

1986



EPCRA



2016

Union Carbide Disaster: Bhopal, India

Dec 2, 1984

The Bhopal disaster was one of the world's worst industrial catastrophes.

A massive release of methyl isocyanide gas from the Union Carbide Pesticide Plant in Bhopal, India, killed 3,800 and injured tens of thousands.

The accident raised public concern about toxic chemical storage, releases and emergency response.



Institute, WV Facility Release

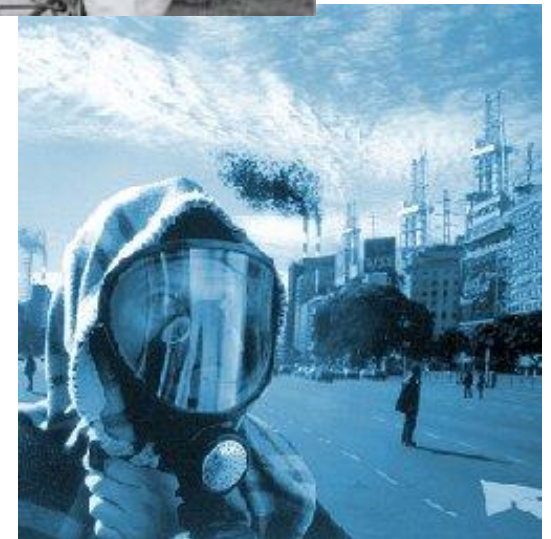
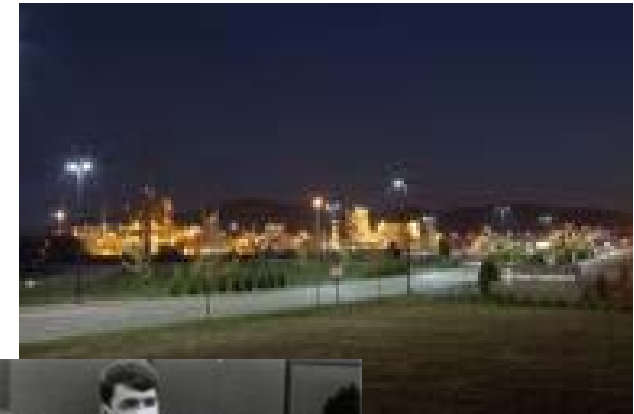
Aug 11, 1985

Union Carbide released a cloud of methylene chloride and aldicarb oxime, chemicals used to manufacture the pesticide Temik.

6 workers were injured and more than a 100 residents were sent to the hospital.

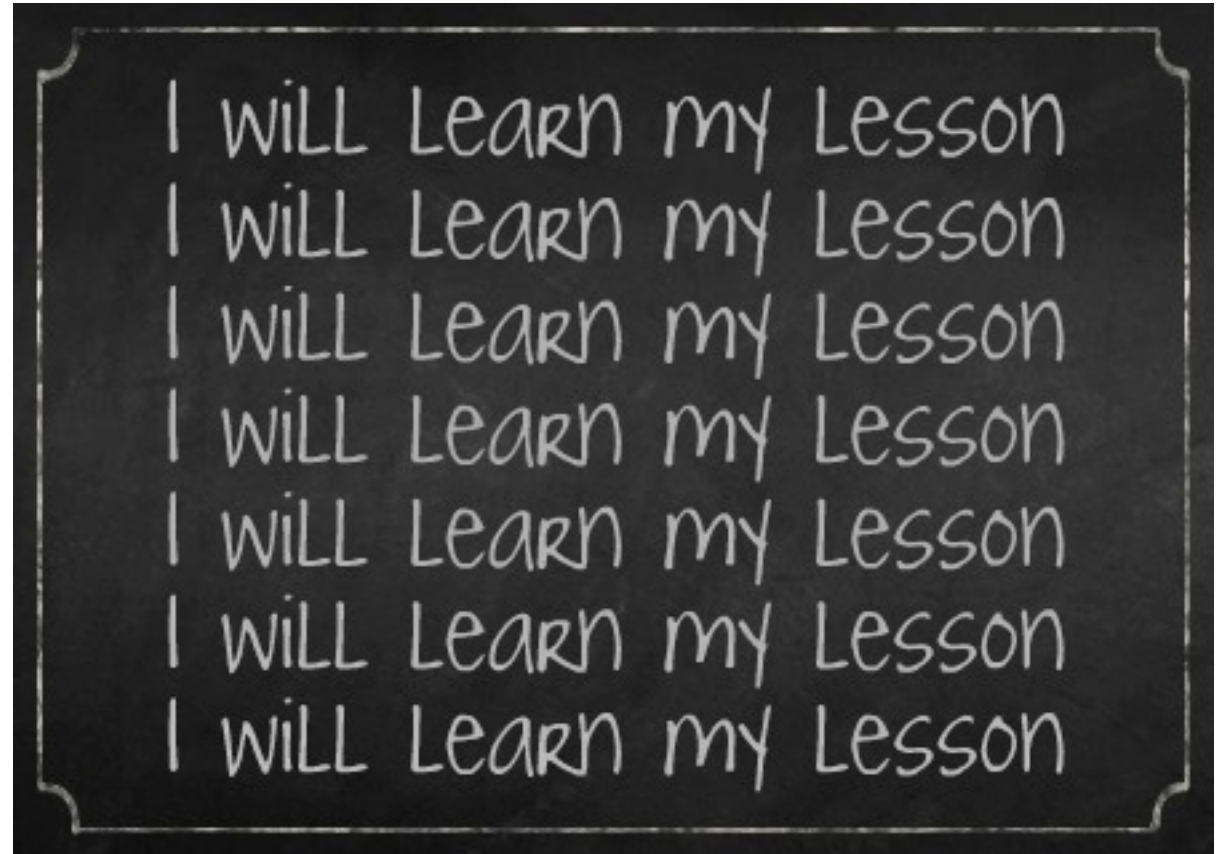
30 people filed two lawsuits seeking \$88M in damages, but hundreds of people marched in support of the company, Union Carbide.

