



**U.S. Chemical Safety and  
Hazard Investigation Board**

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**BUDGET REQUEST**

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**FY 2024**

**FY 2024 Budget Request  
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## I. Introduction

As an independent, non-regulatory agency, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's (CSB) mission is to drive chemical safety change through independent investigations to protect communities, workers, and the environment. To that end, the CSB conducts comprehensive investigations of serious chemical incidents, which are often preventable with the effective implementation of robust safety management systems. The agency then makes recommendations aimed at preventing or mitigating the consequences of similar incidents.

The CSB is a unique agency, modeled after the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). CSB investigations have collectively identified gaps in regulatory requirements, industry standards and guidance, workforce training and operations, and emergency planning and response that caused or exacerbated the human and environmental consequences of chemical incidents.

Throughout its 25-year history, the CSB has initiated more than 170 deployments to chemical incidents and issued over 900 safety recommendations. Incidents investigated by the CSB have resulted in more than 200 fatalities, over 1,200 injuries, and significant damage to property and the environment.

The agency's goals set out a framework to address the many challenges that have faced the CSB in recent years, rebuild and revitalize the agency, and successfully execute our mission to "Drive chemical safety excellence through independent investigations to protect communities, workers, and the environment." The CSB educates and prompts action from regulators, industry personnel, standard-setting organizations, academia, and the American people to ensure that facilities that use hazardous chemicals properly manage their risk and perform their work in a safe manner with a goal of reaching our vision of "A nation free from chemical disasters."

The heart of the CSB is our team. Achieving our goals and keeping communities safe depends on the hard work and commitment of our excellent dedicated career professional staff. A key focus is to grow, support, and develop our agency's team so that we will have an experienced workforce large enough to carry out our mission. Because the CSB has experienced significant attrition in recent years, we must work not only to increase the number of staff focused on the agency's core mission, but also provide resources, training, and support that the staff needs to ensure the agency's long-term success.

Although the CSB is a micro-agency with a budget of just \$14.4 million and an authorized staff of 49 in FY 2023, the agency consistently advances chemical safety in the United States. The impact of the CSB's investigations and recommendations has resulted in significant safety improvements throughout the country across a wide variety of industries.

The CSB's modest annual budget stands in direct contrast with the large cost of chemical disasters. The CSB has investigated numerous high-consequence incidents that have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in damage and disruptions to regional and local economies. Recent examples include:

- On April 26, 2018, an explosion and fire at the Husky Refinery in Superior, Wisconsin, resulted in severe property damage and the evacuation of much of the nearby city. The incident released 39,000 pounds of flammable vapor, and the loss associated with the incident was approximately \$550 million.

- On June 21, 2019, an explosion and fire at the Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES) Refinery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, resulted in the release of over 5,000 pounds of highly toxic hydrofluoric acid. The loss associated with the incident was estimated at \$750 million with the refinery shutting down and the loss of over 1,000 jobs.
- On November 27, 2019, multiple fires and explosions occurred at the TPC Group (TPC) Port Neches Operations (PNO) facility in Port Neches, Texas, with the monetary loss due to the incident estimated at nearly \$500 million on-site and over \$150 million off-site.
- On August 27, 2020, a fire occurred at Bio-Lab's Lake Charles facility in Westlake, LA. The large fire led caused extensive damage to the facility. Ultimately, Bio-Lab spent over \$250 million to rebuild.

If the CSB's many safety lessons and recommendations prevent at least one catastrophic incident, the costs avoided from damage to facilities and the surrounding communities and the environment, legal settlements, and the loss of human life far outweigh the agency's annual budget. Safety and prosperity are compatible. Strong safety programs are critical for the economic success of the many industries that use, process, or work with hazardous chemicals. If we do not learn from previous incidents, Americans will continue to spend billions of dollars responding to future incidents. Through its independent investigations, the CSB plays a unique role in fostering collaboration with industry, regulators, standards-setting bodies, and professional organizations, to work together to drive critical chemical safety change in the United States.

## II. Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals

### Vision

A nation free from chemical disasters.

### Mission

Drive chemical safety excellence through independent investigations to protect communities, workers, and the environment.

### Strategic Goals

**Goal 1** – Prevent recurrence of significant chemical incidents through independent investigations.

- 1.1. Investigate or review incidents and hazards to generate recommendations or findings with broad preventative impact.
- 1.2. Complete timely, high-quality investigations that determine the causes of incidents.
- 1.3. Develop and issue recommendations with broad preventive impact.

**Goal 2** – Advocate safety and achieve change through recommendations, outreach, and education.

- 2.1. Pursue the implementation of recommendations.
- 2.2. Identify and strategically promote key chemical safety issues.
- 2.3. Create and disseminate chemical safety information using a variety of engaging, high-visibility tools and products.

**Goal 3** – Recruit and maintain an engaged, high-performing workforce.

- 3.1. Implement effective recruiting and skills-based training and mentorship.
- 3.2. Encourage management development and leadership at all levels.
- 3.3. Increase retention across the agency to ensure continuity.
- 3.4. Strengthen operational performance and project management efforts.

