

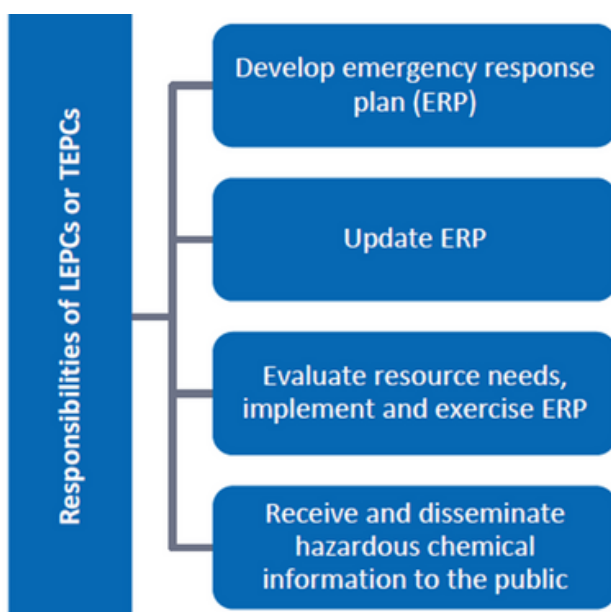
LEPC & TEPC Planning Under EPCRA

Under EPCRA, the LEPC's and TEPC's main responsibility is to develop an emergency response plan to prepare and protect the community and emergency responders from chemical accidents. In addition, LEPCs and TEPCs may have other responsibilities, directed by their states and federal agencies, to develop community preparedness plans for all hazards, which may include planning and responding to natural hazards (e.g., tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding), including pandemics.

Community Focus

EPCRA expressly intends that the LEPCs and TEPC serve as a focal point in the community for information and discussion about hazardous chemical emergency planning and health and environmental risks. If a more comprehensive, all hazards plan is done, it should include planning around chemical emergencies.

Responsibilities



Plan Access

As required by EPCRA Section 324, LEPCs and TEPCs should provide the community with access to the emergency response plan, respond to inquiries on potential chemical risks to the community, and hold meetings to explain evacuation and/or shelter-in-place procedures.

See page two for detailed EPCRA Planning Requirements.

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Nine LEPC Planning Requirements Under EPCRA

The LEPC emergency response plan must include, at a minimum, the nine planning requirements outlined in EPCRA:



Identification of Facilities

Your plan needs to include the names and addresses (and preferably a map) of all facilities in your county which store Threshold Planning Quantities (TPQs) of Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS). It also means that you must identify and provide a map or list of roads and highways and railroads likely to be used for the transport of EHS. Include identification of hospitals or other special facilities near EHS facilities because of special problems they present regarding patient evacuation, additional fire hazard, etc.



Emergency Response Procedures

This plan element refers only to methods and procedures to be employed outside the facility experiencing an accidental release of chemical, because the chemical has escaped the facility in question. Your plan's description of these methods and procedures employed outside the facility needs to include accidental release notification of the LEPC by facilities, and exactly what roles are to be played by fire, police, emergency management, and ambulance personnel, and/or others.



Designation of Community Emergency Coordinator (CEC)

Each facility with EHS must designate to your LEPC a Facility Emergency Coordinator (FEC) and alternates, to act in his/her absence with his/her telephone number(s). The LEPC, in turn, must designate an individual or agency as a CEC who is available 24 hours a day to receive notification of accidental releases.



Notification Procedures

Your plan needs to describe a prearranged sequence of events of different agency actions to occur when a chemical release is reported to your CEC. This includes the event of providing the information about the release as cited in Section 304(b)(2).



Event Determination and Effects

In the case of EHS facilities, technological or human detection systems and procedures must be described. It also means that methods for determining the impact on populations in the vicinity of EHS-releasing facilities must be indicated, based on considerations such as quantity of chemical released, wind speed and direction, distance from facilities of populations, and so forth.



Equipment & Facilities List & Description

This means describing a functional inventory, including the names of the persons with the actual power to immediately release equipment for use. In the case of a facility's equipment, it is best to have a certification letter on file designating the person(s) authorized to release the equipment.



Evacuation Plans

Your plan must describe population protection steps that can be taken in response to an EPCRA chemical release including in-place sheltering and/or evacuation, and the rerouting of traffic away from airborne or ground surface releases.



Training Programs

Your plan needs to identify specific training opportunities, establish target dates by which the training will be taken, and identify who will complete the training.



Exercising Methods and Schedules

The methods may be a table-top exercise, a functional exercise, or a full-scale exercise in the field, but it must deal with a simulated release from an EHS facility, and a target date for the exercise must be set.