Union Carbide spent \$5M to improve safety systems, but two more leaks occurred in February 1990.



Lessons We Should Have Learned from Bhopal

- **Safety culture**
- **Safety management**
- **Intrinsically safe design**
- **Knowledge transfer based on learning from accidents.**





Take a closer
look around your
community!

Development of CEPP Program

June, 1985

EPA developed a Chemical Emergency Preparedness Program strategy to deal with air toxics in the environment, including addressing accidental releases of acutely toxic chemicals.

This voluntary program had two goals: to increase community awareness of chemical hazards, and to develop State and local response plans for dealing with chemical accidents.

This was the precursor to the passage of EPCRA.

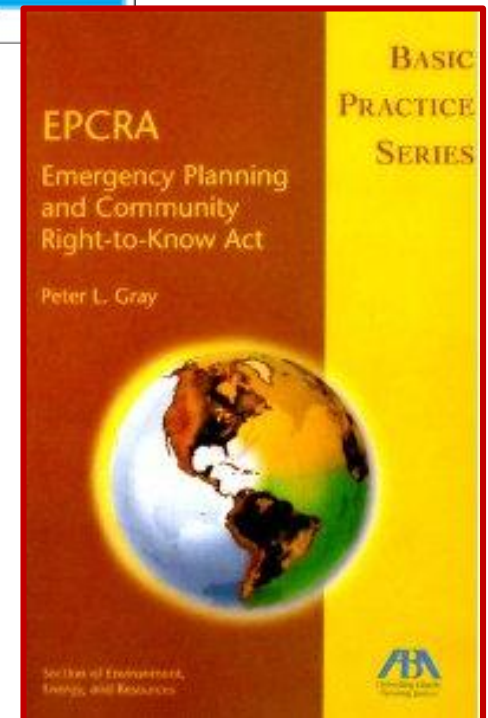
Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)

