



2008 Nationwide Survey of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs)



FINAL REPORT

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgements2

Background and Introduction3

Methodology and Approach5

Executive Summary — What We Learned6

How are LEPCs Doing?7

Emergency Response Plans9

How Accident History Affects LEPCs10

Using and Managing Data11

How LEPCs Communicate with the Public12

Changes in Activity Since 9/11: A Focus on Homeland Security.13

Types of Assistance14

Success Factors and Obstacles to Success15

Additional LEPC Needs16

Conclusion17

Appendix A: Survey Responses by Question19

Appendix B: Cross-Tabulations28

Appendix C: LEPC Websites33

Appendix D: Map of EPA Regions.35

Appendix E: Survey Questions36



Background and Introduction

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986, enacted as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), was passed in the wake of the Bhopal disaster in India, where more than 2,000 people died as a result of an accidental release of a hazardous chemical. In order to prevent similar occurrences in the United States, EPCRA established a national framework to mobilize local government officials, businesses, and other citizens to plan for chemical accidents in their communities and required each state to create a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC).

SERCs were charged with establishing Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), which provide a forum for first responders, State and local elected officials, emergency managers, industry representatives, hospital and public health officials, the news media, and the general community to work together and achieve local solutions. LEPCs work to identify chemical hazards, develop and maintain emergency plans in case of an accidental release, and encourage continuous attention to chemical safety, risk reduction, and accident prevention in their communities. Because of their broad-based membership, LEPCs are able to foster a valuable dialogue within the community to prevent and prepare for accidental (and terrorist-related) releases of hazardous chemicals.

In April 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Emergency Management (OEM) conducted a Nationwide Survey of Local Emergency Planning Committees (2008 LEPC Survey). EPA surveyed LEPCs in both 1994 and 1999 to gauge levels of LEPC compliance and activity, but there had been no subsequent systematic nationwide analysis of LEPC activity.

In the seven years since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, local emergency planning has evolved — most notably, in the amount of information available to assist LEPCs in preparing for and preventing chemical emergencies. EPA decided to “check the pulse” of LEPCs across the nation by conducting the 2008 LEPC Survey. The goals of this survey were to:

1. Track the progress of LEPCs by assessing their current activity; and
2. Probe current LEPC practices and preferences regarding several important issues, including: communication with local citizens, proactive accident prevention efforts, and the effectiveness of selected OEM products and services.

Methodology and Approach

Survey Design

The 2008 LEPC Survey employed a universe or census approach. Both lessons-learned from prior LEPC surveys and limited knowledge of the composition of the entire population of LEPCs made a census-based approach most appropriate. Because the methodologies used in this survey differed from those used in past surveys, it is important to note that comparisons between the results reported here and past surveys are not statistically significant.

Data Collection

While previous surveys were paper-based, the 2008 LEPC Survey was administered electronically in an attempt to reduce the burden on respondents, increase efficiency, and improve data quality. To ensure confidentiality, provide technical assistance, and guarantee that specific data quality objectives were met, a third-party contractor administered the survey.

In the months prior to launching the survey, EPA conducted a major outreach effort to update the contact information in its LEPC database. At the conclusion of this effort, the database contained e-mail addresses for 2,670 of the more than 3,000 known LEPCs.

On April 2, 2008, EPA launched the Web-based LEPC Survey by sending electronic survey invitations to each LEPC contact person with a listed e-mail address. In the invitation, each contact person was given a user name (their email address) and a unique alpha-numeric password. 313 of the original emails were returned as undeliverable, making the universe of potential respondents 2,357.

The survey was open for five weeks and closed on May 7, 2008. Two reminder emails were sent to all those who had not completed the survey on April 23, 2008 and on May 5, 2008. At the close of the survey, 939 LEPCs had responded, yielding a response rate of 39.8%.

Although a total of 939 LEPC representatives took the survey, the number of people who answered each question varied. Individuals were not required to answer every question and were able to skip questions. Finally, individuals who responded in either the affirmative or negative for certain questions were routed past other questions. Furthermore, for some questions, respondents were able to “select all that apply.”

Data Analysis

A third-party contractor reviewed survey data to ensure data quality. Certain answers were recoded for consistency purposes. Aggregate data tables that contain response frequencies and results for each survey question are included in Appendix A. Special analyses were conducted (cross-tabulations) to determine the relationship between two questions and selective, noteworthy findings are included in Appendix B. This report highlights important findings from both the aggregate data tables and the cross-tabulation tables.