### **III. Budget Request**

#### **Budget Request Summary**

The CSB requests a budget of \$17.4 million in FY 2024 to pursue its unique safety mission and continuing operations. This is an increase of \$3.0 million, or 20.83% above the \$14.4 million appropriation in December 2022.

The requested amount allows the CSB to maintain and develop its investigations program and safety outreach capabilities; enhance its infrastructure; hire much-needed chemical incident investigators and other key staff who are critical to fully performing the CSB's mission; continue implementation of the President's initiatives for information technology (IT) modernization, including transitioning to an all-electronic environment for records preservation and transparency; and increasing the accessibility of Federal information to the American public, including increased accessibility to the CSB's investigative records. To successfully achieve its mission for FY 2024 and beyond, the CSB will require additional funding in several areas that are described in the object classification detail.

The requested increase in FY 2024 also provides full-year funding for positions that are to be filled in FY 2023. As of the time of this FY 2024 budget request submission, the CSB has several vacant positions for its mission-critical occupation, Chemical Incident Investigator. The agency is continuing to hire for these and other key positions that remain vacant in FY 2023 – with the intent of ensuring a fully staffed agency to meet the agency's mission. The requested additional funds for FY 2024 will enable the CSB to eliminate the existing backlog in investigative reports and prevent a backlog from occurring in the future, as well as deploy to chemical incidents on a more consistent basis.

In FY 2024 the CSB is asking for two-year funds to allow the agency to be better stewards of taxpayer dollars. Increased flexibility will give the agency additional abilities to spend full-year allocations efficiently and ultimately increase the CSB's ability to perform long-term strategic and budget planning more effectively. Due to frequent continuing resolutions and the passage of full-year funding after the beginning of a fiscal year, it can be difficult for the CSB to spend all its appropriated funds in the remaining 8 – 10-month period of the fiscal year. Because the CSB is a small federal agency with limited staff, two-year funds will allow us to complete longer-term projects strategically. Because of the CSB's small size and limited resources, the agency also must utilize third-party providers for hiring and some contract actions. These actions can take an extensive amount of time, and having the additional flexibility provided by two-year funds will enable the CSB to increase our capabilities in these areas as well.

With the additional funding & flexibility provided in FY 2024 the CSB will also enhance its infrastructure. The CSB anticipates increases in executing its administrative and legal requirements with the implementation of new publicly available databases, such as data gathered from the CSB's accidental release reporting rule, in addition to implementing a new FOIA database and enhanced IT security and infrastructure improvements.

#### **CSB Accomplishments**

##### **Investigations**

The CSB's first strategic goal is to prevent recurrence of significant chemical incidents through independent investigations. The CSB made considerable progress toward reducing its backlog of open investigations by releasing six final reports over the last eight months. The CSB has an aggressive plan to greatly reduce its remaining backlog of open investigations by the end of calendar year 2023.

### **Completed Investigations FY 22 and early FY 23**

- **Pressure Vessel Explosion (St. Louis, MO)** – On April 3, 2017, a massive steam explosion occurred at the Loy-Lange Box Company. The explosion killed one Loy-Lange employee and critically injured another. The explosion also caused a steel vessel weighing approximately 2,000 pounds to be launched into the air and fly several hundred feet before crashing through the roof of a nearby company, killing three members of the public. The CSB's final investigation found that over the course of many years an area of the failed vessel had thinned due to a known corrosion mechanism that was poorly controlled. **Report Release Date: September 29, 2022.**
- **Flash Fire During Hot Work (Nederland, TX)** – On August 12, 2016, seven workers were injured – three critically – when a flash fire occurred during hot work activities at Sunoco Logistics Partners crude oil terminal. The CSB's final report identified deficiencies in the company's hot work policies and procedures as well as the ineffective implementation and execution of policies and procedures by Sunoco employees and contractors hired to execute the work. **Report Release Date: September 28, 2022.**
- **Refinery Fire and Explosion (Philadelphia, PA):** On June 21, 2019, a large vapor cloud was released from a ruptured pipe in the Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery alkylation unit and ignited, causing a fire and multiple explosions. The explosions resulted in the release of over 5,000 pounds of highly toxic hydrofluoric acid (HF), launched a 38,000-pound vessel fragment off-site that landed on the other side of the Schuylkill River, and caused an estimated property damage loss of \$750 million. The incident also led to the refinery's permanent closure and the loss of more than 1,000 jobs. The CSB's final report identified several safety issues which contributed to the incident, including mechanical integrity and verification of safety equipment. The report made several recommendations to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the American Petroleum Institute (API), and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International. **Report Release Date: October 11, 2022.**
- **Chemical Facility Fire and Explosion (Port Neches, TX):** On November 27, 2019, a release of highly flammable butadiene caused multiple explosions and fires at the TPC Group chemical plant. The incident injured two facility employees and a contractor and caused an estimated \$450 million in on-site property damage at the facility and \$153 million in off-site property damage to nearby homes and businesses. According to media reports, the blast was felt up to 30 miles away. The CSB's final report identified four safety issues which contributed to the incident. **Report Release Date: December 19, 2022.**
- **Manufacturing Facility Explosion (Pasadena, TX):** On May 19, 2018, an ethylene release and fire injured 23 workers at the Kuraray America EVAL facility. The CSB's final report determined that the cause of the incident was the company's emergency pressure relief

system design that discharged flammable ethylene vapor from a reactor through horizontally aimed piping into the air in an area near workers. The CSB issued a dozen recommendations to Kuraray, including calling on the company to develop and implement an emergency pressure-relief system design standard to ensure that these safety systems discharge to a safe location. **Report Release Date: December 21, 2022.**