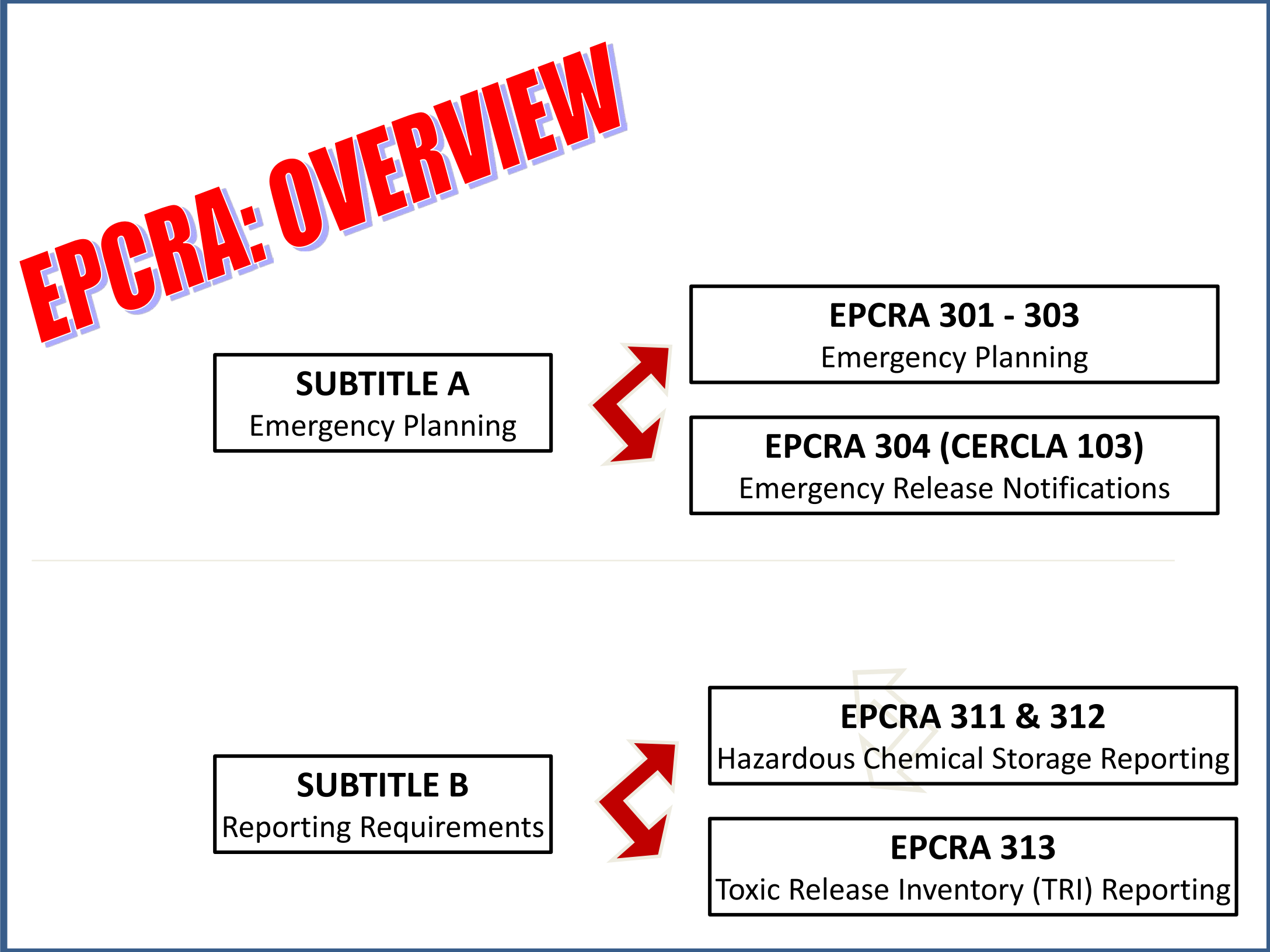
October 17, 1986

Congress amended CERCLA in 1986 with the Superfund Amendments & Reauthorization Act (SARA).

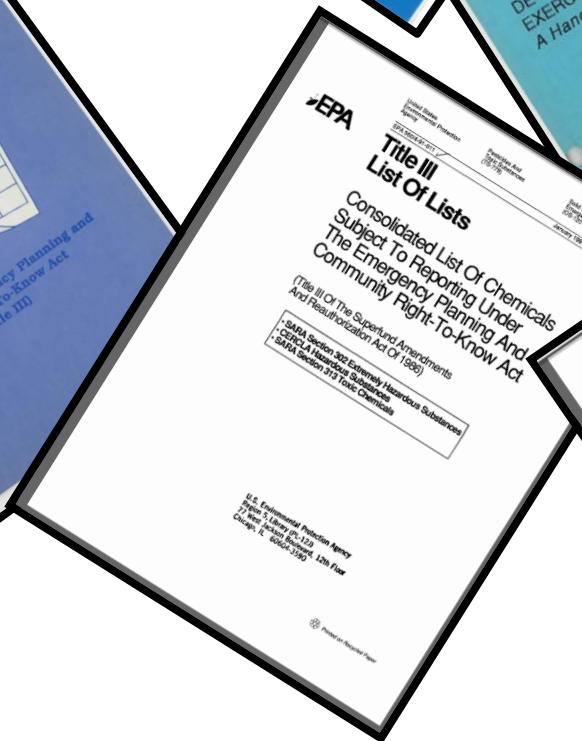
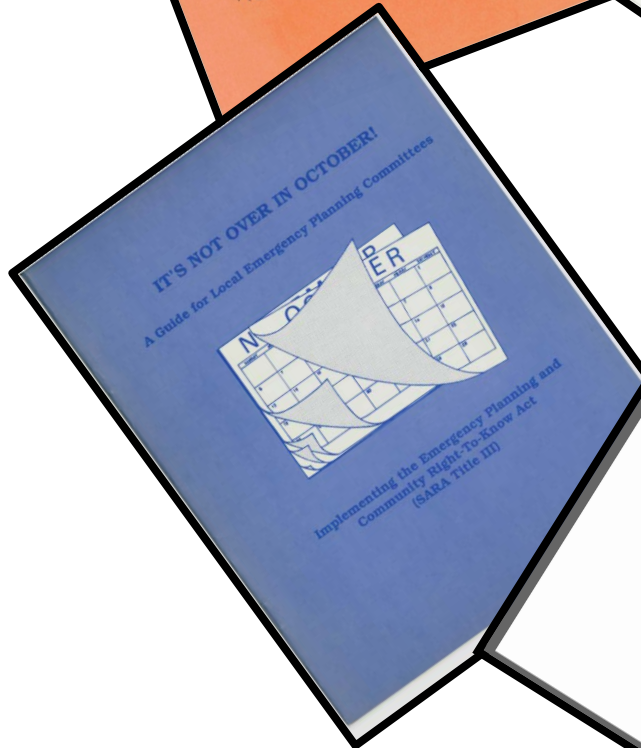
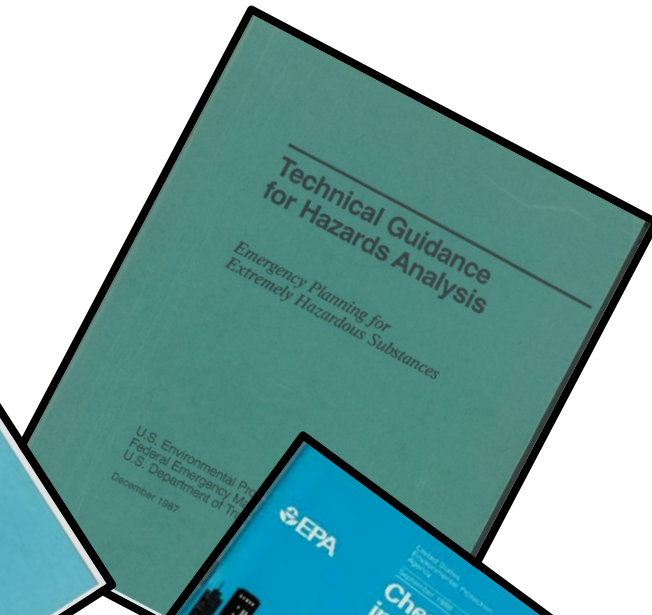
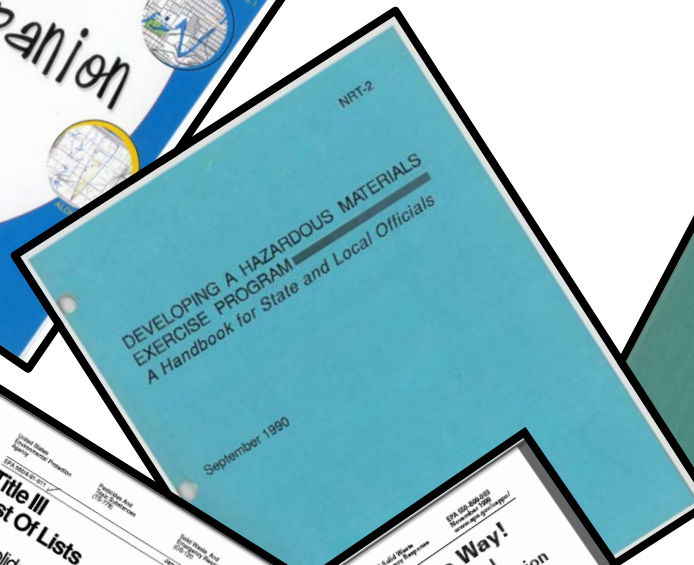
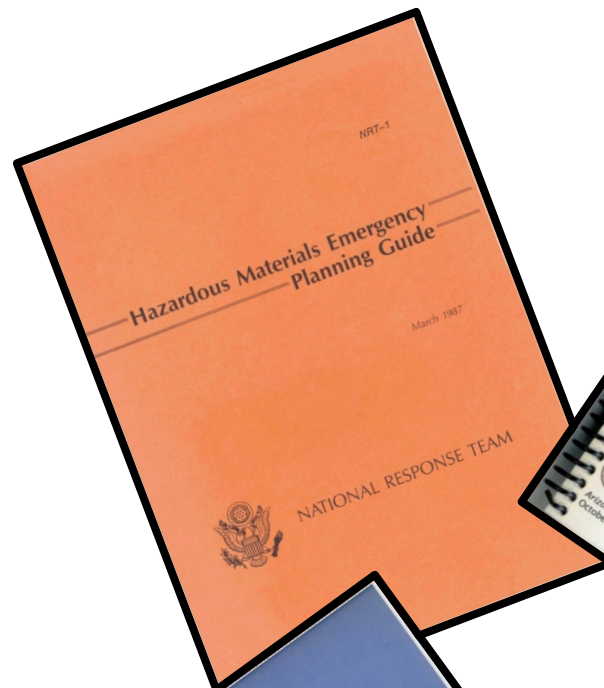
These amendments added an important section, focusing on strengthening rights of citizens and communities in the face of potential hazardous substance emergencies.

