



Chapter 2.5 Emergency Preparedness and Response

BACKGROUND

Modern mines are large industrial facilities and have operational risks. These risks are common to industries that make, handle, transport and use fuels and chemical substances and include the potential for explosions, fires, releases of gas, ventilation failures, rock falls, avalanches, water or slurry inundation, radiation exposures, seismic events and environmental incidents.

Mining companies have direct responsibility for minimizing risks (through prevention, mitigation, and preparedness) and developing effective plans for responding to emergencies or major accidents.

Mining companies should also work with joint venture partners, contractors and suppliers providing bulk and dangerous materials to put adequate emergency response plans in place to deal with both on-site and off-site accidents.

It is also important for companies to coordinate and communicate with communities that could be affected by these accidents, both to protect health and safety in these communities, and so that the emergency resources in the communities are available if needed.

TERMS USED IN THIS CHAPTER

Affected Community ■ Consultation ■ Mine Waste Facility ■ Mining Project ■ Operating Company ■ Stakeholder ■ Subsidence ■ Worker ■ Workers' Representative ■

These terms appear in the text with a dashed underline. For definitions see the Glossary of Terms at the end of the document.

OBJECTIVES/INTENT OF THIS CHAPTER

To plan for and be prepared to respond effectively to industrial emergency situations that may affect offsite resources or communities, and minimize the likelihood of accidents, loss of life, injuries, and damage to property, environment, health and social well-being.

SCOPE OF APPLICATION

RELEVANCE: This chapter applies to the operating company and to its on-site contractors (and subcontractors) involved with dangerous and bulk materials and wastes at all mines applying for IRMA certification.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Requirements

2.5.1. Emergency Response Plan

2.5.1.1. All operations related to the mining project shall have an emergency response plan conforming to the guidelines set forth in *United Nations Environment Programme, Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level (APELL) for Mining*.⁷¹

⁷¹ United Nations Environment Programme. 2001. Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level (APELL) for Mining, (Technical Report 41). www.unep.fr/shared/publications/pdf/WEBx0055xPA-APELLminingEN.pdf See Appendix 1 for Components of an emergency response plan. See also, http://apell.eecentre.org/Modules/GroupDetails/UploadFile/APELL_Handbook_2016_-_Publication.pdf

2.5.1.2. The operating company shall:⁷²

- a. Conduct an exercise to test the plan, with key participants describing how they would respond to a variety of different emergency scenarios, at least every 12 to 24 months; and
- b. Update the communications contacts of the emergency response plan at least annually.

2.5.2. Community and Worker Consultation

2.5.2.1. The emergency response plan shall be developed in consultation with potentially affected communities and workers and/or workers' representatives,⁷³ and the operating company shall incorporate their input into the emergency response plan, and include their participation in emergency response planning exercises.

2.5.3. Public Liability Accident Insurance

2.5.3.1. All operations related to the mining project shall be covered by a public liability accident insurance policy that provides financial insurance for unplanned accidental events.

2.5.3.2. The public liability accident insurance shall cover unplanned accidental events such as flood damage, landslides, subsidence, mine waste facility failures, major spills of process solutions, leaking tanks, and other potential accidents.

2.5.3.3. The accident insurance coverage shall remain in force for as long as the operating company, or any successor, has legal responsibility for the property.

NOTES

The requirements in this chapter largely follow the guidance from the *United Nations Environment Programme, Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level (APELL)* for Mining Technical Report No. 41 (2001).

Additional guidance is also taken from: Part III of International Labour Organization (ILO) *Convention 176 on the Safety and Health in Mines, 1995*; Part III and Part V of ILO *Convention 174 on Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents, 1993*; and the Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS) 18001/2.

The chapter does not require a separate emergency response plan from those already prepared for mining projects, contractors, suppliers, and transportation companies, provided it can be demonstrated that those plans are in compliance with the chapter requirements.

There may be several different components of an emergency response plan maintained by different functional areas of the operating company, such as health and safety, environmental and social responsibility, security, and communications or external affairs. Emergency response plans that cover different operations and/or parts of a mine site should be combined into or integrated with a site-wide emergency response plan. A single reference document should exist that identifies the location(s), responsible person(s) and contact information for each of the separate emergency response plans or supplements to those plans. And a crisis management/communications, rapid response, or other incident command system should be developed in conjunction with the emergency response plans.

⁷² This is in accordance with the APELL for Mining, Section 4, Step 3. See also ICMC. 2005. Good Practice in Emergency Preparedness and Response. p. 15. <https://www.icmm.com/website/publications/pdfs/health-and-safety/good-practice-emergency-preparedness-and-response>

⁷³ This is based on ILO Conventions 174 and 176, and OHSAS 18001.

CROSS REFERENCES TO OTHER CHAPTERS	
CHAPTER	ISSUES
1.1— Legal Compliance	As per Chapter 1.1, mine <u>contractors</u> must be IRMA compliant. So the <u>operating company</u> should be able to demonstrate that <u>contractors</u> are included in the company’s emergency preparedness activities and emergency response plans and/or that <u>contractors</u> have emergency preparedness and response procedures and plans that conform with IRMA requirements.
1.2—Community and Stakeholder Engagement	Engagement with <u>stakeholders</u> during the development and updating of the emergency response plan shall conform with the stakeholder engagement requirements in Chapter 1.2. In particular, communications shall be in formats and languages that are culturally appropriate, accessible and understandable to potentially <u>affected communities</u> and <u>stakeholders</u> .
2.1—Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Management	Information from the environment and social impact assessment may feed into the emergency response plan.
3.2— Occupational Health and Safety	Chapter 3.2 provides additional requirements related to worker safety, which may be partially addressed in the emergency response plan. Conversely, emergency-related procedures may also be included in occupational health and safety procedures or plans.
3.3—Community Health and Safety	Information from the community health and safety risk and impact assessment may feed into the emergency response plan.
4.1—Waste and Materials Management	Chapter 4.1 requires that the emergency response plan include provisions related to catastrophic failure of <u>mine waste facilities</u> , that the emergency action provisions be developed with potentially <u>affected communities</u> and local agencies, and that evacuation drills related to catastrophic failures are held on a regular basis. (See 4.1.7.2 and 4.1.7.3)