

The Role of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Presented by:
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Why do we need LEPCs?



BHOPAL, INDIA



December 3, 1984

Union Carbide

Pesticide Plant in
Bhopal India

8000 Dead in 48 hrs

Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal India



History of the LEPC

- **Enactment of the Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-know Act (EPCRA)**
 - **Section 301 – Established the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)**
 - **Section 303 – Mandated the establishment of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)**
 - **Established by Counties in North Carolina**



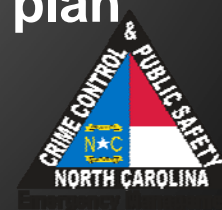
SERC & LEPCs

- **SERC – State Emergency Response Commission**
 - Coordinates hazardous material planning, preparedness, response, and mitigation issues at the state level
 - Appoint and supervise the LEPCs
 - Has moved to become more “all-hazards” rather than just HAZMAT
- **LEPCs – Local Emergency Planning Committee**
 - Coordinates hazardous material planning, preparedness, response, and mitigation issues at the local level
 - Develop and maintain a written community level hazardous materials emergency response plan.



Responsibilities to the Community

- Developing a HAZMAT emergency response plan:
 - Identify the facilities
 - Identify transportation routes used for HAZMAT transportation
 - Develop methods of notification & response procedures
 - Designate coordinators
 - Assess & identify emergency equipment & personnel
 - Identify evacuation routes
 - Training
 - Identify needs
 - Develop a schedule for training and exercising the plan



Responsibilities to the Locally Regulated Facilities

- A point of contact for receiving information:
 - Receive their emergency planning notifications
 - Receive their emergency coordinator designations
 - Tier II Reports & MSDS Lists
- Enforce their compliance
- Request information on others behalf



Duties to the General Public

- Establish procedures for receiving and processing public requests
- Appoint an information coordinator
- Designate a location for the public to review information
- Publish an annual notification announcing the availability of the emergency plan



LEPC Requirements

- **Membership must include:**
 - Elected State or Local official
 - Emergency Services
 - Public Health Services
 - Community Group
 - Owner/Operator of Extremely Hazardous Substance (EHS) facilities
 - Local Media
- Annual Submission of membership to SERC
- Chair must be appointed
- Establish rules/by laws
- Create procedure for requests for information
- Appoint a Public Information Coordinator
- Meet annually to review emergency plan



LEPC Requirements

- Plan must include critical elements
- Designate the authorizing authority on Eplan
- Create a process to develop, implement and test (exercise) the plan
- Submit the plan annually for review to SERC
- Annually publish in local newspapers where the response plan, Material Data Safety Sheets (MSDS), and inventory forms are available to be viewed by the public

**9 of 12 must be completed
for SERC approval**



Contact Information

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Risk Management & Situational Awareness

By: Brian Barnes
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Why is this important?

- Chemical accidents occur all of the time...
- LEPCs can improve emergency response
 - Improved planning
 - Creation/Maintaining of key relationships

<http://www.khou.com/home/related/Tapes-Show-Confusion-and-Delay-in-Reporting-Dangerous-Chemical-Leak-84824147.html>



How many facilities are in NC?

- **65.8 Billion** lbs of Hazmat in NC
 - NC 5th largest chemical producer in US
- 500,000 + OSHA Hazardous Chemicals
- 6,000 + EPCRA Facilities
- 553 Chemical Manufacturing Facilities
- 284 RMP Facilities

