

1986



# EPCRA



Thanks to Kim Jennings, EPA,  
and Tim Gablehouse, NASTTPO,  
for input in to this presentation.

2016

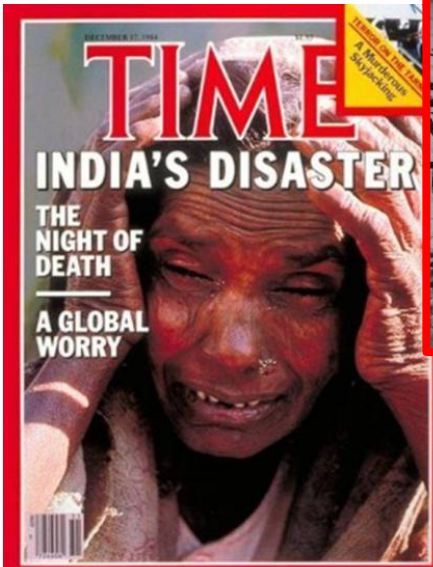
# Union Carbide Disaster: Bhopal, India

Dec 2, 1984

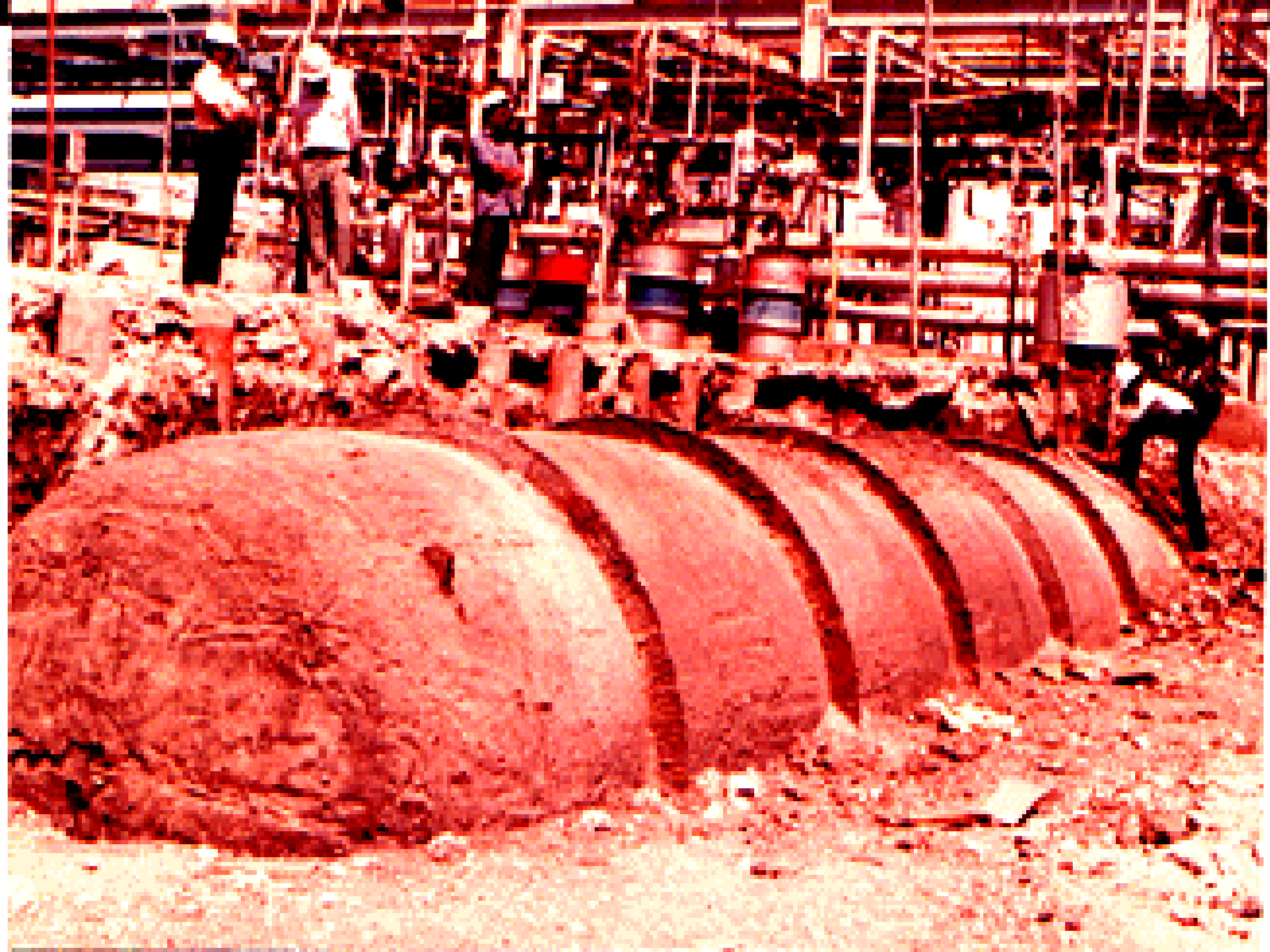
The Bhopal disaster was one of the world's worst industrial catastrophes.

