Nonproliferation Test

Introduction

The Nonproliferation Test and Evaluation Complex (NPTEC) is the world's largest facility for open air testing of hazardous toxic materials and biological simulants. It is located at the Nevada National Security Site on Frenchman Flat, a natural geological basin approximately 75 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The topography, wind predictability, and location provide a secure, controlled environment for small and large-scale testing, which is governed by an approved Environmental Assessment. An Environmental Assessment is a public document that analyzes a proposed federal action for the possibility of significant environmental impacts. The analysis is required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Non-Proliferation Test and Evaluation Complex possesses the capability to host light aircraft operations on an area lake bed.

Background

Formerly called the HAZMAT Spill Center, the facility opened in 1986 at a cost of $7.6 million. The NPTEC provides independent field testing and evaluation of emerging sensor technologies. In addition, NPTEC can perform tests, experiments, or training for any technology that requires the release of toxic chemicals or biological simulants into the environment. The size of the Nevada National Security Site and the federally-controlled lands surrounding the site provide a large safety zone for public protection. Tests are strictly developed and conducted according to established NNSS work control and safety standards.

First responders train using live material under actual release conditions.

Past testing at NPTEC includes large-scale chemical releases for dispersion modeling, projects conducted by the National Laboratories, sensor development releases, and First Responder Training.

Today

The current mission of the NPTEC is to provide a secure test-bed, calibrated release systems, weather data, ground truth instrumentation, logistics, test design, and test execution support for customers to utilize during the execution their projects. All projects are conducted within environmental and safety regulations. The facility is available to private and public sector sponsors on a user-fee basis.