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# CSEPP *update*

4TH QUARTER 2008

THE CHEMICAL STOCKPILE  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
PROGRAM

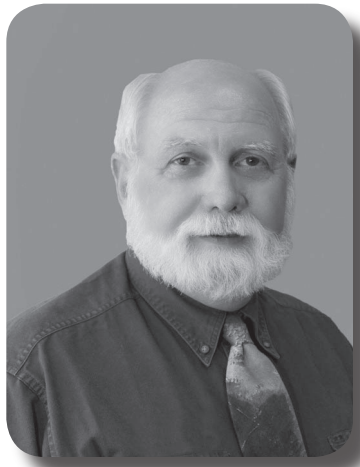
## *The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program and the Chem Demil Process: A 20+ Year Perspective*

We have come a long way since 1987. Funding for CSEPP began in January, 1989, at the same time Pueblo County expanded its emergency management function from what had been the Pueblo County Civil Defense Agency to the newly formed Department of Public Safety & Operations, to include work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Army regarding the chemical weapons stockpile at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. Names have changed, both with the Depot and with our department, and in the process, the CSEP Program has evolved.

Initially, there was no dedicated staff at the local level, funding was minimal (\$100,000 for the first year, for the entire Colorado program), specific program guidance developed as we needed it (often after we had already "gotten our feet wet" on a variety of projects), and in the meantime, we applied a combination of training and rules developed either by FEMA or the Army for existing programs. Some of that fit and some of it didn't, but it gave us a starting point. For example, Pueblo County designed and built its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in conformance with FEMA guidelines at the time, which still included scenarios for nuclear war between the Soviets and the United States. As the program began to develop, we were introduced to the concept of Integrated Process (or Product) Teams, or IPTs. The IPT concept is based on having a wide range of input in the development of products or processes. In CSEPP, that range is geographic (all eight sites), service (Army and civilian) and level (local, state and federal). Pueblo County decided early to be involved in the IPT process, both because it was right to share the load and because we believed that if we did not represent our needs and point of view, they would be less likely to be included in programmatic plans and guidance. To that end, we have been actively involved in CSEPP IPTs dealing with medical, personal protection, automation, training, exercise (drills), public information and close-out (end of program) issues. We have been part of shaping the national program and how it is implemented here. One example of that evolution includes the use of CSEPP funded resources to serve the community's all-hazards emergency management needs, which constitutes an inclusive and efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Another example is the development of a robust and productive disaster exercise program, where exercises are developed that challenge the community in realistic ways and then evaluated by well trained individuals.

*(cont'd page 2)*



By Steve Douglas

*CSEPP, the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, is a federally funded program designed to enhance emergency preparedness efforts of the communities located near the seven U.S. chemical weapons storage locations. Pueblo is one of those sites.*

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#### Editors Note:

Douglas has been the Director of Emergency Management in Pueblo County for the past 20 years and is retiring in January of 2009. Indeed, Pueblo County is a safer place because of the knowledge, experience and accomplishments of Mr. Douglas. Everyone here at *CSEPP Update* offers our thanks for his dedication and commitment and wish him the best retirement has to offer!

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# CSEPP update

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## A 20+ Year Prospective (cont'd from page 1)

CSEP Program benchmark requirements and funding have been used to establish or improve the community's emergency planning, communications, information technology, warning, public information, training and overall emergency response capabilities. The latest CSEPP contribution to our overall public safety in Pueblo County involves the upgrade of the radio system used by all local responders to meet our needs. The overall Pueblo County radio project is being paid for with a meld of different grant funds and local dollars, with CSEPP being a majority contributor.

As a result of CSEPP and the way Pueblo County and the State of Colorado have utilized the program, we are vastly better prepared to respond to and recover from a full range of routine emergencies and major disasters, whether they involve floods, winter storms, wildland fires, hazardous materials or other events. In the meantime, we continue to move forward with the effort to destroy our stockpile of chemical weapons in Pueblo County.

According to the United States Fire Administration, the incidence and severity of fires increase over the Winter Holiday Season. The likelihood of a candle fire, for example, increases fourfold with a dramatic spike on Christmas Day. Christmas trees, when dried out, are extremely combustible. The cold weather may lead some to use space heaters that don't meet the most recent safety standards.

Just like many other emergencies, the potential for a fire to happen in your home, decreases with every preventative step you take. Here are 10 tips to make your holiday safer.

1. Never leave a candle unattended
2. Don't put lit candles on a tree or wreath
3. Don't overload your electrical outlets
4. Consider using an artificial tree (choose a flame retardant one)
5. If you prefer a live tree, keep it watered until you take it down
6. Feel the wires now and then to see if they are warm to the touch
7. Make sure your electric space heater turns off when tipped over, has a thermostat control and has at least three feet of clearance from any combustibles
8. Keep children at least three feet from the stove or other heat sources when food is being prepared
9. Keep the cook area free of pot holders, towels, and loose clothing. If you have an oven fire, turn the oven off and keep the oven door closed
10. Don't leave holiday lights, space heaters, ovens or candles in use when you are not home

In addition, every family member needs to know not to go back into the house if it is on fire. Finally, designate a meeting place, so as everyone leaves the house, they can be quickly accounted for.

*Best of Wishes for a Happy and  
SAFE Holiday Season!*

Winter Holiday Safety Tips

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# CSEPP update

## Local TAR's Working LOUD and clear!

by Carl Ballinger

The Tone Alert Radios that were distributed to homes and businesses in areas near the Pueblo Chemical Depot are tested routinely to ensure that they will work properly in the event of an emergency. Testing is conducted every Wednesday at 10:45 by the Pueblo County Sheriff's Emergency Services Bureau and at approximately 11:30 by the National Weather Service (NWS). Neither of these tests set off the 85 dB emergency tone. (That is the extremely loud alert tone that turns on your TAR red alert signal.) Occasionally the NWS will send out the code that activates the emergency tone to ensure that this feature will work in an emergency. The NWS conducted just such a test on November 18th at approximately 12:15 pm. We do not usually receive advance notice of this test. Following the emergency tone was a clearly stated voice message that announced that it was only a test. So if you heard that test on November 18th or came home and found the red emergency light on your TAR flashing, be assured it was only a test.



Practice your phone number and how to dial 9-1-1 today, on the...

## Kids Page

Kids SAVE LIVES! Kids as young as 3-years old have called 9-1-1 during an emergency. Could you call if you needed to?

*Use this paper keypad to practice dialing 9-1-1.*



If you ever get separated from your family, would you know your home phone number?

*Use this paper keypad to practice calling your home phone number.*

In a disaster, an out-of-town number that all the family knows to call can help you all figure out where to meet if you are separated.

*Use this paper keypad to practice calling your out of town contact number!*

Emergency (Police, Fire & Ambulance) \_\_\_\_\_

My Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Our Family Out-of-Town Contact \_\_\_\_\_

*It is important that you know your address in an emergency too! Do you know your address?*