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

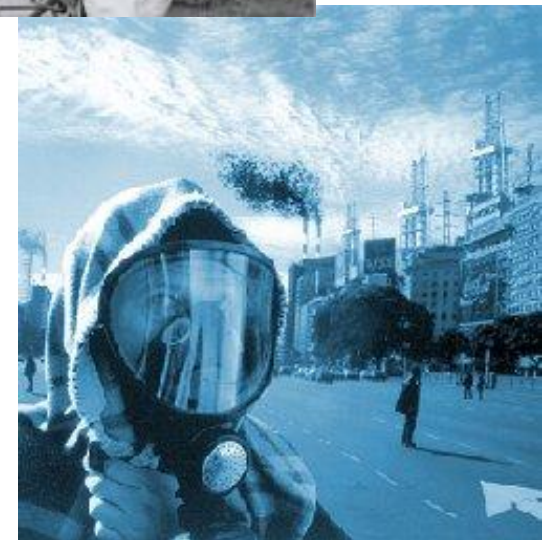
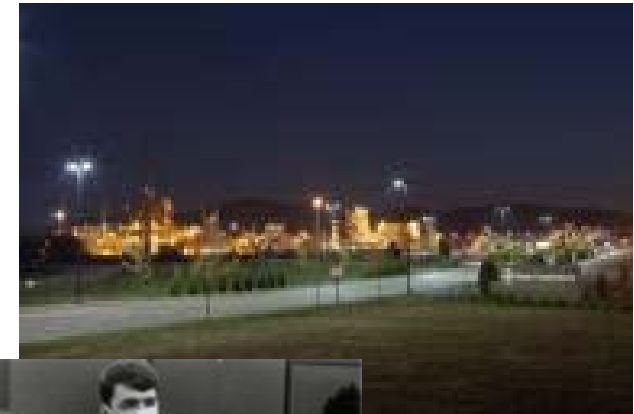
Aug 11, 1985

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.





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.



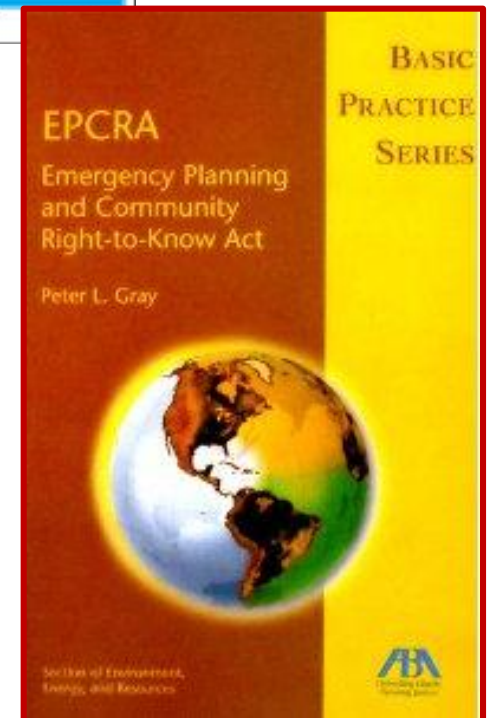
# Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)

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.



# Governors Establish State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs)

April 17, 1987

The governor of each state designated a SERC that is responsible for implementing EPCRA provisions within its state. The SERC's duties include:

- Establishing procedures for receiving and processing public requests for information collected under EPCRA
- Reviewing local emergency response plans
  - Designating local emergency planning districts
  - Appointing a LEPC for each district
  - Supervising the activities of the LEPC.