- **Refinery Fire and Explosion (Superior, WI):** On April 26, 2018, an explosion and subsequent fires at the Husky Superior Refinery released 39,000 pounds of a flammable hydrocarbon vapor mixture into the air, injured 36 people and resulted in \$550 million in property damage on-site at the facility. The explosion shook buildings up to a mile away and propelled over 100 metal fragments, some several feet long, up to 1,200 feet from their original location into the surrounding operating areas. Explosion debris punctured a nearby asphalt tank at the refinery, spilling hot asphalt that flowed outside of the tank's containment area. Approximately 17,000 barrels of hot asphalt spread through the refinery and ignited, causing fires to erupt at multiple operating areas of the refinery. The City of Superior evacuated over 2,500 residents, and the nearby City of Duluth, Minnesota, issued a shelter-in-place advisory. In addition to concerns about smoke from the fires at the refinery, the City of Superior evacuation was based on the potential risk of a release of highly toxic hydrofluoric acid (HF), which was stored at Husky Superior Refinery and used in the refinery's HF alkylation unit. The CSB's final report detailed 6 key safety issues including process knowledge and process safety management issues and made 16 safety recommendations to several entities, including the company, the U.S. Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the American Petroleum Institute (API). **Report Released: December 23, 2022.**

In addition to these chemical incident investigations completed in FY 2022 and early 2023, the CSB continues to conduct field work, analysis, and report writing on several major investigations. The CSB released updates on five ongoing investigations and made significant progress in the completion of other open investigations. The agency has continued to focus on issuing more timely investigation reports to ensure that critical safety recommendations can be issued on a timely basis to help prevent catastrophic incidents.

## **Deployments and New Investigations in FY 2022**

In FY 2022, the CSB deployed a team to investigate an incident that occurred on September 20, 2022, at the BP Toledo Refinery in Oregon, Ohio. The incident involved an explosion and fire that resulted in two fatalities, the release of sulfur dioxide and hydrogen sulfide, and significant property damage.

The CSB's current release plan anticipates closing all open investigations that occurred before 2022 by the end of calendar year 2023.

## **Ongoing Investigations**

- **Combustible Dust Explosion (Cambria, WI):** On May 31, 2017, an explosion occurred at the Didion Milling facility, where sixteen employees were working the night shift. Thirteen



people were injured, five fatally. If this incident had occurred twelve hours earlier during the day shift, up to fifty people would have been working in the damaged buildings, and the number of injuries and fatalities could have been considerably higher. The packing facility, where some employees had been working, completely collapsed as a result of the explosion. Significant forensic examination of two gap mills involved in the explosion took place in 2019. Completion of this teardown and examination has provided critical information necessary to complete the investigation. **The CSB released a factual investigative update in May 2018. In September of 2020, the CSB released a “Dust Hazard Learning Review,” which presented combustible dust hazards from multiple perspectives.**

- **Tank Fires and Explosions (Deer Park, TX):** On March 17, 2019, a tank fire erupted at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC). Although the incident did not result in any injuries, the local community experienced disruptions, including several shelter-in-place notifications, which prompted local schools and businesses either to close or operate under modified conditions. **The CSB released a factual investigative update in October of 2019.**
- **Custom Chemical Blending and Processing Company Fire and Explosion (Crosby, TX):** On April 2, 2019, a fire and explosion occurred at the KMCO custom chemical processing and specialty chemical manufacturing facility, resulting in one fatality and multiple injuries. **The CSB released a factual investigative update in September 2019.**
- **Manufacturing Facility Fire and Explosion (Houston, TX):** On January 24, 2020, an explosion fatally injured two workers at Watson Grinding, a machining, grinding, lapping, and thermal spray coatings services company. The explosion caused extensive damage to nearby homes and businesses. **The CSB released a factual investigative update on October 3, 2022.**
- **Gas Well Explosion (Burleson County, TX):** On January 29, 2020, a gas well explosion at the Wendland 1H Well fatally injured three contract workers during an onshore drilling operation.
- **Chemical Fire Following Hurricane Laura (Westlake, LA):** On August 27, 2020, a fire occurred at the Bio-Lab Lake Charles chemical facility following landfall of Hurricane Laura. The fire led to a call for local residents to shelter-in-place. The CSB’s final investigation report will also include discussion of a September 2020 incident in Conyers, GA at a second Bio-Lab facility which lead to closure of a nearby highway.
- **Chemical Release (Charleston, TN):** On Friday November 13, 2020, seven workers were exposed to a release of hydrochloric acid during a maintenance activity at the Wacker Polysilicon North America facility. One of the workers was fatally injured, and three other workers sustained serious injuries. **The CSB released a factual investigative update on October 3, 2022.**
- **Fatal Explosion (Belle, WV)** On Tuesday December 8, 2020, an explosion occurred at Optima Chemical LLC. The incident resulted in one fatality and two injuries as well as a shelter-in-place for community members within a 2-mile radius of the facility. **The CSB released a factual investigative update on October 3, 2022.**