The final survey question was open-ended, allowing LEPCs to provide additional comments, including best practices. Answers to this open-ended question were reviewed and compiled thematically. Important findings from comments provided are included throughout this report.

Maintaining the LEPC Database

The LEPC database currently has over 3,000 listings. It is EPA’s intent to provide the most current and accurate information. We look to the LEPC community to help us successfully meet this goal. Please forward any changes or corrections to OEM_Homepage@epa.gov. LEPC updates and additions are made as they are received.

Executive Summary – What We Learned

Overview

In April 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Emergency Management (OEM) conducted a nationwide survey of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). LEPCs serve as the fundamental link between citizens, industry, and government in emergency preparedness for communities. As the central point around which emergency management agencies, first responders, industry, and the community work together to enhance emergency preparedness, LEPCs are improving chemical safety and protecting human health and the environment in communities across this country.

EPA surveyed LEPCs in 1994 and 1999 to determine compliance and activity levels. The 2008 survey built on the previous surveys and was developed to assess LEPCs' current activities; and to probe LEPC practices and preferences regarding several important issues, including: communication with local citizens, proactive accident prevention efforts, and the effectiveness of selected OEM products and services. EPA launched the Web-based survey on April 2, 2008 with notification sent via email to a total of 2,357 LEPCs. The survey was password-protected and each LEPC representative was given a unique alpha-numeric password. Nine hundred and thirty nine LEPC representatives took the survey, yielding a response rate of 39.8%.

The majority of LEPCs responding to the 2008 survey serve rural or mixed rural/suburban residential populations under 50,000. Among the four U.S. regions, the Northeast is underrepresented in the survey data while the West, Midwest, and South are overrepresented. This difference in actual response rates vs. the universe of LEPCs is consistent with response rates from the 1999 LEPC Survey.

Survey results indicate that a dedicated membership is the greatest single factor contributing to an LEPC's success (33.3%) while 15.9% report that regularly scheduled meetings contribute most to their success as an organization. Furthermore, there is an obvious sense of pride in the work of the LEPC—64.9% of responding LEPCs report that the LEPC on which they serve has had a positive impact on chemical safety in their community.

Other Key Findings

- Nine out of every ten responding LEPCs met at least once in the past year — three quarters of those LEPCs met at least quarterly.
- Close to 60% of responding LEPCs reviewed and updated their emergency plan in the past 12 months.
- Three out of four responding LEPCs indicate that the majority of their membership is familiar with their emergency response plan.
- Over 75% of responding LEPCs exercised their emergency response plan in the past year with nearly seven of ten conducting full-scale exercises.
- The most active LEPCs are those that had at least one accident in the past five years.
- While three out of four LEPCs did not receive any technical assistance or guidance from the Federal government in the past five years, of those that did, 58.6% report that the assistance came from EPA. Close to 80% of those LEPCs indicate that EPA's support plays a significant role in guiding their LEPC activity.

- Nearly 70% of responding LEPCs that receive EPCRA Tier I and Tier II data receive it in the paper format.
- Over half of responding LEPCs use CAMEO.
- Two out of five responding LEPCs have an operating budget of which 35.9% is direct funding.
- Over half of responding LEPCs receive in-kind funding with the most frequent form being meeting space.
- Since the last LEPC survey in 1999, the percentage of LEPCs that incorporate homeland security into their emergency response plans nearly doubled (from 40.3% in 1999 to 77.5% today).
- Since 9/11, nearly half of responding LEPCs reported increasing their overall activity level. Only 4.0% said the overall activity level of their LEPC decreased since the events of 9/11.



How are LEPCs Doing?

Responding LEPCs provided critical information about their organization, membership, and meetings.

Organization

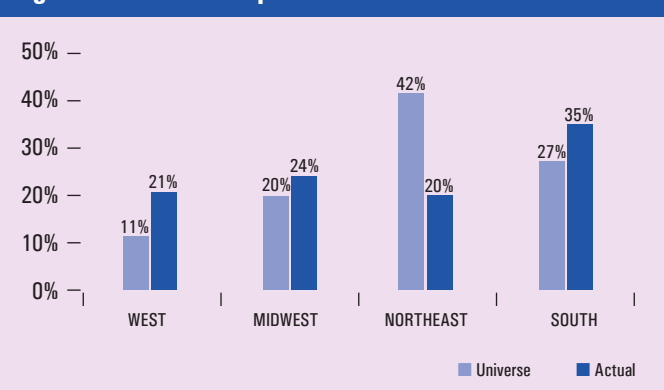
SERCs organized LEPCs within their respective states to facilitate emergency planning. Therefore, the number and average service area size of LEPCs in each state differs. Some SERCs established an LEPC for each county in the state, some established LEPCs for multi-county districts, and some established one LEPC for the entire state. According to the LEPC database, the number of LEPCs per state ranges from one to 553 (the average being 78). The number and make-up of LEPCs is not static; LEPC database update efforts and comments in the open-ended question of the survey show that LEPCs sometimes disband, form, and merge.

