

Appendix F.

Examples of LEPC Mission Statements

When developing, or revising, the by-laws for the LEPC or TEPC, a strong mission statement should provide citizens and the LEPC or TEPC members with an understanding of the direction the LEPC plans on taking.

The mission of the LEPC or TEPC is to protect and serve all citizens by promoting hazardous materials safety in all segments of the community. This includes providing an advisory, educational and technical resource for the development and implementation of hazardous safety programs, both locally and countywide.

Below are sample mission assignments from a few LEPCs in Region 6, which can be tailored for each LEPC or TEPC.

Calcasieu Parish, LA

Appointed by the SERC, the LEPC includes representatives from state and local government, law enforcement, civil defense, firefighting, first aid, health, environmental and transportation agencies, hospitals, broadcast and print media, community groups, and businesses that are subject to EPCRA requirements.

The LEPC develops an emergency plan, which is reviewed annually, to prepare for and respond to chemical emergencies. The LEPC also receives emergency release and chemical inventory information from local facilities and make this information available to the public on request. They also have the authority to request information from facilities for their own planning purposes. Every LEPC serves as a focal point for each community for information and discussions about hazardous substances, emergency planning, and health and environmental risks.

LEPCs can be effective in taking steps to educate the public about chemical risks and working with businesses to minimize those risks.

Dallas County, TX

Mission: The mission of the LEPC is to:

- Develop a comprehensive hazardous materials emergency response plan for our community. To be effective, planning must be an ongoing activity.
- Receive and record information about chemical releases
- Collect, manage, and provide public access to information on hazardous chemicals in our area.
- Educate the public about the risks from accidental and routine releases of chemicals and work with facilities to minimize the risks.

Bernalillo County, NM

To support the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Office of Emergency Preparedness to keep the community safe from the effects of hazardous materials in order to assure effective response to hazardous materials emergencies.

Deer Park (Harris County) TX

The LEPC is a non-profit community organization composed of city and school district officials, police and fire emergency response personnel, industry and environmental representatives, news media, and interested citizens of Deer Park.

LEPC members work together to develop plans to educate, communicate, and protect our local community in case of a chemical release.

Under terms of our By-laws, the purpose of the LEPC is to:

1. develop, train, and test a hazardous substances emergency response plan
2. develop procedures for regulated facilities to provide notification of a hazardous release to the LEPC
3. develop procedures for receiving and processing community right-to-know requests from the public
4. provide for public notification of committee activities.

Jasper County, TX

In addition to its formal responsibilities, the LEPC serves as a focal point in the community for information and discussions about hazardous substances, emergency planning, and health and environmental risks. Citizens will expect the LEPC to reply to questions about chemical hazards and risk management actions. It can also anticipate questions about the extent and the health and environmental effects of routine toxic chemical releases.

Even though this information is not required by the law to be sent to LEPCs, EPA and the states are working together to ensure this information is available at the local level.

Many companies are voluntarily providing local committees and other citizens with this information.

An LEPC can most effectively carry out its responsibilities as a community forum by taking steps to educate the public about chemical risks, and working with facilities to minimize those risks.

The value of the information provided by EPCRA will be limited unless citizens are given the means to understand the information and its implications. The LEPC's ability to improve the safety and health of its community will be greatly enhanced by the support of an informed and active citizenry.

Larimer County, OK

The LEPC's mission shall be to enhance and create plans directing the response to hazardous materials incidents, increase compliance with hazardous materials reporting requirements and to offer access to information on the storage of such materials, for the benefit of the county's residents, businesses and industries.

The Committee shall carry out its mission in Larimer County in compliance with EPCRA and other federal, state and local requirements in such a way that meets both the letter and spirit of those requirements and that enhances and encourages a partnership between county residents, businesses and industry through an exchange of information and mutual planning.

Hidalgo County, TX

The LEPC is made up of city and county officials, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical personnel, representatives of area industries, the media, and volunteer organizations.

In 1986, the U.S. Congress passed a law called EPCRA, requiring every county in the nation to form and maintain an LEPC. This group supports emergency planning for chemical hazards and provides local government and the public with information about possible chemical hazards.

In short, LEPC members are your co-workers, friends, and neighbors, who prepare for emergencies, which might pose health and safety hazards to Hidalgo County residents.

Such emergencies include releases of hazardous chemicals from any of the plants within the county or from any of the thousands of trucks and railroad cars which carry them through the county each year. They also include natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornadoes, as well as spills of everyday chemicals like gasoline or agricultural chemicals and pesticides.

Year round, LEPC members meet to discuss response plans and means of better informing the public—that's YOU—about what to do when an emergency occurs.

They participate in drills at industrial plants, they help find ways to improve safety and aid the various involved organizations—police, sheriff's, fire and EMS departments, school districts and other governmental agencies, hospitals, civic and volunteer groups—work smoothly together in the event of an actual emergency.

Curry County, NM

To coordinate with the Clovis-Curry County Emergency Management Director and all first response agencies to make resources available to keep the community safe from the effects of hazardous materials and any other natural/man made hazards, and to assure effective response to all emergencies.

VISION: That the population of Curry County be well informed about the hazardous materials present in the community and know how to respond appropriately to emergencies.

Further, that businesses and agencies with hazardous material/operations are knowledgeable of their legal obligations under EPCRA and the compliance processes made available through the Curry County LEPC.

Muskogee County, OK

Muskogee County LEPC, Protecting You and the Environment.

While we enjoy an excellent quality of life, living in our community has never been and will never be risk free. Hazardous materials are manufactured here and are transported through our county by pipelines, trucks, air, and trains.

The risk, however slight, always exists for an accident to occur. The LEPC was created in Fall of 1987. The LEPC brings together an Emergency Management Team which includes state, county, and city officials, Industry response representatives, the Medical community, News media Environmental organizations, and Community Service Organizations.

The objectives of the LEPC are to develop Hazardous Material Inventory and Release Reporting procedures, and the development of a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan to be implemented in the event of a hazardous material release in our area.

The success of any Emergency Response Plan also depends upon an informed and educated public.

- What would you do if a hazardous material emergency occurred near your home or your place of work?
- What would your child's day care provider or school do?

This information is to inform you on what to do in case of a hazardous material emergency in our County and educate you on how to obtain information on potential chemical hazards and chemical storage inventories within our County.