- **Chemical Release (Gainesville, GA)** On January 28, 2021, a liquid nitrogen release at the Foundation Food Group's Prepared Foods Division led to six fatalities and multiple injuries. The CSB held a news conference during the deployment phase of its investigation and issued two information releases. **The CSB released a factual investigative update on October 3, 2022.**
- **Explosion and Fire (Columbus, OH)** An April 8, 2021, an explosion and fire erupted at the Yenkin-Majestic paint and OPC Polymers Corporation. One employee was fatally injured and eight were transported to area hospitals for injuries. The blast shook neighboring buildings and at least one nearby business sustained damage. The CSB issued two information releases following the deployment. **The CSB released a factual investigative update on December 14, 2022.**
- **Chemical Release (La Porte, TX)** On July 27, 2021, a release of 100,000 pounds of acetic acid during a maintenance event at the LyondellBasell facility resulted in fatal injuries to two contract employees and 30 other personnel being transported to medical facilities for evaluation and/or treatment. **The CSB provided an information release on August 3, 2021.**

## Recommendations

The CSB's second strategic goal is to pursue safety change through safety recommendations, outreach, and education. Since its creation, the CSB has issued a total of 907 recommendations to industry, trade associations, standards-setting bodies, and state and Federal agencies to advance chemical safety practices. These recommendations are the CSB's primary tools for preventing future chemical incidents and mitigating consequences when they do occur. The CSB's recommendations drive critical chemical safety change.

The CSB continues to prioritize recommendation closures in FY 2022 and made some significant progress on many of its open recommendations. In FY 2022, the CSB **closed 40** and advanced the status of four recommendations. The CSB issued **13 new recommendation** in FY 2022. In FY 2023 to date, the CSB already has issued **38 new recommendations, closed 6**, and advanced the status of one other.

Currently, of the 907 recommendations, **788 (87%) have been closed and 119 (13%) are open.**

## Safety Outreach and Collaboration

In FY 2022 and now in FY 2023, the CSB continued its commitment to increased transparency. In the latter half of FY 2022, the CSB reinstated a public comment period at its virtual Sunshine Act Board Business Meetings. During the meetings Board Members and staff discuss current activities and review recently released investigations. This provides the public with insight into the staff's investigative process, the facts and analysis, conclusions, and recommendations.

The CSB also has begun to post on its website data that the agency has received under its Accidental Release Reporting Rule. As of this submission, the data covers 242 incidents, of which 35 involved a fatality, 133 had serious injuries, and 111 had substantial property damage.

Consistent with the CSB's mandate for outreach and education, many of the CSB's investigations are featured in videos on the agency's YouTube Channel. With over 270,000 subscribers and nearly 50 million views overall, the safety video program is the CSB's most visible program.

In early FY 2023 the CSB released one of its most successful safety videos to date. The CSB's safety video "Wake Up Call: Refinery Disaster in Philadelphia," details a fire, explosions, and a release of highly toxic hydrofluoric acid (HF) that occurred at the Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES) refinery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 21, 2019. The video reached one million views in just over a week.

Also in FY 2023, the CSB released a safety video entitled "Ignored Warnings: Explosion in St. Louis," about a fatal explosion that occurred on April 3, 2017, at the Loy-Lange Box Company in St Louis, Missouri. The incident occurred when a severely corroded pressure vessel catastrophically failed, causing an explosion that launched the pressure vessel into a neighboring building. One worker and three members of the public were fatally injured. The video has received more than one million views to date. The CSB also released two other video products in FY 2022. "Simultaneous Tragedy: Fire at Evergreen Packaging" addresses the September 21, 2020, hot work incident at the Evergreen Packaging Paper Mill in Canton, North Carolina. A fire erupted in a confined space when a heat gun fell into a bucket of flammables resin, killing two contract workers. At the end of FY 2022 the video had received almost 600,000 views.

The second video released in FY 22, "Incompatible Chemicals: Explosion at AB Specialty Silicones," details the May 3, 2019, reactive chemistry incident at the AB Specialty Silicones manufacturing facility in Waukegan, Illinois. Two incompatible chemicals were mixed and reacted, producing flammable hydrogen gas that ignited, causing a massive explosion that killed four workers. At the end of FY 2022 the video had been viewed almost 500,000 times on YouTube.

CSB staff participated in several events across the country related to ongoing investigations work as well as process safety management seminars and symposium.

