

**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 sure 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

The 2 remaining sites still need to  
complete the mission of destroying the  
remaining chemical weapons stored at  
those sites before being closed.



### Keeping Workers and Communities Safe



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

**93% decrease**

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



### 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 By the late 1960s they are outdated and an increasing threat to the public the longer they are left in storage.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/>



Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
National Center for  
Environmental Health