This section, EPCRA, is intended to help communities prepare to respond to a chemical emergency and to increase the public's knowledge of the presence and threat of hazardous chemicals.

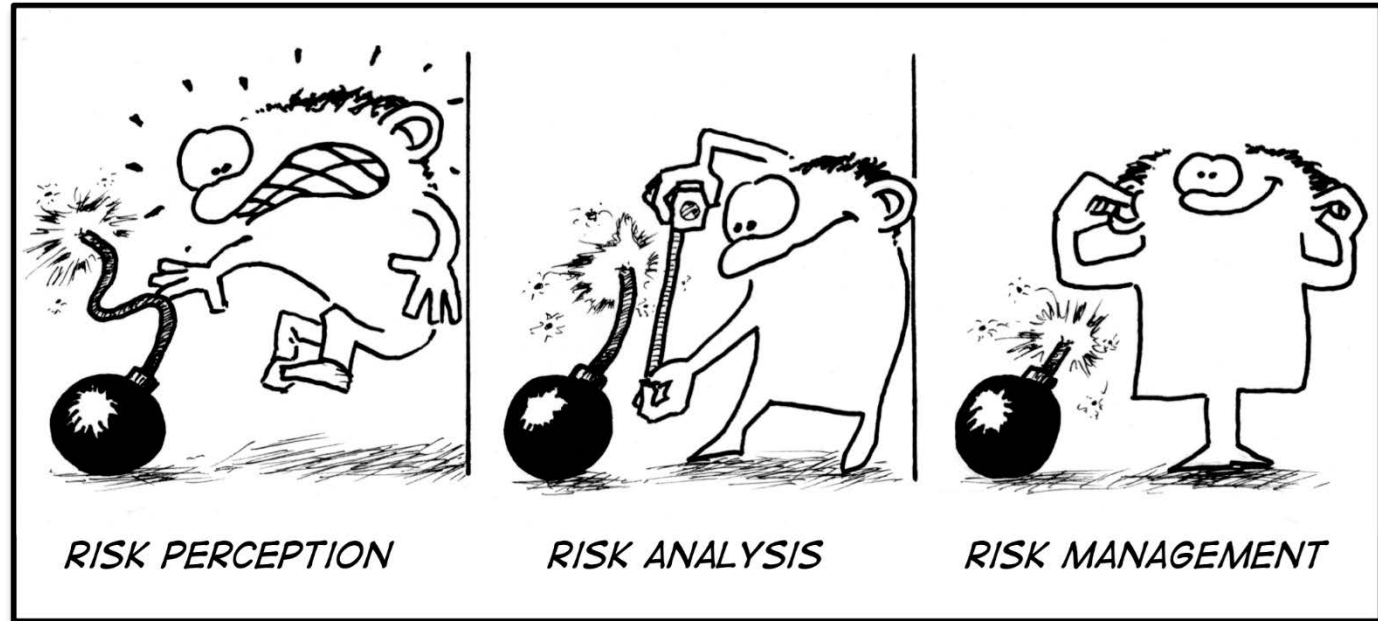




Wonderful Documents Developed
by EPA and others to Implement
EPCRA for local, state, and
industry officials