On March 1, 2022, the Executive Director of Investigations and Recommendations along with one of the agencies Chemical Incident Investigators, provided a presentation during the virtual 14th AIChE Midwest Conference on the investigation of the explosion and fire event that took place at the AB Specialty Silicones facility in Waukegan, Illinois, on May 3, 2019. The presentation included a description of the incident, the safety issues identified during the investigation, significant findings, and key learnings. The presentation also included an overview of the CSB's mission and statutory authority, as well as a review of the Accidental Release Reporting Rule. The presentation generated many questions that fully utilized the allotted Q&A period.

On April 13, 2022, the Investigator-In-Charge of the Evergreen Packaging Mill investigation gave a presentation at the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Global Congress on Process Safety conference in San Antonio, Texas. He discussed the safety issues of the investigation, including hot work safety, pre-job planning, confined space safety, and combustible materials of vessel construction, to an audience of chemical engineers and process safety practitioners.

In June 2022, the Investigator-In-Charge of the Evergreen Packaging Mill investigation discussed the completed investigation with employees of INEOS during their Annual Safety Training to provide insight from the investigator's perspective. He also participated in Q&A sessions with INEOS Employees for the entire month of June.

Additionally, on June 9, 2022, the Executive Director of Investigations and Recommendations discussed Process Safety Management with the Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, Local Emergency Planning Committee which consists of members from the private and public sector as well as local volunteer agencies. The LEPC has members from chemical facilities, healthcare facilities, school facilities, local law enforcement, fire, and EMS.

Throughout 2022, the two new Board members, who joined the CSB in February 2022, met with stakeholders to discuss CSB activities and operations, including the American Chemistry Council, the United Steelworkers, the Coalition to Prevent Chemical Disasters, the American Petroleum Institute, the American Fuel and Petroleum Manufacturers, the American Chemical Society, and others. Subsequent to a third Board member joining the CSB in February 2023, the Board also met with the National Association of Chemical Distributors.

Finally, in FY 2022 the CSB released an innovative new safety training application focused on the agency's findings from the devastating 2005 BP Texas City explosion and fire and how they relate to OSHA's Process Safety Management (PSM) standard, which outlines requirements for the management of hazards associated with highly hazardous chemicals. The training covers all 14 elements of PSM using the 2005 explosion as a model.

## **Create and maintain an engaged, high-performing workforce**

Goal 3 of the CSB's Strategic Plan emphasizes organizational excellence. In recent years, the CSB suffered serious attrition and fell to its lowest staff level since the early days of the agency's existence.

In FY 2022, the CSB continued its recruiting efforts to fill multiple vacancies for the agency's mission critical position, Chemical Incident Investigator, as well as other staff key positions. Industry trends toward more complex engineering processes, and human interactions with these processes, drive a need for the CSB to strengthen our capacity to analyze emerging technologies and deploy to incidents in new industries. In FY 2022 the CSB hired a total of two new Chemical Incident Investigators and filled critical non-investigator positions, including a Human Resources Director, a Chief Information Officer (CIO), and a Contracting Officer. In FY 2023, the CSB already has hired a new Supervisory Chemical Incident Investigator and a new Chemical Incident Investigator, is in the final stages of bringing on two more investigators and is moving forward to hire more. The CSB also has hired two new recommendations specialists (who work closely with investigators to produce investigation reports and other safety products) and is in the process of hiring a Director of Administration, a deputy CIO, and additional IT, HR, contracting and finance staff.

In FY 2022, the CSB also worked to improve operational excellence for enhancing its security and efficiency. As noted, the CSB hired a new CIO, who has made significant progress toward addressing the cybersecurity and IT infrastructure issues that have challenged the CSB for several years.

In FY 2022 and the beginning of FY 2023, a half dozen legacy systems were decommissioned and replaced with modern Windows Server 2022 systems and Office 365 services. Multifactor authentication is also enforced for remote access to CSB systems and CSB's Office365 tenant. On-premises email services were transitioned to Exchange Online with the old server being shut down to improve the cybersecurity posture of the agency. The CSB has started to leverage Microsoft Azure cloud services for backups of servers and data. The CSB also has enrolled in several CISA programs to improve the cybersecurity tools and resources available to the agency.

## **FY 2024 Budget Request**

The CSB is requesting a budget of \$17.4 million in FY 2024 to execute its unique safety mission and continuing operations, plus the development of new databases and practices to increase transparency and information sharing with the public and stakeholders.

Over 90% of the funds requested in FY 2024 will be distributed into three main budget categories: personnel compensation and benefits, rent, and other services. Of the requested \$17.4 million, compensation costs, including fringe benefits, account for \$11.6 million – or 67% of the total agency budget. To procure mandatory services provided by other government agencies, such as payroll, personnel management, accounting, procurement, occupational health services, and other non-governmental contractors, the CSB requests \$3.6 million – or 21% of the agency's budget request. Finally, \$850,000 – or 5% – is requested for rent, which includes office space in Washington, DC.

The requested funding will allow the CSB to maintain and further develop programmatic activities that support its three strategic goals.