**SERCs appoint members  
of LEPCs  
September 17, 1987**

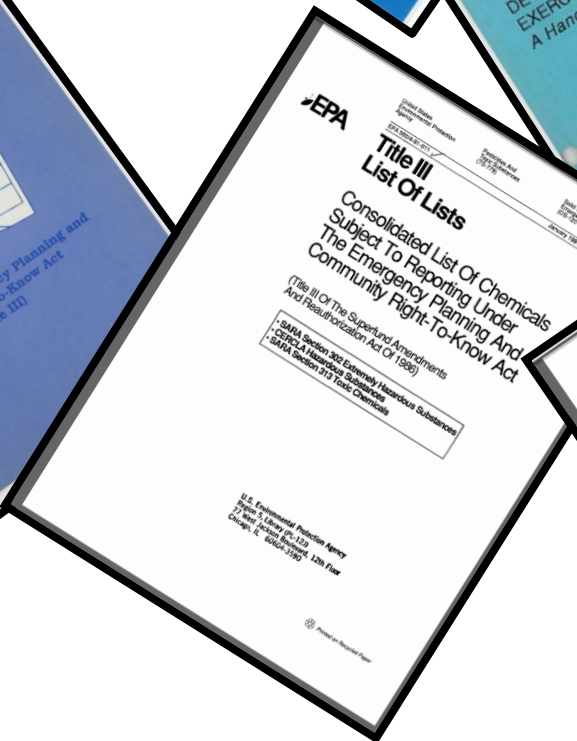
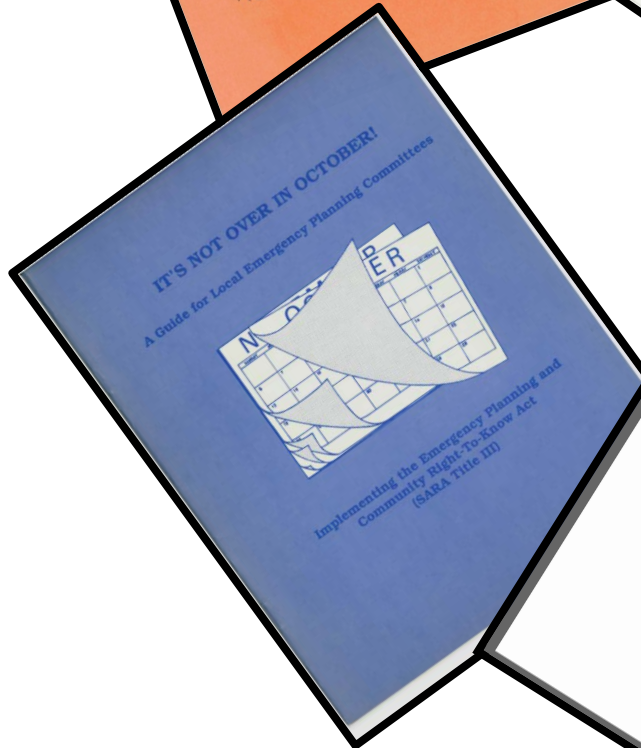
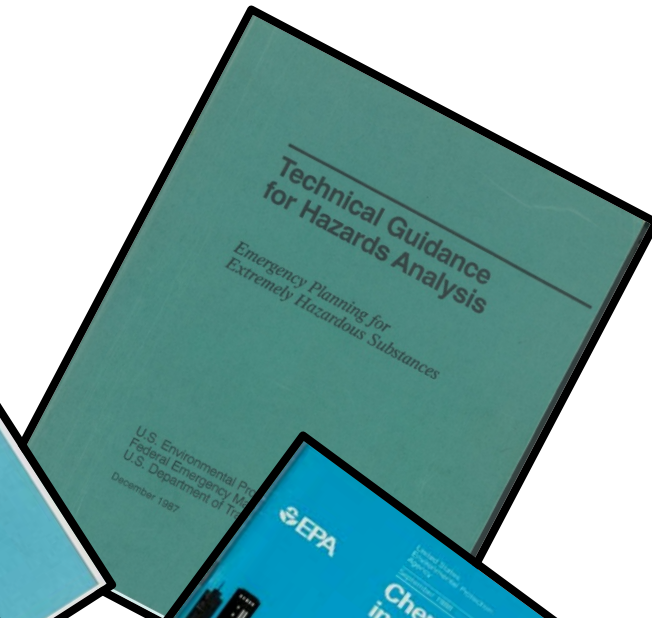
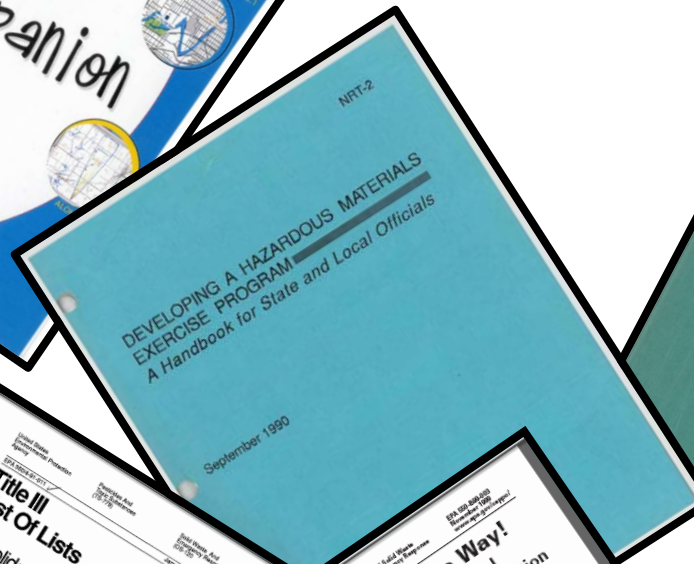
**EPCRA Sections 301-303 emergency planning requirements are designed to help communities prepare for and respond to emergencies involving hazardous substances.**

