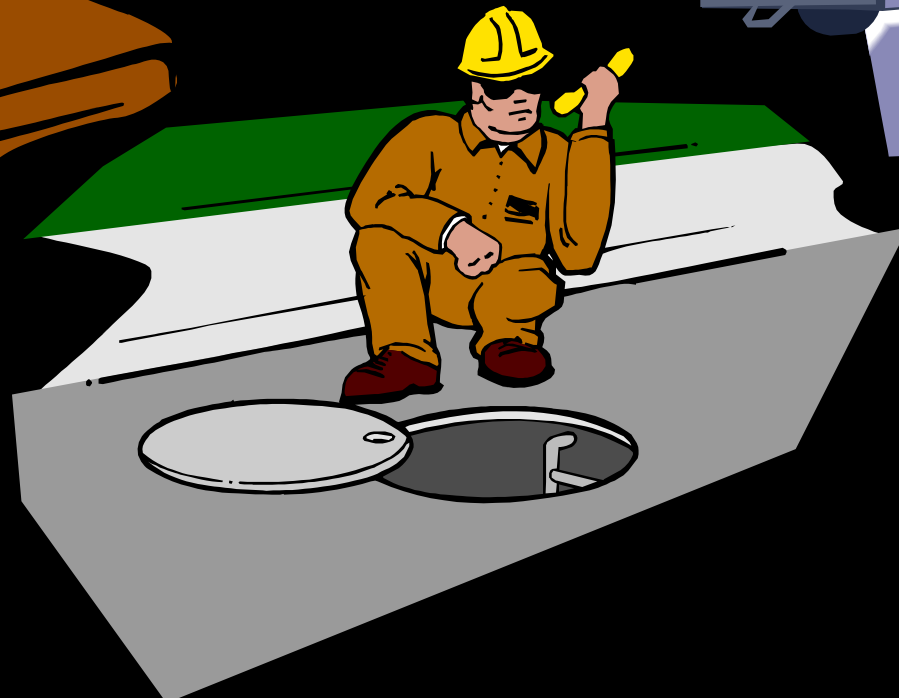
Personnel roles, lines of authority, training and communication



Emergency recognition



Emergency alerting and response procedure



Safe distances and places of refuge (on-site)