- **Investigations.** The CSB evaluates significant chemical incidents and initiates investigations where there are significant chemical safety consequences or issues with high potential for learning. To complete these investigations, the agency identifies the root causes of chemical incidents, issues recommendations to eliminate safety gaps, and shares findings broadly across industries that use hazardous chemicals. CSB investigations are transparent. The agency conducts press briefings and public hearings to share findings, obtain additional facts and address concerns from members of the community. Investigative materials are available on the agency's website, along with video recordings of Board Meetings.
- **Safety Promotion and Outreach.** The agency collaborates with stakeholder groups and works with recommendations recipients – including government entities, safety organizations, trade associations, corporations, labor organizations, emergency response organizations, and educational institutions – to implement the Board's safety recommendations. The CSB continues to release safety videos and other products to ensure that valuable safety lessons are available to broad audiences to maximize their preventive impact.
- **Operational Excellence.** The CSB strives for continual improvement to promote organizational efficiency. In FY 2024 the agency will continue to increase staffing on

the investigations team and in other key positions to meet our mission. The loss of experienced personnel in prior years, combined with other circumstances, resulted in a significant backlog of investigation reports, which the CSB is now reducing, and a decline in on-site deployments to incident scenes by the agency. This FY 2024 budget request enables the CSB to continue to recruit and retain much-needed staff. The CSB also will continue efforts to improve management metrics and accountability to ensure that investigations are completed in a timely manner and resources are strategically allocated to advance chemical safety change. Finally, the CSB will continue using its IT system to support the growing electronic records environment and increase productivity using cloud-based applications and systems.

The CSB currently receives information on at least one reportable chemical incident a week under the agency's Accidental Release Reporting Rule. Since the rule went into effect in March 2020, the CSB has received reports on over 240 chemicals incidents that fall under the agency's purview. The CSB consistently follows up on all the events within our jurisdiction.

The requested FY 2024 increase is primarily to provide full-year funding for positions filled in FY 2023, but it also will enable the CSB to hire additional mission-critical Chemical Incident Investigators and restore the number of investigators to close to their former level. At the time of this 2024 budget request submission, the CSB still has several vacant investigator positions and as previously stated is actively recruiting and hiring. In FY 23 the CSB plans to hire a Director of Administration, a deputy CIO, and additional IT, HR, contracting and finance staff. Even with this progress, however, additional staff is needed, including more mission-critical investigators.

With critical vacancies being filled in FY 2023, the CSB anticipates an increased ability to conduct more investigations in FY 2024. As a result, slight increases will be needed for investigation-related costs such as travel and consultants, along with the additional cost of fully funded positions in FY 2024.

## **Conclusion**

The CSB's FY 2024 budget request for \$17.4 million allows the CSB to execute its critical safety mission, strengthening its capacity to conduct comprehensive investigations of catastrophic chemical incidents and to provide targeted recommendations that yield safety returns to the chemical industry and protect communities, workers and the environment. By sharing the safety lessons from its incident investigations with industry, workers, and the public, the CSB maintains its role as a premier resource for chemical safety lessons learned. The agency will also continue to retain existing employees and recruit new talent. The resources developed by the CSB are used nationwide to prevent the loss of life, injuries, and damage to surrounding communities that result from these preventable chemical incidents. This investment in the CSB allows the agency to become more effective in completing and distributing its important life-saving work. As the agency continues to investigate chemical incidents, the Board's recommendations will draw on its robust history of chemical safety knowledge so that new and emerging industries will benefit from the best practices and safety advancements implemented, with greater protection for communities, workers and the environment. The CSB is a modest Federal investment with a large potential return: improved safety practices and requirements and long-term economic sustainability for industries that use hazardous chemicals, which in turn better protects communities, workers and the environment and saves more lives.

#### IV. Budget by Object Classification Category

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) requests \$ 17.4 million for FY 2024. The funding requested will enable the CSB to achieve its core mission, as required by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. The proposed budget for FY 2024 is shown in the table below by budget object classification with a comparison to the FY 2023 projected costs. The table is supported with a narrative explanation of the amount requested for each budget object classification.

**Budget Object Classification Table**  
Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024

Budget Object Class	Projected FY 2023*	Requested FY 2024	Change FY 2023-2024	
			\$	%
11 Personnel Compensation	\$7,329,000	\$8,671,000	\$1,342,000	18.31%
12 Personnel Benefits	\$2,431,000	\$2,938,000	\$507,000	20.86%
<b>Subtotal Personnel Costs</b>	<b>\$9,760,000</b>	<b>11,609,000</b>	<b>\$1,849,000</b>	<b>18.94%</b>
21 Travel	\$365,000	\$539,000	\$174,000	47.67%
22 Transportation of Things	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
23.2 Space Rental Payments	\$750,000	\$850,000	\$100,000	13.33%
23.3 Communications, Utilities and Misc.	\$196,000	\$202,000	\$6,000	3.06%
24 Printing and Reproduction	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$0	0.00%
25 Other Services	\$2,999,000	\$3,644,000	\$645,000	21.51%
26 Supplies and Materials	\$251,000	\$327,000	\$76,000	30.28%
31 Equipment	\$51,000	\$201,000	\$150,000	294.12%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$14,400,000</b>	<b>\$17,400,000</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>	<b>20.83%</b>
<b>FTE</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5.88%</b>

\* [PL 117-328](#)



## Budget Object Classification Detail

### 11.0 Personnel Compensation

#### Change FY 2023-FY 2024

<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
\$7,329,000	\$8,671,000	\$1,342,000	18.31%

The budget request for FY 2024 includes \$8,671,000 to fund direct payroll costs for five board members and 49 staff members. This object class includes promotions and step increases to retain and advance entry and intermediate level employees.