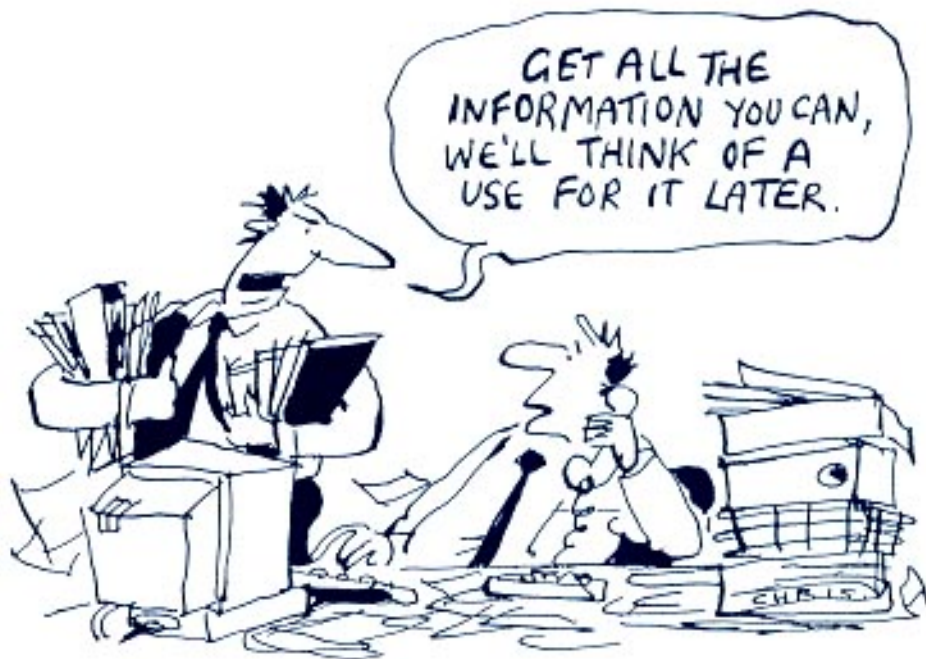
EPCRA is about CHEMICALS



- Conduct hazards analysis for the community
 - What chemicals are in the community?
 - Fixed facilities
 - Transportation routes
 - What equipment does the community need for those chemicals?
 - What training does the community need?

EPCRA is about INFORMATION

- Industry provides information about chemical hazards to:
 - SERC
 - LEPC
 - Fire departments
- LEPC can use the hazard information to plan for chemical safety in the community



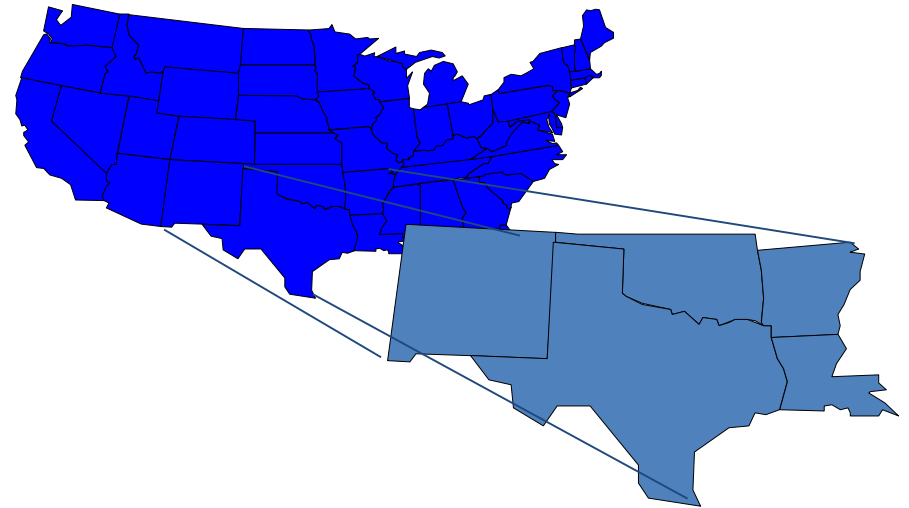
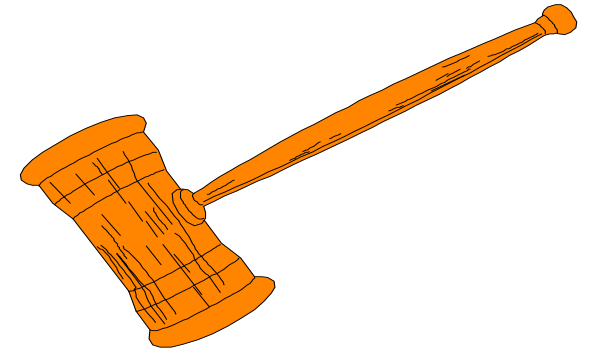
EPCRA is about LOCAL Communities

- States/locals manage the program
 - Jobs are local
 - Business profits are local
 - Hazards are local
 - Response is local
 - Planning must be local
 - Includes many volunteers
 - Include all key local groups

