

Tips for Keeping an LEPC Active

Region 6 LEPC Workshops





Executive Order Issued on August 1, 2013

- improve coordination among the response organizations at all government levels
- Ensure planners and responders have access to chemical information in useable format to prevent, prepare for, and respond to chemical incident
- identify those programs which can be developed or enhanced for better chemical risk management
- Improve response procedures and enhance planning between facilities and LEPCs/responders
- Identify means for federal assistance for local planning efforts
- improve public access to information about chemical facility risks





Federal Agencies need to work together with the States to re-energize or enhance programs to assist LEPCs, so planning efforts can be effective

So what
makes for a
successful
LEPC ??

From Previous Surveys:

- Dedicated membership
- Regular and meaningful meetings
- Leadership which believes in LEPC mission
- Support from local elected officials



Previous Surveys

- Lack of serious chemical risks in the community
- Lack of interest by citizens and stakeholders
- Lack of even basic funding





- Have clearly defined goals
- Trained members in law and know what is expected of them
- Retained right people from broad-based community representation
- Kept members committed and interested because they:
 - Feel useful and believe they are helping the community.
 - Have been given tasks according to their interests and expertise.
 - Have been given challenging tasks.
 - Are recognized for their contributions.
 - Have a chance to develop their own skills.
- “Packaged” LEPC as to their purpose and value
- Maintained a working relationship with peers in other districts

Few simple tips for
energizing
dormant LEPC, or
keeping one active





Sadly, many believe the best way to energize an LEPC is to have the “big one.”



Not encouraging
that...



Use meetings as a training forum

- Stay up to date on rule changes
- Roles and responsibilities
- New technologies for response equipment, resources





LEPC leaders must believe in the purpose

Must be able to inspire others to also believe in the purpose

- Keep purpose, goals, and approach relevant and meaningful.
- Build commitment and confidence
- Diversify mix and level of skills
- Manage relationships with outsiders, including removing obstacles
- Create opportunities for others
- Do real work

Consider social activities to build relationships between LEPC members

Ensure all LEPC members are involved in planning and execution of exercises

Encourage volunteers to work together at community events, such as county fairs, etc.

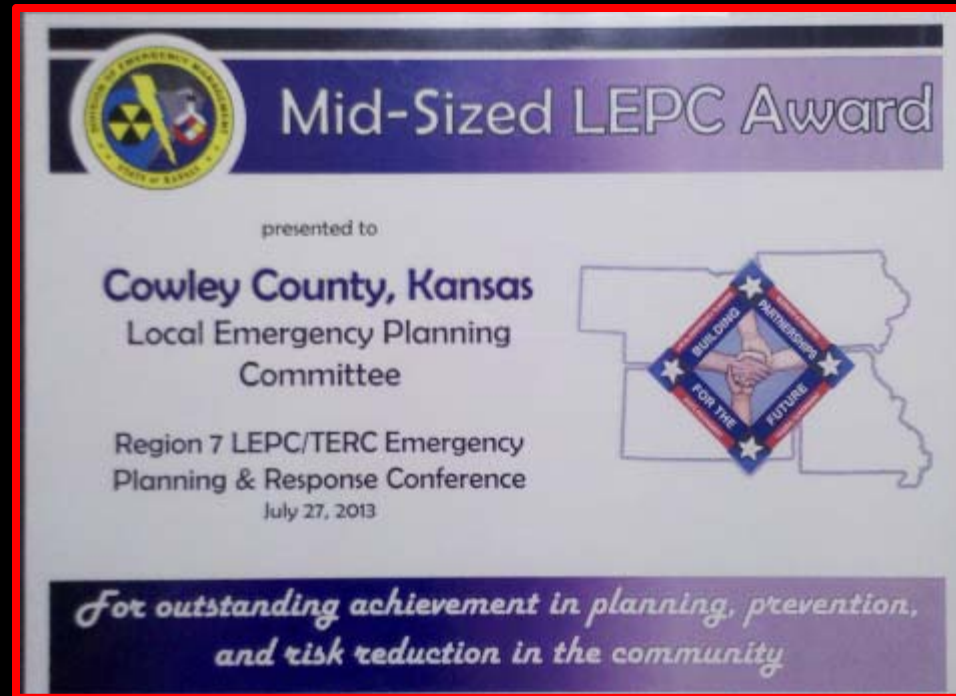




"Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember;
involve me and I'll understand."



