

Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT)

Identifying chemicals risks in humanitarian emergencies made easy

The Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT) identifies existing or potential acute impacts posed by chemical substances.

It flags the spatial, human health and environmental impacts of chemical releases and allows disaster responders to take quick action and alleviate human suffering.



Why?

- ✓ Identifying environmental dangers can save lives of affected populations and humanitarian workers.
- ✓ Addressing secondary environmental impacts is part of effective emergency response.
- ✓ Every emergency responder has a role in identifying acute risks.



Who?



- ✓ Since 2009, global experts and United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams have been using the FEAT in emergency settings.
- ✓ National emergency authorities have used the FEAT methodology to identify and map industrial risk.
- ✓ Industrial, regional and national responders use the FEAT methodology to raise awareness of chemical impacts and mitigation measures in trainings and exercises.
- ✓ Urban search and rescue teams and other responders often have skills and equipment to help identify and respond to acute impacts posed by chemical releases.

FEAT is part of the training programme of the (European) Union Civil Protection Mechanism, where participants of the Environment and Emergencies Training course apply the FEAT in a simulation exercise.

How?



FEAT combines scientific rigor (a database composed of thousands of chemical substances) with the practical needs of non-environmentalists operating in disaster settings.



FEAT can be used remotely and in the field, by experts and non-experts alike, for preparedness and response.



The FEAT comprises:

A small, user-friendly and practical FEAT Response Pocket Guide focusing on main chemical risks and impacts, designed for emergency responders.

A FEAT 2.0 Reference Guide explaining the use of the FEAT methodology for preparedness and response, with associated flowcharts, guidance and tips.

A FEAT 2.0 Online Training module available on the EEC Learning Centre (learning.eecentre.org).

A FEAT database (under development), allowing users to assess the impacts of thousands of chemical substances.

Joint Environment Unit:

The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) respond as one UN to the environmental dimensions of emergencies. The partnership assists countries affected by disasters and crises and works to enhance the sustainability of humanitarian action.

Contact information

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