



WELCOME



Dallas County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Preparedness Through Partnerships

Opening Remarks & Introduction of Members



Clay Lewis Jenkins
Dallas County Judge

Chemical Planning Began...1986

- LEPC is a product of federal legislation that was passed in the wake of the Bhopal disaster in India, where more than 2,000 people died because of an accident involving the release of hazardous chemicals.
- To prevent similar occurrences in our own communities, Congress passed the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, also known as the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA Title III) in 1986.
- The Texas legislature enacted state Right-to-Know laws that are consistent with existing federal laws.
- Unfortunately, these are “un-funded federal mandates”; however, it does provide a tool to better protect public health and environment.



History of Dallas County LEPC

- Dallas County has had a functional LEPC since 1986
- One of the first to be formed and organized in Texas
- Has enjoyed active membership and participation



*I invited Jimmie Badgett
To provide a few remarks about
the history of the Dallas County LEPC*



LEPC Members Represent

Required Membership



Elected Officials
Emergency Management
Local Environmental
Emergency Medical
Transportation
Hospitals
Media
Fire Department
Law Enforcement
Health Officials
Covered Facilities
Community Groups-Public
Government Agencies



LEPC Partners

- Federal Regulatory Agencies (EPA, USDOT)
- State Agencies (TCEQ, State Health & DPS)
- Local Agencies (Fire, Police, EM, Health, Hospitals)
- Business & Industries (Use, Sell, Store, Transport or Manufacture Hazardous Chemicals)
- Citizens/Residents



Transportation



Fixed Facilities

Dallas County LEPC

- For over 25 years, Dallas County has scheduled regular LEPC meetings that are open to public (TOMA).
- Dallas County LEPC membership meets federal and state requirements.
- Dallas County LEPC has a website that provides LEPC information to the public.
- Dallas County LEPC has by-laws that outline organizational requirements.
- Dallas County LEPC maintains a computerized chemical inventory (CAMEO).
- DC Homeland Security personnel serve as LEPC Coordinator and staff.



LEPC IS NOT....

- Spokesperson for the chemical industry
- A regulatory or enforcement agency
- An agency of Dallas County Government
- An attempt to interfere with business or industry's management of their chemical emergency planning program
- Associated with HAZMAT response or recovery operations



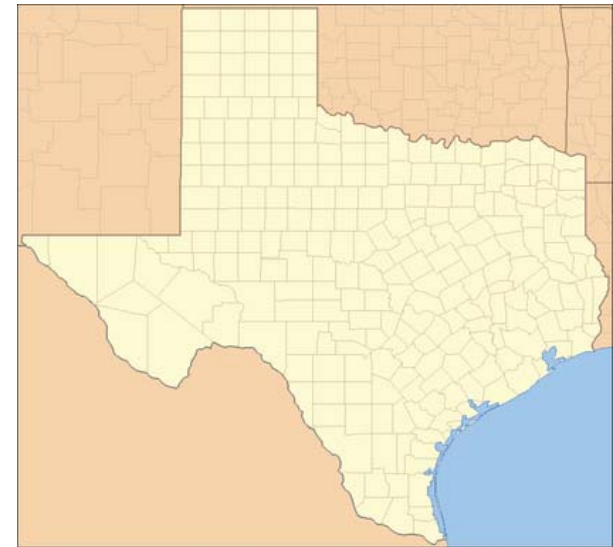
Your Role As an LEPC Member

- Active participation in meetings; including sub-committee meetings.
- **Sharing your knowledge, skills and abilities as a technical, subject-matter expert, in your field.**
- Assistance to reach out to the public and community organizations to better educate them...”speakers bureau”.
- **Assist the LEPC to better identify chemical hazards in our community.**
- Assist with chemical emergency planning, training and exercises.
- **Suggest way we can improve our LEPC to better protect the public and environment.**



State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) “State Emergency Management Council”

- SERC Required under federal law (Policy Group)
- Texas Department of Health Services (TCEQ) Manages Chemical Release Permitting/Licensing & Reporting (Tier II Reports) for SERC
- SERC Approves LEPC Membership (LEPC Handbook)



SERC Ensures Uniformity
Throughout Texas

LEPC Mission: Chemical Risk Reduction

- LEPCs have broad-based membership whose primary work is to receive information from local facilities in the community, use that information to develop a comprehensive emergency plan for the community and respond to public inquiries about local chemical hazards and releases.
- Many LEPCs have expanded their activities beyond the federal/state requirements, encouraging accident prevention, risk reduction and addressing homeland security in their communities.
- The LEPC vision should be written, clear and come from a group discussion of the concerns and motivations that caused the participants to join the LEPC.



LEPC Responsibilities

- Planning-Development, training and testing of a hazardous substances emergency response plan for Dallas County.
- Chemical Release Information-Development of procedures for regulated facilities to provide notification to the LEPC in accordance with Title III, SARA.
- Chemical Inventory Database-Development of procedures for receiving and processing requests from the public, under the community-right-to-act provisions of Title III, SARA (CAMEO)
- Information Management-Provide for public notification of committee activities (Right-to-Know)
- Other Duties-Implement other activities as are legally required by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) or the County Judge.



LEPC Does NOT Regulate HAZMAT Response

Chemical Industry Requirements

- Must operate “covered” facilities in accordance with federal and state laws.
- Annual chemical reporting requirements to state, LEPC and local fire department.
- Must report chemical releases or spills to federal, state, LEPC.
- Must conduct regular planning, training & exercises.
- Must work with local jurisdiction(s) to coordinate emergency response and recover efforts.



Response to chemical emergencies require advanced training and expensive and “high-tech” equipment



Most county and municipal fire departments regularly inspect “covered” chemical facilities

LEPC Next Steps for 2013

- Our Goal is to ensure the LEPC has the most technically competent membership to better ensure that State and Federal chemical emergency planning requirements are being addressed by Dallas County. We will be establishing both long term and short term goals, objectives and benchmarks.
- Over the next month we will be reaching out to you to assist us in forming sub-committees to assist with emergency planning, training and exercises.
- Bi-monthly meetings are being scheduled to update by-laws, LEPC website, membership list, etc.
- We will have the LEPC membership approved by the State.
- We will begin updating the LEPC website. (Short application and resume will be requested.)
- LEPC members will be invited to participate in related training in order to gain additional knowledge, skills and abilities.
- Begin to answer the questions of “What does success look like?” and “How do we measure success?”



Questions/Comments



Thanks For Your Service As a Member of the Dallas
County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)!!