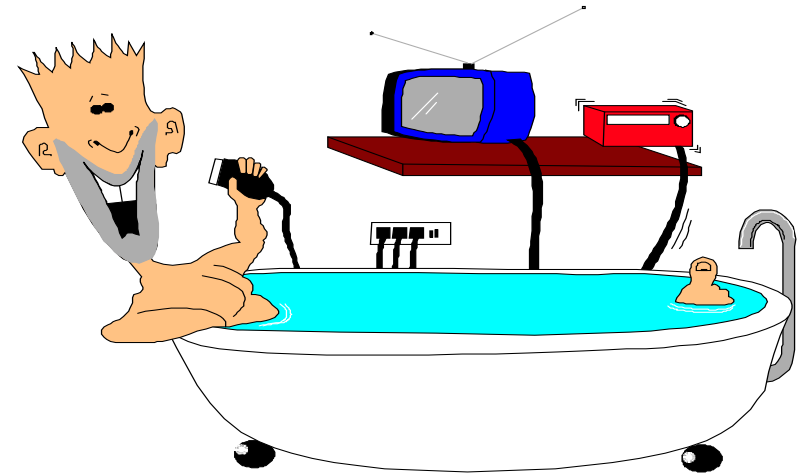


Where do LEPCs come from ???

- § 301 of EPCRA required the State to establish Local Planning Districts and appoint an LEPC within each district.
- There are approximately 530 LEPCs within Region 6, 3,200 nationwide.



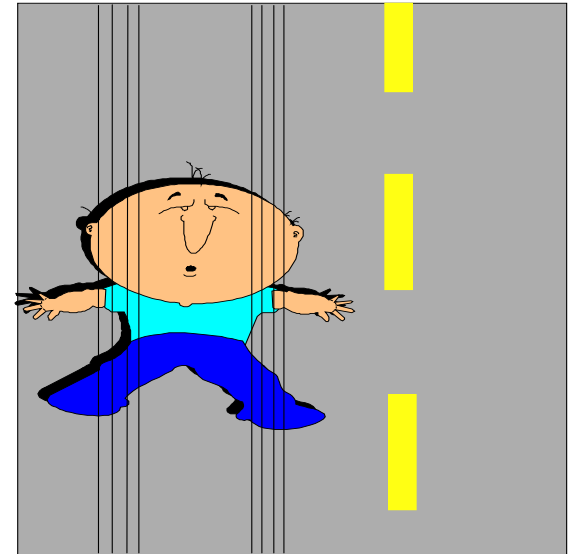
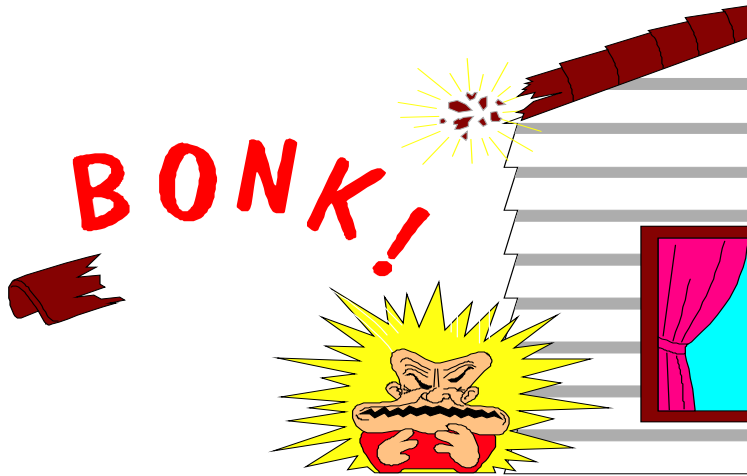
Role of the LEPC



- **Form a partnership with local governments and industries as a resource for hazmat planning**
- **Analysis of local hazards**
- **Incorporate into Emergency Plan**
- **Assess response capabilities**
- **Conduct training and exercises**

Role of the LEPC

- LEPC's can serve as a focal point in the community to discuss:
 - Emergency planning
 - Health and environmental risks
 - Chemical hazards
 - Risk management plans
 - Terrorism and security concerns



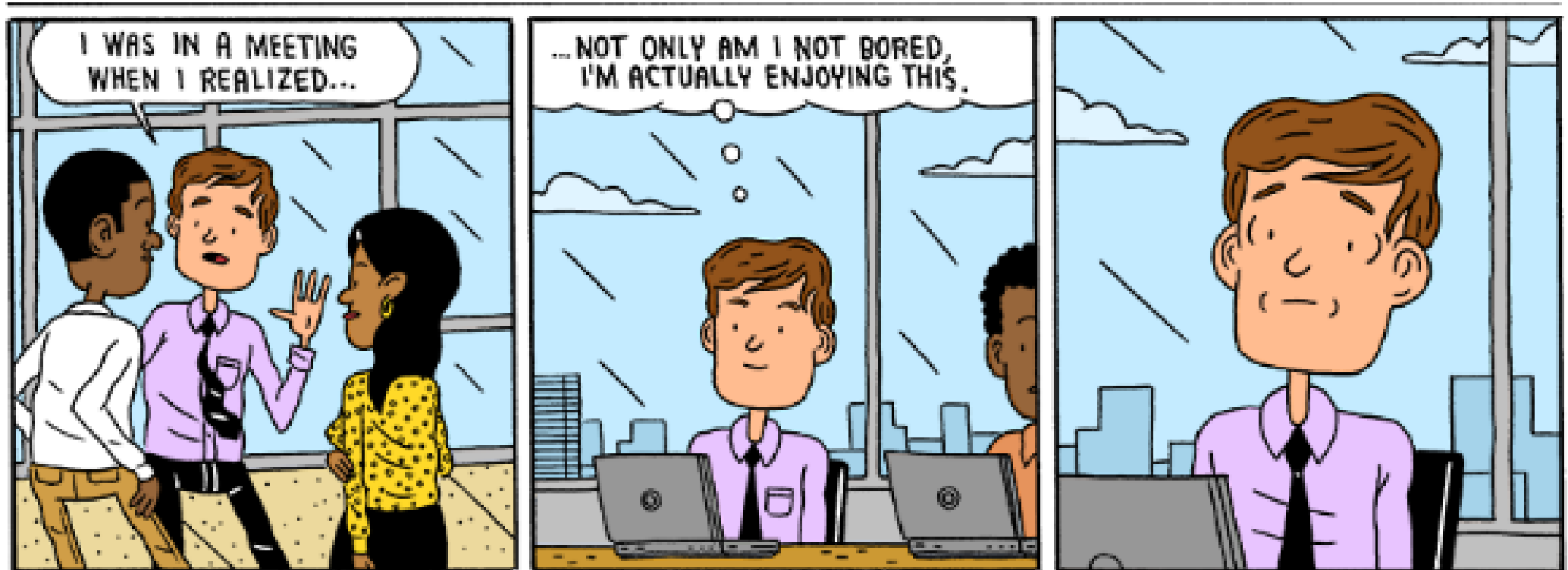
Successful LEPCs Have:



- Clearly defined goals
- Trained, knowledgeable members
- Broad-based representation
- Committed, interested members
- “Packaged” purpose and value
- Working relationships with state and other LEPC’s

Successful LEPCs Have:

- Regular, convenient meetings
- Firm agenda of common interests
- Strong leadership & support staff
- Benchmarks for each year
- 3rd parties to audit results



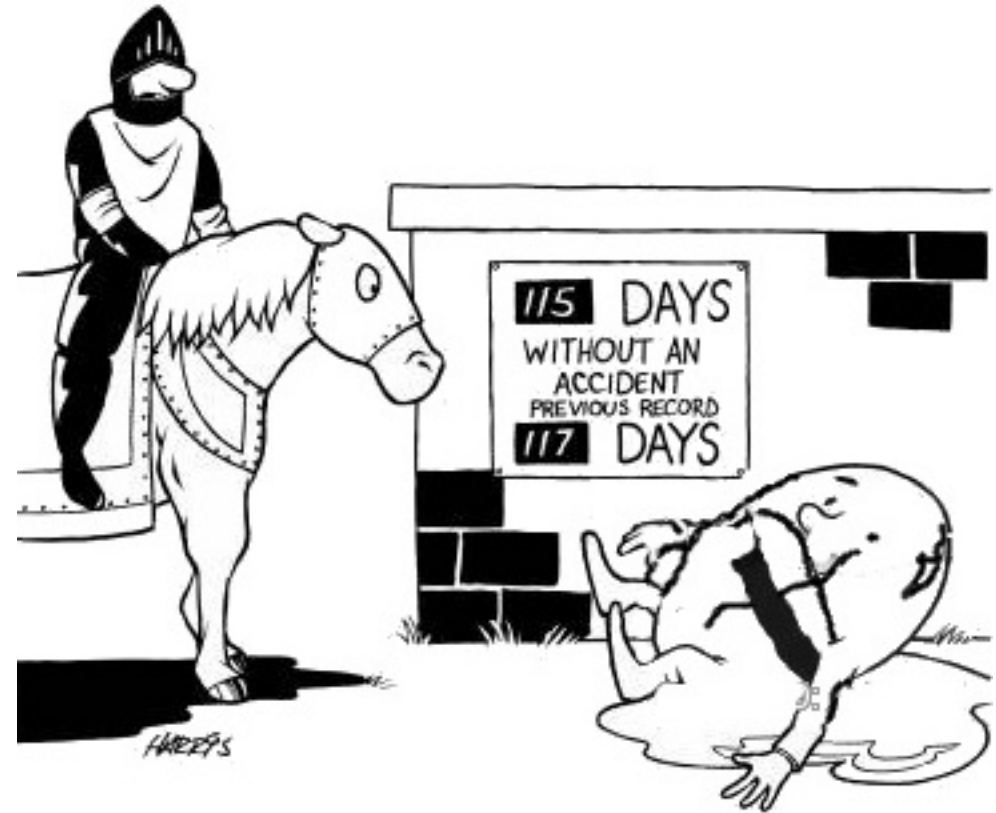
What are the goals of the LEPC ??



- Make people aware of LEPC and plan
- Encourage people to use EPCRA information
- Encourage facilities to reduce releases
- Prepare personnel to respond to hazards
- Help officials respond to questions from public
- Public understanding of risks in community