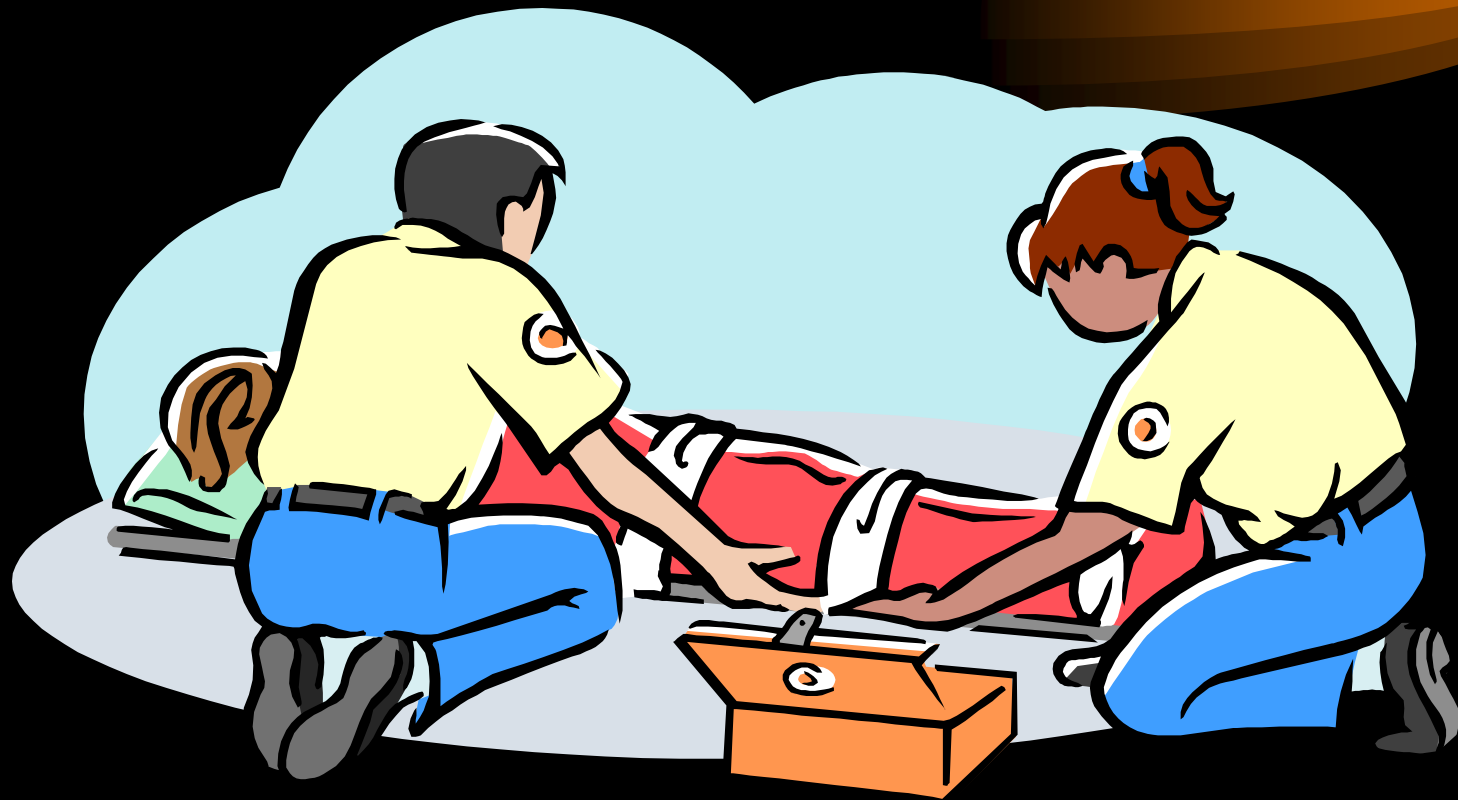
Site security and control



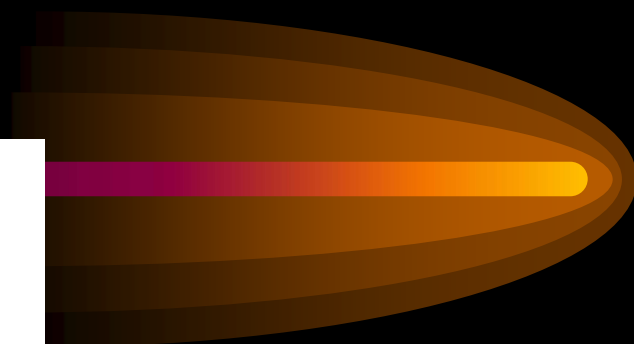
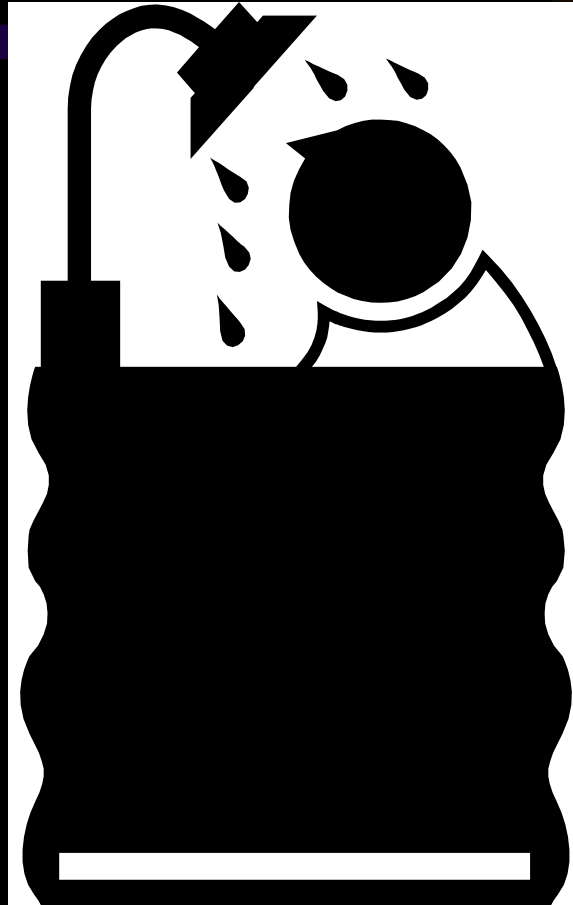
Evacuation routes and procedures (off-site)



Emergency medical treatment and first aid



Decontamination



Critique of response and follow-up



Helena Chemical Company Fire Humboldt, TN - EPA Region IV NRC#: 830572

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At Approximately 0700 CST on March 28, 2007 lightning struck the Helena Chemical Plant in Humboldt, TN causing the facility to catch on fire. The company is a manufacturer of pesticides. At this time there are evacuations of the industrial park and 6 residences in the immediate area for a total of 300-400 people. The local fire department and EMA have decided to let the fire burn itself out. USES has been hired by the local EMA and is en route to the scene to provide cleanup assistance. At this time no air monitoring is being conducted in the vicinity of the scene. OSC Steve Spurlin and START have been dispatched to the scene to provide oversight and air monitoring support.