Don't just use your own LEPC members to accomplish all the tasks you wanted completed... find others in the community who want to help (students, volunteers – Citizen Corp, senior citizens, teachers, etc.)



Causes people to strive for more achievements

Nominate members for awards within their own organization or societies

Provides visibility to facilities within their own corporate structure



- Loss of energy or enthusiasm (“What a waste of time.”)
- Sense of helplessness (“There’s nothing anyone can do.”)
- Lack of purpose or identity (“We have no clue as to what this is all about.”)
- Disengagement or unconstructive and one-sided discussions without candor (“Nobody wants to talk about what’s really going on.”)
- Meetings in which the agenda is more important than the outcome (“It’s all show-and-tell for the boss.”)
- Cynicism and mistrust (“I knew this teamwork stuff was worthless.”)
- Interpersonal attacks made behind others' backs, to outsiders (“Dave has never pulled his own weight and never will.”)
- Finger-pointing at top management and the rest of the organization (“If this effort is so important, why don’t they give us more resources?”) *

Hold Productive Meetings:

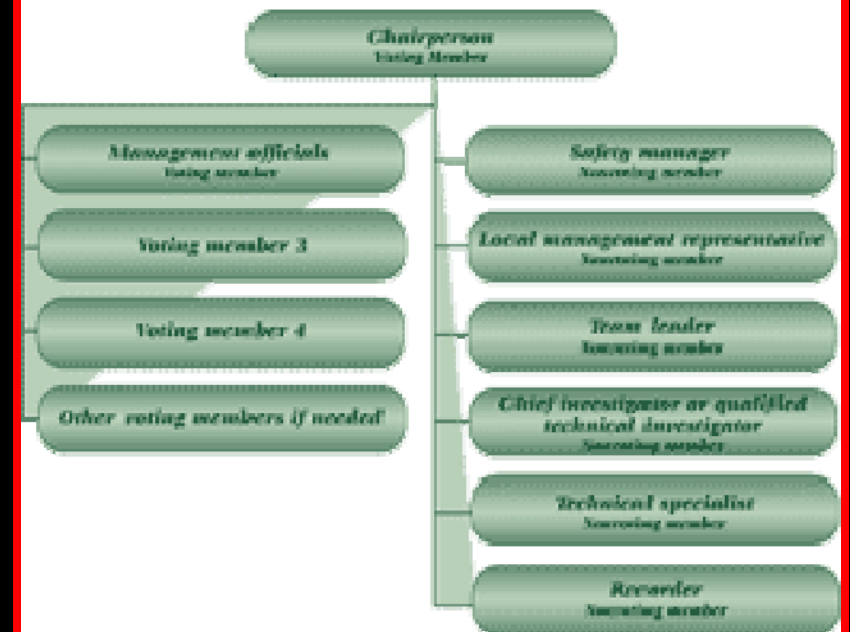
- Annual Meeting to review plan
- Meeting at Tier II deadline
- Regular but flexible meetings
- Guest Speakers