Table 1 below shows that the majority of responding LEPCs serve populations under 50,000 and are located in rural or mixed rural/suburban service areas; this finding is similar to those of previous surveys.

Table 1. Demographics		Service Area Type				
Population Size	Rural	Rural/Suburban	Suburban	Suburban/Urban	Urban	Total
< 50,000	40.2%	19.1%	2.1%	0.9%	0.2%	62.5%
50,001-100,000	4.2%	9.7%	0.8%	0.6%	0.5%	15.8%
100,001-500,000	1.4%	11.1%	0.6%	2.7%	1.4%	17.2%
500,001-1,000,000	0.0%	0.8%	0.2%	1.5%	0.1%	2.6%
> 1,000,000	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.9%	0.4%	1.9%
Grand Total	45.8%	41.3%	3.7%	6.6%	2.6%	100.0%

Figure 1 illustrates that over one-third (34.6%) of responding LEPCs operate in the South, one-quarter (24.2%) operate in the Midwest, and one-fifth operate in the West (20.9%) and in the Northeast (20.3%).¹ When these actual response rates are compared with the regional distribution of all known LEPCs, the Northeast is underrepresented and the West, Midwest, and South are overrepresented in the survey data. This difference in actual response rates vs. the universe of LEPCs is consistent with response rates from the 1999 LEPC Survey.

Figure 1: Actual Response Rates vs. Universe of LEPCs



¹In this report: LEPCs in EPA Regions 1, 2, and 3 compose the Northeast; EPA Regions 4 and 6 compose the South; EPA Regions 5 and 7 compose the Midwest; and EPA Regions 8, 9, and 10 compose the West. Refer to Appendix D for an EPA Regional Map.

Membership

Under EPCRA, LEPC membership must include (at a minimum): elected state and local officials; police, fire, civil defense, and public health professionals; environment, transportation, and hospital officials; facility representatives; and representatives from community groups and the media.

Figure 2 shows the membership of responding LEPCs. Participation on LEPCs by fire departments or hazmat representatives (93.2%), law enforcement representatives (90.7%), and civil defense representatives and emergency managers (87.1%) are highest. Survey results also reveal that the majority (65.8%) of responding LEPCs elect their chairpersons. Previous surveys did not ask for this level of detail regarding membership. The 1994 and 1999 only collected the total number of individual members in the LEPC.

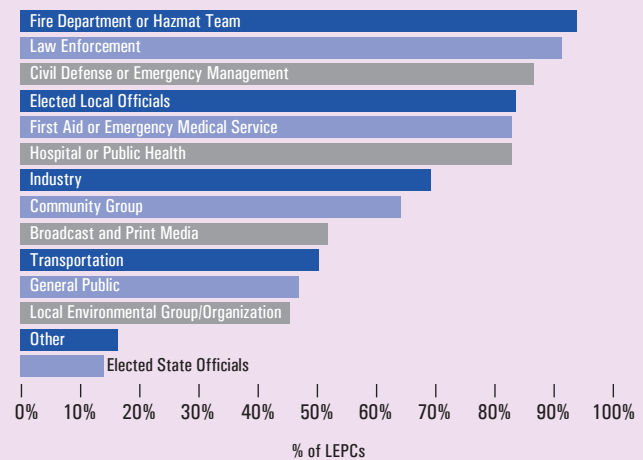
Meetings

38.7% of LEPCs said they met quarterly in the past twelve months, 11.8% met as needed, and 8.8% reported that they had not met. Those that had not met in the past 12 months most frequently cited a lack of interest from members (30.4%), while 8.9% said they had not met due to a lack of resources. LEPCs located in more suburban or urban service areas are more likely to meet bi-monthly than those located in rural areas (see Appendix B, Table 1). Data also show that as accident history in LEPC service area decreases, so does the likelihood that the LEPC met in the past 12 months (see Appendix B, Table 2).

The majority of responding LEPCs (67.6%) indicate that they advertise their meetings to the public, primarily in newspapers (63.5%). This finding is consistent with findings in previous surveys. LEPCs also advertise with postings on-line (42.9%) and in government buildings (42.4%).