### 12.0 Personnel Benefits

#### Change FY 2023-FY 2024

<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
\$2,431,000	\$2,938,000	\$507,000	20.86%

CSB personnel benefits include the government's contributions to the CSRS and FERS retirement programs; life and health insurance programs; the student loan repayment program; the Transit Subsidy Program; and the Thrift Savings Plan. The FY 2024 request reflects benefits for five board members and 49 staff members.

### 21.0 Travel

#### Change FY 2022-FY 2023

<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
\$365,000	\$539,000	\$174,000	47.67%

CSB board members and staff are required to travel to conduct the agency's core work of investigating incidents and advocating for safety change through recommendations and outreach. In addition, travel is required for remote workers between remote duty stations and CSB offices in Washington, DC, as well as to certain training courses. The CSB requests an increase of \$174,000 to provide for additional travel primarily to deploy to more incidents as well as Board Members' outreach initiatives.

### 22.0 Transportation of Things

#### Change FY 2023-FY 2024

<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
\$0	\$0	\$0	0%

The CSB does not anticipate any shipment costs in FY 2024.

**23.2 Space Rental Payments**

**Change FY 2023-FY 2024**

<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
\$750,000	\$850,000	\$100,000	13.33%

The CSB anticipates an increase in space rental costs in FY 2024. This is due to real estate tax and operating cost increases for the Washington, DC, office.

**23.3 Communications, Utilities and Misc.**

**Change FY 2023-FY 2024**

<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
\$196,000	\$202,000	\$6,000	3.06%

Communication and postage costs are projected to be \$202,000 in FY 2024, slightly higher than FY 2023, which includes inflation cost. The communication cost includes \$129,000 to provide internet bandwidth for the volume of data transmitted across the agency and to webcast meetings to the public. Other communications and utilities costs include \$61,000 for Smartphones and Broad band, \$5,000 for postage and express mail, and \$7,000 in costs associated with building security and continuity of operations.

**24.0 Printing and Reproduction**

**Change FY 2023-FY 2024**

<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
\$28,000	\$28,000	\$0	0.00%

The CSB does not anticipate a change for printing and reproduction costs in FY 2024.

**25.0 Other Services**

**Change FY 2023-FY 2024**

<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
\$2,999,000	\$3,644,000	\$645,000	21.51%

A total of \$3,644,000 is requested for services in FY 2024. Requirements in this BOC fall into two basic categories: (i) interagency agreements for services provided by other Federal agencies and (ii) contractual services. Supplementary information on each category is provided in the following paragraphs.

**Services Provided by Other Federal Agencies.** A total of \$965,000 is requested for services provided by other Federal agencies. These services include \$620,000 for financial, travel, and procurement services provided by the Bureau of the Fiscal Service (BFS) in the Department of the Treasury; and \$215,000 for personnel and payroll services provided by the Interior Business Center (IBC) in the Department of the Interior. The remaining funds will be used for other interagency agreements with Federal Occupational Health for investigator physical examinations and respirator fit testing, incident notification services provided by the United States Coast Guard’s National Response Center (NRC), HSPD-12 compliance, Employee Assistance Program (EAP) support and other government-provided services.

**Other Contractual Services.** The CSB procures a variety of services to support its mission, including expert consultants for investigations and testing (\$822,000), support for safety animation and video production (\$550,000), training (\$175,000), and information technology software maintenance (\$190,000).

## 26.0 Supplies and Materials

### Change FY 2022-FY 2023

<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
\$251,000	\$327,000	\$76,000	30.28%

The amount of \$327,000 is requested for supplies and materials in FY 2024, which includes, books, reference materials, and subscriptions (\$233,000), general office and computer supplies (\$27,000), field safety supplies (\$35,000), and outreach materials (\$32,000).

## 31.0 Equipment

### Change FY 2023-FY 2024

<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
\$51,000	\$201,000	\$150,00	294.12%

The increase in equipment for FY 2024 is due to significant upgrade the current information technology infrastructure for the agency.