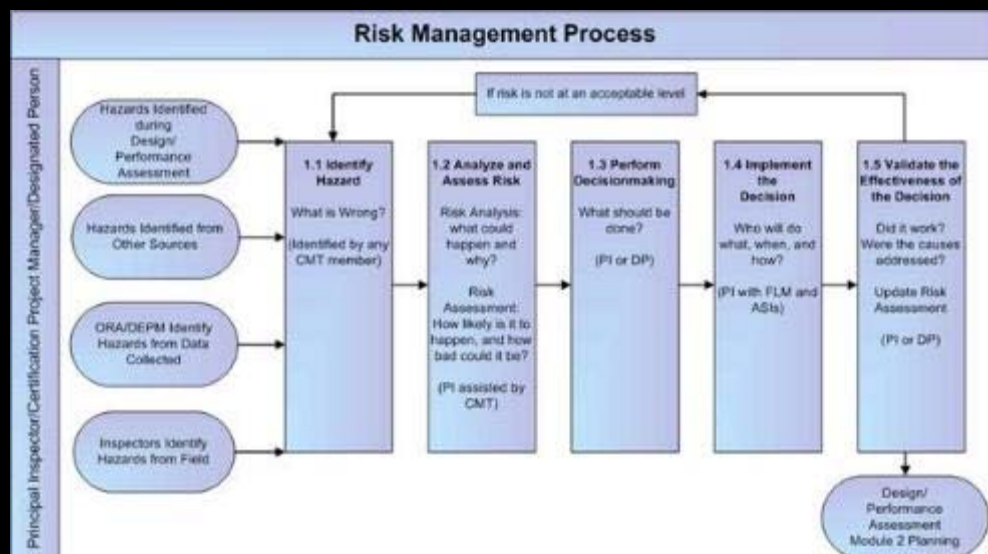


Conduct emergency response review after incident



Accident Review Board





Conduct facility process reviews

Hold meetings at facilities within the community



Involve all members in exercises,
especially table-top exercises





- A well-rounded LEPC equals compromise and good community relations
- LEPCs don't like surprises
- Facilities are partners, not targets
- Industry and emergency responders must be informed and involved
- Prevention can be born out of preparedness
- Constantly go back to the basics



- Keep linked with other programs

- More assistance leads to more compliance

- Develop a partnership with your neighbors

- Money isn't everything



- Help can come from unexpected places

- It's all in the presentation!!

- The commitment is there, it's the time that's needed

- Outreach is a continuous process



- Information should not be a paper burden

- LEPC membership should be inclusive

- Success involves commitment, patience, and persistence

- LEPC role can go beyond planning



- Get the most out of the data collected

- All companies must be aware of accidents waiting to happen

- It's Not Over

- Integrated planning at all levels can overcome obstacles

- Yes, it is an unfunded mandate, but...

Several Reasons why to have an active LEPC

West Texas Fertilizer

15 killed



CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

BPS Inc., West Helena, AR
3 firefighters killed



Quebec Train derailment and explosion

47 killed



Graniteville train derailment

9 killed



BP Texas City Explosion

17 killed



UP/BSNF Train Wreck

3 killed





Pipeline explosion
Harper County



Oil field supply
fire
Custer County

Propane explosion
2 deaths
McIntosh County

Gas line explosion
Grady County



Tank Fire
Woodward
County



Oil Field supply fire
Oklahoma City



Racing fuel explosion
Tulsa





March, 2013
5,000 bbl oil spill into
neighborhood
23 homes evacuated for months





April, 2014
EF-5 tornado
15 deaths
700 homes destroyed or damaged





To get a copy of the presentations, go
to:

www.epaosc.org/lepcworkshops

WFAA Video

How EPA Can Help

Volume 27
No. 3
June 2014

Region 6 LEPC Update

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In this issue, we bring you updates from the Region 6 LEPC workshops, new environmental odor guidance from ATSDR, an Emergency Order from U.S.DOT, a resource for exploring TRI reporting facilities in your community, and stress management tips from Fred Cowie.

– Steve and Hilary

EPA Continues LEPC Workshops Throughout Region 6 through September 2014.

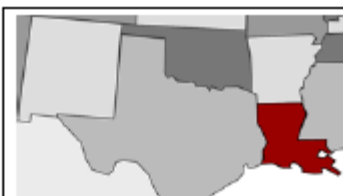
EPA Region 6 Preparedness and Prevention continues to present a series of LEPC workshops throughout New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas through September 2014. Hilary and Steve continue to travel across Region 6 to bring the following agenda to you:

LEPC Workshop Agenda

08:30-08:45 - Introductions / Workshop Purpose	11:30-12:45 – Lunch
08:45-09:30 - Requirements for LEPCs and Industry	12:45-13:45 - Keeping an LEPC Active /Reactivating a Dormant LEPC
09:30-09:45 - Local Government Reimbursement Program (LGR)	13:45-14:15 - What Can the State or EPA Do to Help Your LEPC?
09:45-10:00 - Break	14:15-14:30 – Break
10:00-11:00 - Software for Preparedness/Planning	14:30-15:45 - State Issues Discussions
11:00-11:30 - Does Your Emergency Plan Harmonize with EPCRA?	15:45-16:00 – Closeout

May 2014 LEPC Workshops

The attendees at the recent past Louisiana LEPC workshops held in Lake Charles, Alexandria, and St. James Parish gave us great feedback, describing the workshop was “productive,” “worthwhile,” and “enlightening.” Attendees included LEPC officers and members, emergency managers, parish OEP staff, GOHSEP representatives, prison officials,





REGION 6 **LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING** **COMMITTEE (LEPC) HANDBOOK**

JUNE 2014

This document does not substitute for EPA's regulations, nor is it a regulation itself. It cannot impose legally binding requirements on EPA, states, or the regulated community, and may not apply to a particular situation based upon circumstances. This guidance does not represent final agency action and may change in the future, as appropriate.

