STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (SERC)
MISSION

Authority:
The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) was mandated by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). Title III of 1986 and established by Governor's Executive Order W-40-93.

From the standpoint of State law, California Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.95 supports the implementation of SARA Title III requirements.

Mission:
The mission of the SERC is to coordinate and supervise implementation of the federal hazardous material Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) within California. This includes federal programs to prevent, mitigate, and enhance response to hazardous material emergencies and ensure public availability of appropriate chemical information as prescribed by law. The membership of the SERC is defined in the Executive Order, interpreted by the SERC to also include membership of one representative from each of the six Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). The SERC has several purposes, including, but not limited to:

1. Enhance public safety and environmental protection through efficient implementation of hazardous material emergency planning and community right-to-know laws.

2. Supervise and coordinate the establishment, membership, and program related activities of the LEPCs.

3. Review LEPC emergency planning activities.

4. Coordinate state agency activities in the area of hazardous material emergency planning and community right-to-know laws, while insuring that the legal and jurisdictional autonomy of each of these agencies/departments to act in these areas is preserved.

5. Promote, assist, and guide local regional and state government activities to integrate hazardous material emergency planning and accident prevention programs and eliminate unnecessary program overlap.

6. Provide a forum for the consideration of ideas and concerns of public and private interests in the implementation of hazardous material emergency programs.

7. Ensure a mechanism for timely review and processing of requests for hazardous material information legally available to the public under this program.

8. Facilitate the identification of resources to promote fulfillment of 1-7.

Adopted 11/13/00