

TECHNOLOGY CAFÉ: SESSION C

13 U.S. EPA's All Hazards Waste Logistics Tool

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Past experience has shown that communities with comprehensive and well-coordinated WMPs recover more quickly and at less cost from these incidents, making these communities more resilient. Unfortunately, planning for waste management during large-scale homeland security incidents has been identified as a major capability gap in overall Homeland Security Response and Recovery Preparedness.

To assist emergency managers, planners, and responders in the public and private sectors in creating or updating a comprehensive plan for managing waste generated from manmade and natural incidents, the OLEM/ORCR Materials Recovery and Waste Management Division, in collaboration with Regions 3 and 5, the Office of Homeland Security and The Office of Research and Development's Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response, is developing an interactive on-line waste management planning tool to aid federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial planners in developing a preliminary waste management plan. A "quickstart" version of this tool is already online and has recently been upgraded. It can be found at wasteplan.epa.gov

ORCR is working on expanding this quickstart into a more robust tool to provide step by step advice on creating a comprehensive pre-incident WMP. This tool will provide a framework to help managers, planners, and responders initiate plan development, providing variable degrees of assistance from providing a simple outline of plan contents, to creating customizable language, to providing scenario-specific waste quantity value estimates to use in developing a plan. The tool will not only provide an adaptable format for drafting the plan itself but is integrated with other online tools such as I-WASTE to allow for easy data flow between the tools, as well as links to other resources such as fact sheets, and databases.

Additionally, future improvements to the tool are envisioned to provide users with the ability to securely upload information to a plan, view plans developed and shared by other users, further improve waste volume estimates, and serve as a launchpad for access to many other waste management related tools across EPA.