EPA Region 6 produced their first Region 6 LEPC Handbook in 1996, and revised it periodically through 2005. We are proud several states have used the information in our publication to assist in producing their own Handbooks. At the same time, we are grateful for information shared from Handbooks developed in Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming, as well as information from the National Association of State Title II Program Officials (NASTTPO), OHSITEMA, Louisiana State Police, and EPA Headquarters, in this latest edition.

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Region 6 LEPC Handbook

LEPC Website

<http://rrt6.org>



The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is a product of federal legislation that was passed in the wake of the Bhopal disaster in India, where more than 2,000 people died because of an accident involving accidental release of a hazardous chemical. To prevent similar occurrences in our own communities, Congress passed the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), also known as the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA Title III), in 1986.

EPCRA helps to increase public knowledge and access to information on chemicals at individual facilities, their uses, and releases into the environment.

LEPCs are volunteer organizations that consist of emergency responders, industry, government, education, media, and community groups. Their main functions are to provide for joint emergency planning, training, and public outreach.

As a result, communities, working with industry, are better able to protect public health and the environment.

The role of LEPCs is to form a partnership with local governments and industries as a resource for enhancing hazardous materials preparedness. Local governments are responsible for the integration of hazmat planning and response within their jurisdiction. This includes ensuring the local hazard analysis adequately addresses hazmat incidents; incorporating planning for hazmat incidents into the local emergency plan and annexes; assessing capabilities and developing hazmat response capability using local resources, mutual aid and contractors; training responders; and exercising the plan.

It's necessary for industry to be a part of that planning process to ensure facility plans are compatible with local emergency plans.

Every regulated facility is responsible for identifying a facility emergency coordinator; reporting hazmat inventories annually to the LEPC, SE and local fire department; providing MSDSs or a list of hazardous chemicals; allowing local fire departments to conduct on-site inspection of ha facilities; and providing annual report of toxic chemicals released to EPA and the State. LEPCs are crucial to local hazardous materials planning



LEPC Pages

[Laws/Rules](#)

[Shelter-in-Place](#)

[Handbooks](#)

[LEPC Updates](#)

[By-Laws Examples](#)


[Guidance Documents](#)

[State Contacts/Websites](#)

[Emergency Response Res](#)

View Training

HAZWOPER Awareness Level



Estimated Duration: 8 hour(s)

Certificate: HAZWOPER Refresher Awareness Level Training

Description

This training meets the requirements under 29 CFR 1910.120(q) for initial training for response personnel to the Awareness Level, as well as meeting the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.120 for the annual refresher level training for the Awareness Level. Additionally, this training meets the criteria spelled out in the NFPA 472 Guidelines for Training for Awareness Level responders. However, if your specific position requires you to take training with other certification requirements, you should check with your training officer to determine if this training fulfills those requirements.

[Launch This Training](#)

Please Add rrt6.org to Your Pop-up Blocker Exception List

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Windows/ViewTraining.aspx?TrainingID=4efee52c-43a9-4c3a-850a-4fd179d24ef8&Username=

http://hotzone.mobi/?page_id=46



Training for Responders by Responders

[Home](#) [2014 Hotzone Conference](#) [Hotzone Steering Committee](#) [Photo Galleries](#)

2014 Hotzone Conference

HOTZONE Conference October 16 – 19, 2014 Houston, Texas Crowne Plaza Hotel – near Reliant Park -

Click on the Links Below for more information or to register

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[HOTZONE 2014 Scholarship Application](#)

[HOTZONE-2014-Exhibit-Space-Application](#)

[2014 Exhibitor Terms and Conditions](#)

[2014 Exhibitor Rules and Regulations](#)

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