In the open-ended question, many LEPCs shared that achieving good participation rates at meetings is difficult because LEPC members are volunteers and are often busy with their other jobs or familial commitments. Several LEPCs that serve small rural populations noted that they had merged with other LEPCs serving similar populations and that this merger effectively increased LEPC activity and support.

Figure 2: LEPCs Membership



Emergency Response Plans

EPCRA required that LEPCs submit an emergency response plan to their SERC no later than October 1998. Required elements of emergency response plans include, among other things, the identification of facilities and transportation routes of extremely hazardous substances, descriptions of emergency response procedures, outlines of emergency notification procedures and evacuation plans, and designation of a community coordinator and facility emergency coordinator(s) to implement the plan.

Close to 60% of responding LEPCs (58.7%) reviewed and updated their emergency plan in the past 12 months. Furthermore, 42.8% of LEPCs said that their plan was reviewed by their SERC in the last 12 months. Over one-third (37.4%) of responding LEPCs said their emergency response plans were authored primarily by more than one LEPC member and many (32.9%) said that the plan was authored by both LEPC members and outside sources.

LEPCs most frequently answered “somewhat familiar” (36.5%) or “familiar” (35.5%) when asked, “How familiar are the majority of your LEPC members with your emergency response plan?” Data show that members of LEPCs that met in the past 12 months are more likely to be familiar with their emergency response plans than members of LEPCs that did not meet (see Appendix B, Table 3).

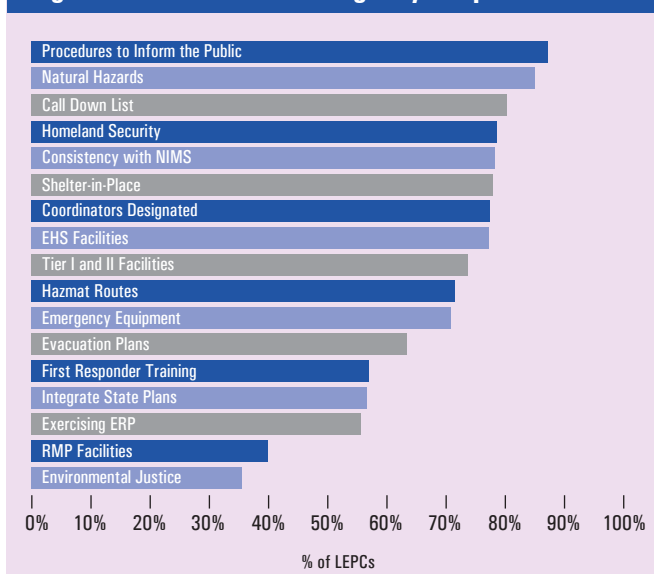
Figure 3 shows the various contents of LEPCs’ emergency response plans. Close to nine out of ten LEPCs report that their plans include procedures to inform the public about natural hazards. Fewer than 40% of responding LEPCs include environmental justice in their plans. Of note, the percentage of responding LEPCs that include Homeland Security (77.5%) in their emergency response plan is considerably higher than the 40.3% reported in the 1999 survey. (More detailed findings on Homeland Security can be found on page 13 of this report.)

More than three-quarters of responding LEPCs (76.8%) exercise their emergency response plans; 71.3% of those LEPCs exercised that plan within the past 12 months. This finding is similar to findings from previous surveys. 74.0% of functioning LEPCs in the 1994 survey and 69.1% of active LEPCs in the 1999 survey indicated that they had exercised their emergency response plan in the past year.² Results from the 2008 LEPC Survey indicate that LEPCs most frequently exercise their plans using table-top (83.5%) or full-scale (68.9%) exercises.

Data also show that LEPCs that reviewed their emergency response plans either in the past 12 months or within the past one to two years are more likely to exercise their plan than those that did not review it as recently (see Appendix B, Table 4).

When asked what plan emergency responders would use if a chemical accident occurred in an LEPC’s jurisdiction, respondents were able to “select all that apply” — 54.3% said that responders would use a plan developed by the LEPC, 56.5% said that they would use a plan developed by another emergency response organization, and 46.5% said responders would coordinate their response efforts with a plan developed by a chemical facility.

