

Plastic in Action

Emergency Response

Plastic is essential for emergency response, providing unparalleled protection to medics, first responders, and disaster victims. Plastic is used for EMT gear, flame-retardant firefighter suits, rescue equipment, weather-resistant shelters, and durable communication devices.



Made from impact-resistant polycarbonate plastic, firefighters' helmets and shields protect against falling debris, heat, and chemical exposure.



Plastic is essential to global disaster relief. UNICEF's emergency response [Family Water Kit](#) includes 20 collapsible plastic water containers.



High-density plastic polyethylene (HDPE) and polypropylene (PP) drums and tanks safely store corrosive chemicals, industrial waste, and flammable liquids.



Plastic polypropylene (PP) panels, PVC-coated fabrics, and reinforced polyethylene sheets are often used in emergency housing for disaster victims and medical tents for field hospitals.

Plastic is critical for emergency response.

More than one million Americans work in jobs directly or indirectly connected to the plastics industry, spanning a wide range of sectors. From the engineers who design the machinery that manufactures essential plastic products, to the material suppliers distributing raw plastics, to the processors shaping materials into goods, and the recyclers giving used plastic a second life, the plastics supply chain is a vital aspect within both the U.S. and global economy.