Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Chemical Assessment Teams (CAT)

Minnesota's Chemical Assessment Teams make up a portion of the State Emergency Response Teams. A coordinator with the Department of Public Safety Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DPS-HSEM) division manages the State Emergency Response Teams by providing information and guidance to local and state responders so they can plan, train and prepare for all-hazards.

At A Glance:

- The primary responsibilities of CATs are hazard assessment, technical assistance, simple mitigation and basic decontamination.
- CATs are composed of a minimum of nine trained personnel. One hazardous materials specialist and two technicians must be available to respond at all times.
- CATs bring their own trucks, trailers and monitoring equipment to a scene.
- CATs are capable of product sampling, identifying unknown substances/materials, air monitoring, plume projection, evacuation/sheltering recommendations, containment and sample collection.

Emergency Response Team (ERT):

- There are four ERTs located within the state that also serve as Chemical Assessment Teams when needed. They are composed of a minimum of 30 trained personnel, with four specialists, four technicians and one medical support officer on duty at all times.
- The ERT may take action necessary to protect life, property and the environment from the effects of a release of a hazardous material.
- ERT actions include, but are not limited to, preventing a hazardous release, mitigating the effects of the release, and stabilizing the emergency situation. ERTs do not provide firefighting capabilities.

Locations:

1. International Falls Fire Department
2. Arrowhead Hazmat Team in Grand Rapids
3. Duluth Fire Department
4. Moorhead Fire Department
5. St. Cloud Fire Department
6. Southwest CAT in Marshall
7. North Metro Hazmat Team
8. Hopkins Fire Department
9. Mankato Fire Division
10. St. Paul Fire Department
11. Rochester Fire Department

HSEM Homeland Security and Emergency Management