

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Mission Statement

Authority:

The establishment of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) is mandated by Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, Title III of 1986. This authority is vested in the six California LEPCs by the Chemical Emergency Planning and Response Commission (CEPRC). Categories of the membership on the LEPC are established by the CEPRC; however, each LEPC has discretion to add up to four ad hoc categories.

Mission:

As coordinated and supervised by the CEPRC, the mission of the LEPCs is to coordinate implementation of California's hazardous material emergency planning and community right-to-know program at the OES regional level. This includes implementation of federal, state and local programs to prevent, mitigate, and respond to hazardous material emergencies and ensure public availability of appropriate chemical information as prescribed by law.

The LEPCs have several objectives, including, but not limited to:

1. Develop and implement the regional hazardous material emergency plan consistent with state and federal law, focusing on:
 - identification of chemical risks, especially those that could have cross-jurisdictional impacts or require multi-jurisdictional response resources;
 - identification of transportation related chemical risks;
 - identification of local public and private response capabilities; and,
 - facilitating agreements or systems to mitigate or reduce shortfalls in response capabilities.
2. Provide a forum for the consideration of ideas and concerns of public and private interests in the implementation of hazardous material emergency programs within the region.
3. Enhance public safety and environmental protection by facilitating the implementation of hazardous material emergency planning and community right-to-know laws.
4. Promote education and awareness programs, and sponsor such programs, as necessary, to educate the community relating to hazardous material emergency planning and community right-to-know programs.
5. Facilitate local government emergency planning activities, such as drills, exercises, education, and training that enhance hazardous material emergency preparedness or by obtaining necessary emergency planning information from facilities.
6. Work with local administering agencies (AA) to promote a mechanism for timely review and processing of requests for hazardous material information that is legally available to the public under these programs.
7. Promote, assist, and guide activities (in conjunction with the AAs) to integrate and refine hazardous material emergency planning and accident prevention programs and eliminate unnecessary program overlap.