Golden Rules for LEPCs

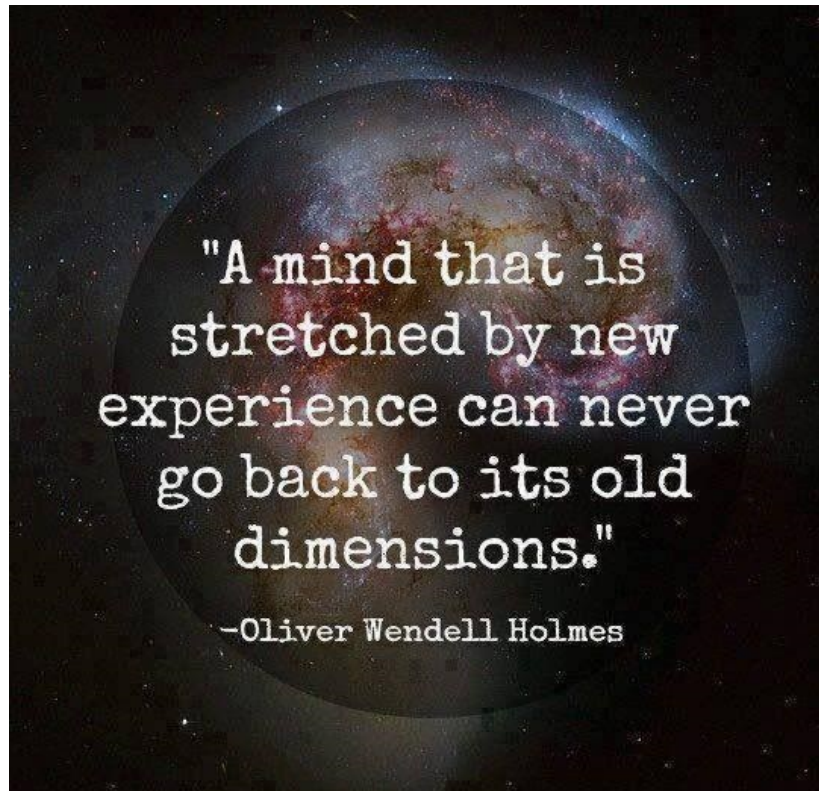
- Know the hazards in your community
 - Where there are hazardous substances?
 - What are the natural hazards?
 - What are the capabilities?
- Educate public and business
 - What can happen to you?
 - What are their obligations?
- Create participation and cooperation between public, authorities & industry in emergency planning and response.



"Sigh... we were so close..."

Lessons

- LEPCs must be focused on their local needs and conditions
 - relevant to the community
- Do not lose track of the “routine” risks
 - chasing money may not be useful
- Expand your horizons
- When it comes to planning, preparedness, and response, we are all partners... not “us” versus “them”



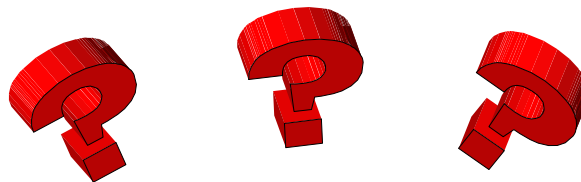
Can LEPCs answer these questions ??



- Do facilities have any chemicals that could kill us?
- How will I know if there is a release, especially at night?
- Why don't facilities reduce the inventory of chemicals?
- What are facilities really doing to prevent accidents?
- Why are there so many accidents?
- Do the facilities have to use these chemicals?

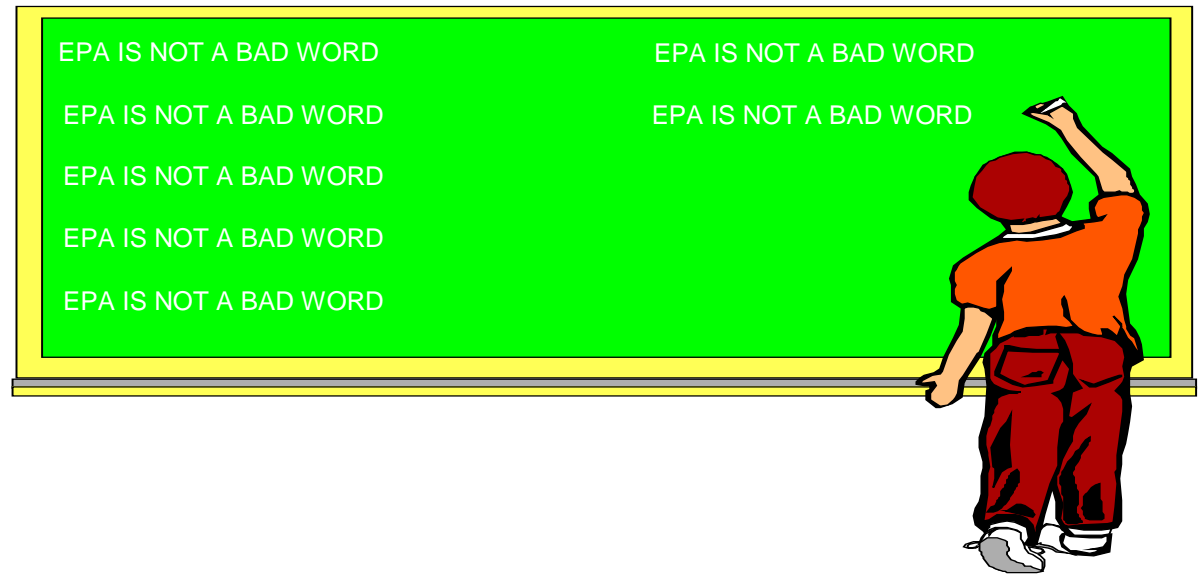
Can LEPCs answer these questions ??

- What have facilities done to reduce risk at the plants?
- What do I do if the plant siren sounds ?
- How will I be notified before a release reaches my house?
- Does shelter in place always work – what if houses are not air tight ?
- Who makes decisions to shelter-in-place or evacuate ?
- Who decides the best way to respond to a release?
- Who decides if they are qualified to make decisions?



Can LEPCs answer these questions ??

- Do plant personnel live by the plants? Why not?
- Do the local responders feel comfortable they can protect me if a release occurs?



WHAT EPCRA HAS TAUGHT US

A Short Law can have a major impact

CERCLA – 76 pages

CAA – 210 pages

RCRA – 93 pages

EPCRA – 17 pages



It's about partnerships !!