CELEBRATING 30 YEARS!

U.S. Chemical Weapons Elimination Program's Key Successes

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) oversees the U.S. chemical weapons elimination program. We've worked for over 30 years to keep Americans safe from dangerous chemicals in warfare materials by monitoring the process for safely destroying them and making safe workers and nearby communities stay safe and healthy.

What are chemical weapons?
Chemical weapons, like mustard gas and sarin, are weapons that use toxic substances to harm human health.

30 Years of Successful Action

Over 27,000 tons of America's chemical weapons have been eliminated

90% of chemical weapons successfully destroyed

7 of 9 factories used to destroy chemical weapons have been safely closed

93% decrease in the nation's risk from U.S. chemical weapons since the project started

Keeping Workers and Communities Safe

CDC has overseen 11 million man-hours of work with 0 hours of workers' time lost to accidents

U.S. Chemical Weapons Elimination Timeline

1910s – 1950s: The United States starts to make and store chemical weapons during World War I. This continues during and after World War II.

1960s: The chemical weapons have never been used. By the late 1960s, they are outdated and an increasing threat to the public; they are left in storage.

1970: Congress asks the Surgeon General to make sure to protect public health as the Army destroys the weapons.

1982: CDC takes on the task of keeping the public safe while the Department of Defense (DoD) works to destroy these weapons safely.

1986: Congress passes a law ordering the destruction of all stockpiled U.S. chemical weapons.

1997: With more than 150 other nations, the United States approves the Chemical Weapons Convention, an international treaty to destroy all chemical weapons.

2012: The United States reaches the milestone of successfully destroying 90% of its stored chemical weapons.

2015: DoD is developing new ways to destroy the remaining 10% of stockpiled weapons in the next 5 to 7 years. CDC continues to oversee DoD efforts to protect public health.

To learn more about our work, visit [http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/demil/](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/demil/)