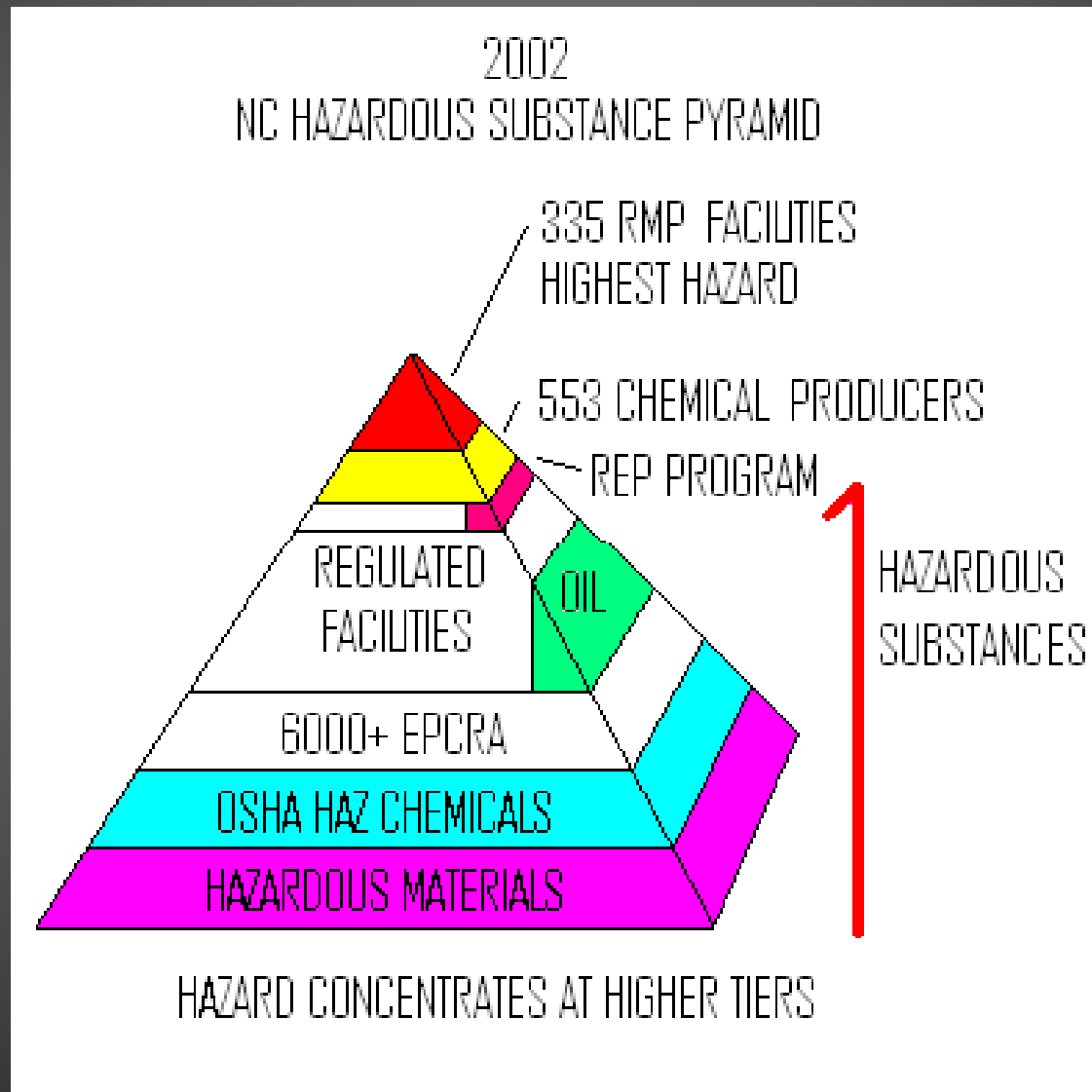


How many facilities are in NC?

- Approximately 284 RMP Facilities
 - 33.86% of NC's population falls inside an offsite consequence analysis (OCA) area...
 - In 2009 alone there were 3 reported major accidents
 - 5 Fatalities, 87 Injuries, and \$50 Million in property damage



How many facilities are in NC?



Has this affected NC?

- Two cases that we will look at today:
 - EQ
 - ConAgra



EQ

- October 5, 2006
 - Citizen reports “strong chlorine smell” and chemical cloud
 - FD arrives and finds sofa sized fire at EQ in the hazardous waste bays
 - Within minutes fire spread to flammable liquids – causing explosions and fireballs hundreds of feet into the air
 - 30 Injuries, 17,000 Evacuated



ConAgra

- June 9, 2009
 - Natural Gas Explosion
 - Caused a 8,000 – 10,000 lb release of anhydrous ammonia
 - 3 Fatalities
 - 38 others injured



What does this mean to me?

- LEPCs are a critical aspect to local and even regional preparedness...
- They ensure *ALL* of the players have a means to develop mutual relationships
- These relationships make for positive outcomes...
 - Better pre-incident planning
 - Better cooperation in actual emergencies



What can we do for you?

- Regional Hazardous Materials Study
 - Complete in the eastern NC
 - Currently working west...
- Grants
 - Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant



Questions?

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