**V. Additional Tables**

**CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD**

**Appropriations by Fiscal Years**

(Dollars in Millions)

**Salaries & Expenses**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>One-Year Funds</b>	<b>Two-Year Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
1999	6.50	0.00	6.50
2000	7.97	0.00	7.97
2001	4.99	2.49	7.48
2002	5.34	2.50	7.84
2003	7.31	0.50	7.81
2004	8.20	0.00	8.20
2005	9.03	0.00	9.03
2006	9.06	0.00	9.06
2007	9.11	0.00	9.11
2008	9.26	0.00	9.26
2009	10.20	0.00	10.20
2010	11.15	0.00	11.15
2011	10.78	0.00	10.78
2012	11.13	0.00	11.13
2013	11.20	0.00	11.20
2014	11.00	0.00	11.00
2015	11.00	0.00	11.00
2016	11.00	0.00	11.00
2017	11.00	0.00	11.00
2018	11.00	0.00	11.00
2019	12.00	0.00	12.00
2020	12.00	0.00	12.00
2021	12.00	0.00	12.00
2022	13.40	0.00	13.40
2023 <sup>a</sup>	14.40	0.00	14.40
2024	00.00	17.40	17.40

<sup>a</sup> [PL 117-328](#)

### Emergency Fund <sup>b</sup>

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>New Funding</b>	<b>Amount Spent to Date</b>	<b>Total Available</b>
2004	\$0.44	\$0.00	\$0.44
2005	\$0.40	\$0.00	\$0.84

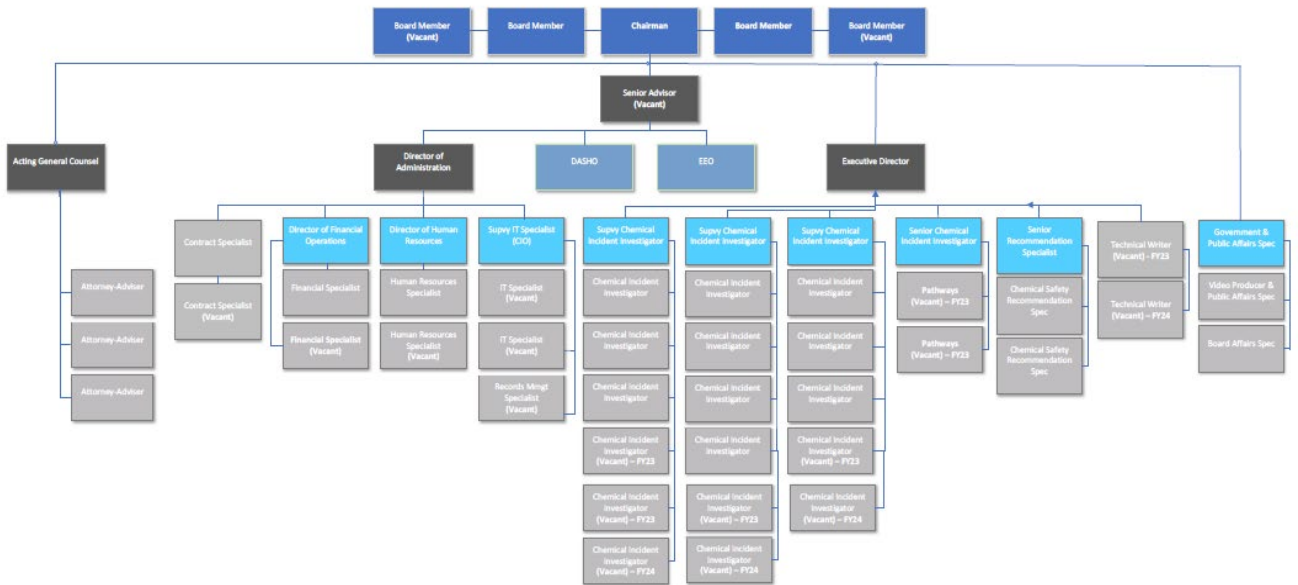
b. The Emergency Fund was established in FY 2004. It provides a funding mechanism so periodic incident investigation cost fluctuation can be met without delaying critical phases of the investigations. It is no-year funding, meaning it is available until expended.

**CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD**  
**Personnel Data**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>On Board 9/30/2020</b>	<b>On Board 9/30/2021</b>	<b>On Board 9/30/2022</b>	<b>Projected FY 2023</b>	<b>Requested FY 2024</b>
GS-7	0	0	0	0	0
GS-9	0	0	0	2	0
GS-11	2	1	0	1	3
GS-12	2	1	2	6	1
GS-13	5	5	4	7	7
GS-14	12	11	13	18	26
GS-15	10	7	7	10	10
Executive	1	1	2	5	5
SES	2	3	2	2	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>54</b>

# CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD Organization Chart

## CSB Organizational Chart



Updated February 2023

# CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

## Recommended Appropriations Language

### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses in carrying out activities pursuant to section 112(r)(6) of the Clean Air Act, including hire of passenger vehicles, uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902, and for services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109 but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem equivalent to the maximum rate payable for senior level positions under 5 U.S.C. 5376, \$17,400,000 to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the individual appointed to the position of Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall, by virtue of such appointment, also hold the position of Inspector General of the Board: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Inspector General of the Board shall utilize personnel of the Office of Inspector General of EPA in performing the duties of the Inspector General of the Board, and shall not appoint any individuals to positions within the Board.