

# OECD work on Chemical Accidents

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The OECD released in June 2023:

- a new Decision-Recommendation concerning Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response; and
- its supporting technical guidance, the Guiding Principles on Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response - Third edition.

Chemical accidents with serious consequences continue to happen in OECD Member countries and worldwide. Over the past decades, major accidents have caused deaths, injuries, significant environmental pollution and massive economic losses.

Since the 1980s, the OECD has worked on the challenges raised by chemical accidents. The OECD has developed key standards and tools to support industry and public authorities in preventing chemical accidents and, recognising that such events may nonetheless occur, to mitigate adverse effects through effective emergency preparedness and accident response.



## ABOUT THE NEW DECISION-RECOMMENDATION

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The OECD Decision-Recommendation concerning Chemical Accidents Prevention, Preparedness and Response sets out key high-level elements to support the development of a chemical accidents programme.

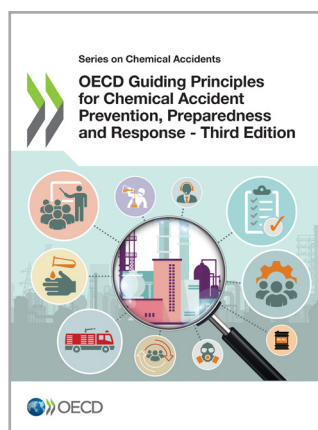
It aims to help public authorities to respond to the continued occurrence of chemical accidents with loss of life, injuries and damage to property and the environment.

It addresses critical issues such as:

- the identification of hazardous installations
- the development of safety objectives and a control framework
- land-use planning
- investigation of accidents and the development of lessons learnt
- transboundary accidents and
- cooperation and technical assistance.

The Decision-Recommendation is a consolidation and update of three original OECD legal instruments from 1988 and 2004.

## ABOUT THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON CHEMICAL ACCIDENT PREVENTION, THIRD EDITION



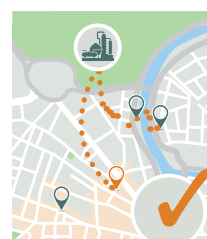
The OECD Guiding Principles for Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response sets out guidance for the safe planning and operation of hazardous installations. They are the technical guidance supporting the implementation of the Decision-Recommendation.

This third edition reflects on lessons learnt from major accidents worldwide since the previous 2003 edition, as well as emerging issues such as climate change adaptation, and response to unexpected crises.

This publication seeks to address the wide range of measures necessary to ensure effective chemical safety, in particular to:



- Minimise the likelihood that an accident will occur (**prevention**)



- Mitigate consequences of accidents through emergency planning, land use planning and risk communication (**preparedness/mitigation**)



- Limit the adverse consequences to health, the environment and property in the event of an accident (**response**)



- Learn from the experiences of accidents (**follow-up**) in order to reduce future accidents

The Guiding Principles principally focus on providing guidance to industry and public authorities, and include elements on communication and engagement with the public.

The Guiding Principles apply to fixed installations at which hazardous substances are produced, processed, handled, stored or disposed of in such a form and quantity that there might be a risk of occurrence of a chemical accident. They do not address the transport of hazardous substances but cover pipelines and transport interfaces such as marshalling yards and port areas.

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