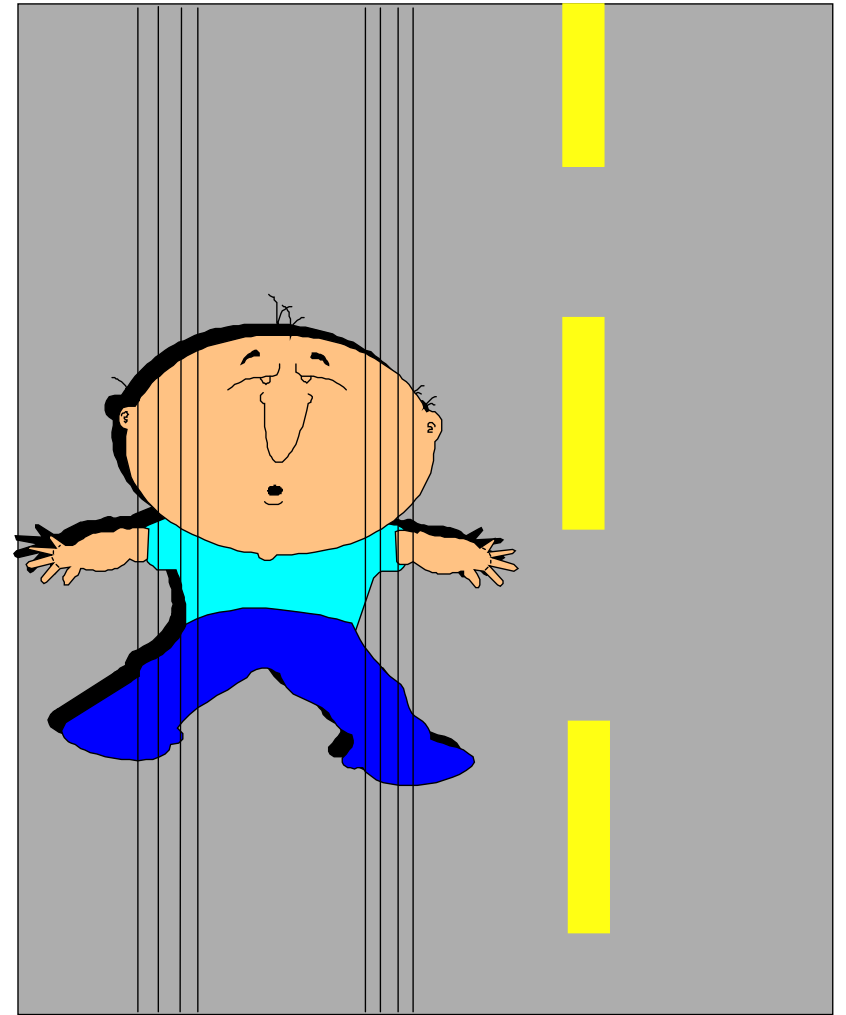
**Every community in the United States must be part of a comprehensive plan.**

