



# Chemical Facility Safety Panel

A Panel and Discussion



National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences

*Worker Education and  
Training Program*

# Current Challenge

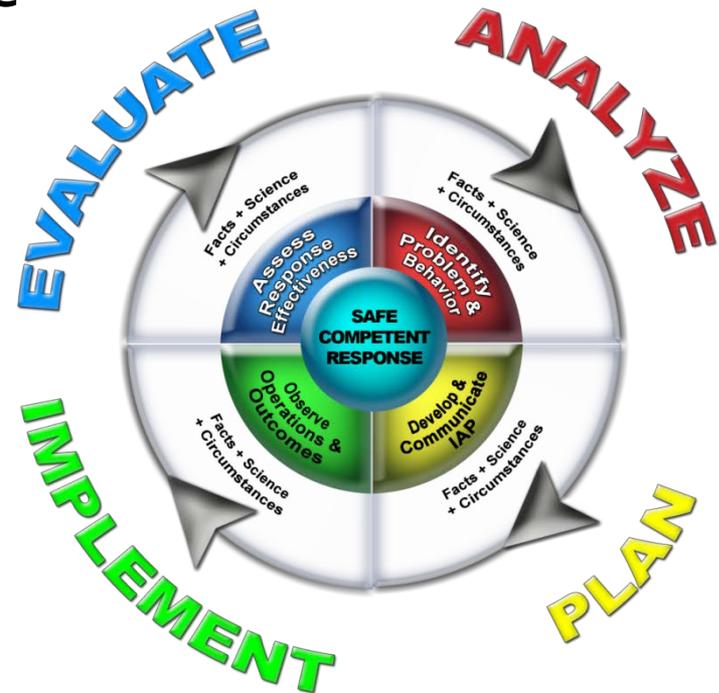
- Around the United States, some 470 facilities storing dangerous chemicals put more than 100,000 citizens at risk.
- Millions more are threatened by the transport of dangerous chemicals.
- In addition to explosive chemicals like ammonium nitrate, the release of toxic gases like chlorine or hydrogen fluoride can devastate communities and kill thousands.
- These hazards are not confined to remote areas; they are all around us.

# Initial Action

- President Barack Obama on August 1, 2013 issued an executive order directing federal agencies to develop plans to make sure that chemical facilities are made as safe as possible.
- This is an important first step to enhance the safety of communities around the United States and enable fire fighters and other first responders whose mission is to protect the public are able to provide an effective and safe response.

# IAFF Training Strategy

- Training programs that emphasize the need for a risk-based response to protect responders and public
- APIE
  - Analyze
  - Plan
  - Implement
  - Evaluate



# Chemical Process Industry

- General in scope
- Overview of incidents that have occurred
  - Bhopal, India—chemical release
  - BP Refinery, Texas City, TX—fire/explosion
- Target audience
  - Emergency response personnel
  - Workers in the industry
  - Emergency management

# First Responder Operations

- Compliant with OSHA HAZWOPER Regulation
- Compliant with NFPA 472 Standard
- National Pro Board certification available
- Identification of hazardous materials and containers
- Defensive strategy

# Hazardous Materials Technician

- Pre-incident planning
- Chemical and physical properties
- PPE compatibility and limitations
- Develop and implement offensive strategies
- Procedures to stabilize incidents involving toxic/flammable/corrosive materials releases

# LEPC—Next Generation

- Target hazard industries
  - Be added to on an annual basis as minimum
  - Conduct in-facility and table top exercise
- Goal
  - Understand high hazard areas of facility or processes so that when failure sequence starts, first responders know what operational strategy to maintain

# Improve OSHA's Rule

- To inspect/ drill named types of processes/manufacturing/storage/transfer facilities on an annual basis (similar to requirement in 29CFR1910.146 for confined space rescue)
- Document exercises to hold each party accountable for the exercise (currently in HAZWOPER, paragraph (q) for emergency response)

# Funding

- Make funding available to those groups that have made strides in the development for programs for the Regional Response Teams (RRT) in the “short term” and “medium term” goals as outlined in the Executive Order

# IAFF Support

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The International Association of Fire Fighters stands ready to assist the Obama administration as it forges a new system to make the nation's thousands of chemical storage facilities safer and more secure.

# Thank you!

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- Any questions?