



Hazardous Materials Exercise, 2014

Emergency Planning and the Community-Right-to-Know

In 1986, in the wake of the Bhopal, India, disaster, the U.S. Congress enacted the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act as part of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). This Act (PL 99-499), which mandates the establishment of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), requires industry to provide information to local governments and citizens on the types and amounts of hazardous materials they manufacture, store, handle, use or release regularly into the environment.

In Cumberland County and the State of North Carolina, the reportable quantities are 55 gallons or 500 pounds or more of any OSHA Hazardous Substance. For Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS), the Federal reportable quantities apply. Submission of an annual Tier II report of any chemicals that meet or exceed these amounts satisfies the Federal, State and local reporting requirements.

The intent of the Act was that communities could take steps based on this important information to reduce the risk of fires, explosions, and pollution and be better prepared for emergencies before they occur.

LEPC Membership

Members of the LEPC represent a large number of government and private organizations, industries, and occupations in order to provide the expertise to advise on plan development and to offer a "total package" of planning and outreach capability.

Federal law stipulates membership of each LEPC shall include, at a minimum, a representative from each of the following groups or organizations:

- State or local elected officials
- Law enforcement
- Firefighting
- Emergency management
- Health
- Hospital
- Broadcast/Print media
- Transportation
- Emergency medical services
- Local environmental group
- Community/Service/Civic groups
- Facility owners/Operators regulated by SARA Title III

By law, the LEPC membership must represent a cross section of the jurisdiction in which it resides. The LEPC members shall be nominated by County Commissioners.

The LEPC meets quarterly and the public is invited to attend.

Cumberland County LEPC

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Cumberland County LEPC



Local Emergency Planning Committee

Local Emergency Planning Committees

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(LEPCs) work to understand the hazards in the community, develop emergency plans in case of an accidental release or natural disaster, and look for ways to prevent accidents.

The role of LEPCs is to form a partnership between local governments and industries to enhance all-hazards preparedness. The local government is responsible for hazmat planning and response within its jurisdiction.

This includes:

- Ensuring the local hazard analysis adequately addresses hazmat incidents;
- Incorporating planning for hazmat incidents into the local emergency management plan and annexes;
- Assessing capabilities and developing hazmat response capability using local resources, mutual aid and contractors;
- Training responders; and
- Exercising the plan.

Industry must be a part of this planning process to ensure facility plans are compatible with local emergency plans.

LEPCs are crucial to local hazardous materials planning and community right-to-know programs. LEPC members represent the various organizations, agencies, departments, facilities, and/or other groups within the district. The membership comes from the local area and should be familiar with factors that affect public safety, the environment, and the economy of the community.

In addition to its formal duties, the LEPC serves as a focal point in the community for information and discussions about hazardous substance emergency planning, and health and environmental risks.

LEPC Responsibilities

The major legal responsibilities of LEPCs are listed below and outlined in the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

Each LEPC shall:

- Review local emergency management plans once a year, or more frequently as circumstances change in the community or as any facility may require.
- Make available each SDS (Safety Data Sheet) or TIER II Report, inventory form, and follow-up emergency notice to the general public, during normal working hours at a location designated by the LEPC.
- Establish procedures for receiving and processing requests from the public for information including Tier II information.
- Receive from each subject facility the name of a facility representative who will participate in the emergency planning process as a facility emergency coordinator.

- Be informed by the community emergency coordinator of hazardous chemical releases reported by owners or operators of covered facilities.
- Be given follow-up emergency information as soon as practical after a release, which requires the owner/operator to submit a notice.
- Receive from the owner or operator of any facility a SDS for each such chemical (upon request of the LEPC or fire department), or a list of such chemicals as described.
- Make available an SDS to any person upon request.
- Receive from the owner or operator of each facility an emergency and hazardous chemical inventory form.
- Respond to a request for Tier II information no later than 45 days after the date of receipt of the request.



Hazardous Materials Exercise at
The Chemours Company, 2015

Cumberland County LEPC sponsors
Hazardous Materials Exercises.