**We will cover LEPC responsibilities next month.**



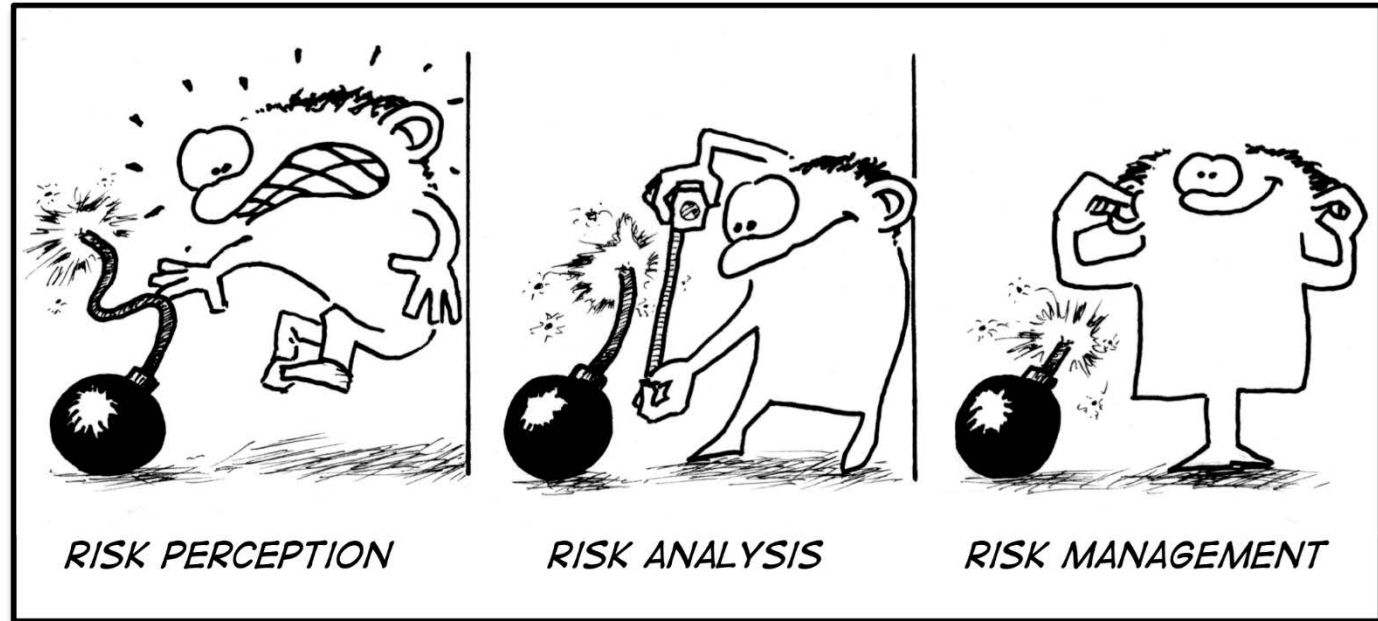
Wonderful Documents Developed  
by EPA and others to Implement  
EPCRA for local, state, and  
industry officials





