



State of the Art in Natech Research and Natech Policy

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This talk offers an overview of the state of knowledge in the field of natechs. The work of important authors in this field including Showalter and Myers, Lindell and Perry, and Steinberg and Cruz is reviewed. These works discuss the causes and effects of natechs, provide case studies of natech releases and emergency responses, and offer statistical data on the incidence of natechs. The role of natechs in both triggering cascading failures and in being caused by cascading failures will be highlighted, with examples taken from the author's work on the Kocaeli, Turkey earthquake of 1999. A recent case study centering around natechs caused by Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana will also be presented. Finally, methods for mitigating against natechs and their effects will be discussed, and the current state of natech-related governmental policy in the US and Europe will be presented.