**Information management or  
what the heck do I do with all  
these Tier II forms?**

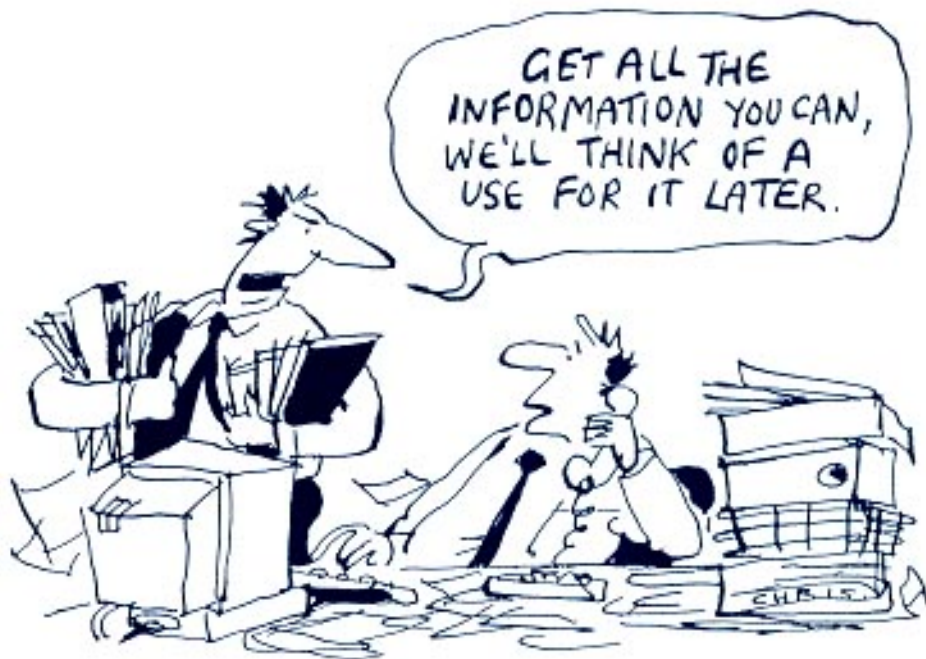
# EPCRA is about CHEMICALS



- **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 ARE WE NOW?**

**A FEW LESSONS LEARNED  
IN THE PAST 30 YEARS...**



**DIALING '9-1-1' DOES NOT  
CONSTITUTE A THOROUGH  
EMERGENCY PLAN**

# **LOCAL PLANNING MUST BE FOCUSED ON LOCAL NEEDS AND CONDITIONS RELEVANT TO THE COMMUNITY**





**DO NOT LOSE TRACK OF THE  
“ROUTINE” RISKS WHILE  
CHASING THE “BIG ONES”**

# Can we answer these questions ??

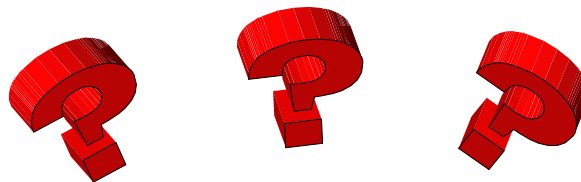


- **Do facilities have any chemicals that could kill us?**
- **How will I know if there is a release, especially at night?**
- **Why don't facilities reduce the inventory of chemicals?**
- **What are facilities really doing to prevent accidents?**
- **Why are there so many accidents?**
- **Do the facilities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



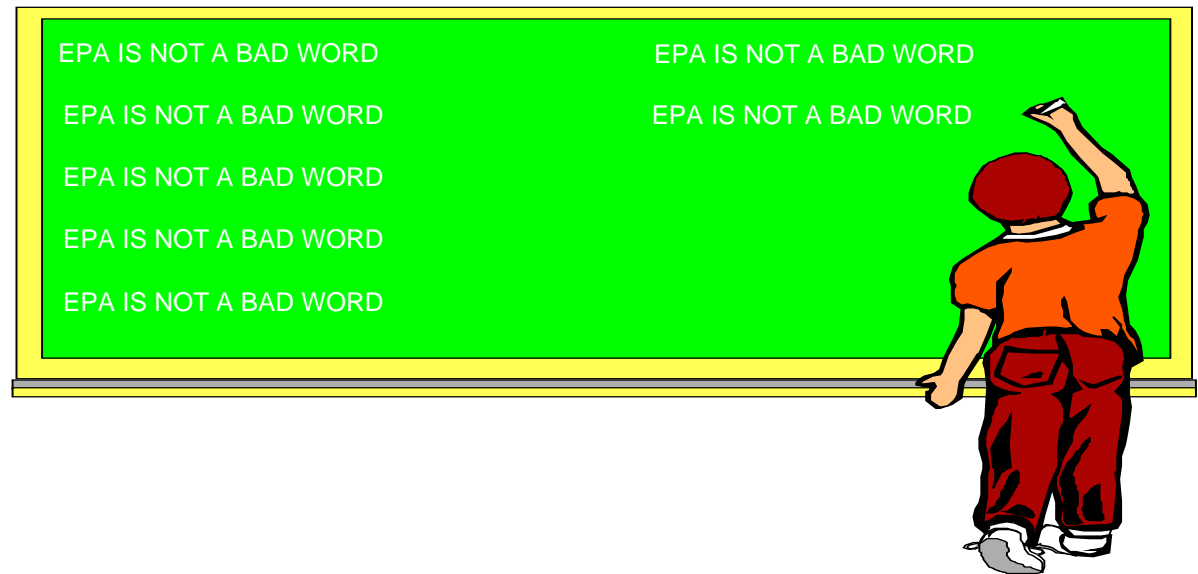
# Can we answer these questions ??

- 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 we 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 !!**



**WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR  
EPCRA?**