Figure 3: Contents of Emergency Response Plan



²Past surveys developed specific criteria to determine whether an LEPC was active or functioning. The 1999 LEPC Survey report is available online at <http://www.epa.gov/OEM/docs/chem/lepcsuv.pdf>

How Accident History Affects LEPCs

Responding LEPCs most frequently report that one to five chemical accidents occurred in their service area over the past five years. LEPCs also report that these chemical accidents resulted in improved coordination efforts between their LEPC and industry/facilities in their service area (54.4%) and in the revision of emergency response plans based on lessons-learned from the accidents (42.1%). Interestingly, LEPCs located in communities that had no accidents in the past five years indicate lower levels of agreement that their LEPC has a positive impact on chemical safety in their community. The more accidents that occur within a community, the higher level of agreement that the LEPC has a positive impact on chemical safety in their community (see Appendix B, Table 5).



Using and Managing Data

Survey respondents provided feedback on the ways that they use CAMEO, Tier I and II data, and RMP data. Questions related to data use and management and specifically asked whether LEPCs use specific applications/data and how they use those applications/data.

CAMEO

Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) is a system of software applications used to plan for and respond to chemical emergencies. Developed by EPA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Response and Restoration, CAMEO assists front-line chemical emergency planners and responders to access, store, and evaluate information critical for developing emergency plans.

Approximately half of responding LEPCs (51.4%) report use of CAMEO, most often to access chemical information (74.8%), for emergency planning (72.5%), and for actual emergencies (71.6%). 55.4% of LEPCs that use CAMEO use it to manage Tier II data. In the open-ended question, several LEPCs requested that EPA provide training on CAMEO.

Tier I and II Data

Facilities subject to EPCRA sections 311-312 are required to annually submit an Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form to their LEPC, SERC, and local fire department. Facilities provide either a Tier I or Tier II form (in most states the Tier II form is required). EPA developed *Tier2 Submit* to help facilities prepare an electronic chemical inventory report. Responding LEPCs primarily receive Tier I and II data via paper submissions (68.7%) with 14.9% of LEPCs primarily receiving that data via state or local electronic submissions (e.g., diskette or CD). Only 8.1% of responding LEPCs receive Tier II data through *Tier2 Submit* from EPA. LEPCs that serve large urban populations are more likely to receive data via electronic submission or via web-based submission (see Appendix B, Tables 6 and 7).

When asked how they manage Tier I and II data, LEPCs most frequently responded through paper files (73.7%) while 29.7% use CAMEO to manage Tier I and II data. 37.4% of responding LEPCs only use paper filing systems to manage this data, a decrease from both the 1994 and 1998 surveys (55.0% and 46.6% respectively).

The majority of responding LEPCs (75.6%) use Tier I and II data for emergency planning purposes (e.g., hazard analysis and identification of risk areas) and emergency response (71.0%). 39.4% use the data to make preparedness recommendations to local governments and 12.0% use the data to make hazard reduction recommendations to industry.

RMP Data

Under section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act, facilities that produce, handle, process, distribute, or store certain chemicals are required to develop a Risk Management Program, prepare a Risk Management Plan (RMP), and submit the RMP to EPA. Approximately one-third (32.5%) of responding LEPCs use RMP data.

LEPCs that serve larger populations and areas with a history of chemical accidents are more likely to use RMP data (see Appendix B, Tables 8 and 9). Most LEPCs that use RMP data use the data to improve emergency planning (88.6%) and for emergency response (77.9%). 40.4% use the data to support homeland security and 38.6% use the data to work with industry to prevent accidents.

The majority of LEPCs that use RMP data obtain the data from their state (62.3%) although 15.7% obtain it from EPA. The vast majority of those who answered "other" (55.9%) obtain the data directly from facilities.

How LEPCs Communicate with the Public

Since 9/11, 76.0% of LEPCs report that the number of requests from the public for information has stayed the same. However, 42.2% of LEPCs report a change in the way chemical hazard information is made available to the public due to homeland security concerns. Larger populations with a greater history of accidents are more likely to have changed the way chemical hazard information is made available to the public (see Appendix B, Tables 10 and 11).

The majority of responding LEPCs (59.1%) notify the public that their emergency plan and chemical hazard information is available, most often through notices in the newspaper (66.6%), which is consistent with how LEPCs say they advertise public meetings.

LEPCs that notify the public of their meetings are also more likely to notify the public that their emergency plans and chemical hazard information are available (see Appendix B, Table 12). Those LEPCs whose membership includes general public representatives are more likely to advertise public meetings and are more likely to notify the public that their plan and emergency information is available (see Appendix B, Tables 13 and 14).

Less than one-quarter (23.6%) of responding LEPCs have a website.³ LEPCs serving large urban populations with a greater history of accidents are more likely to have a website (see Appendix B, Tables 15-17).

LEPCs most often report that radio/TV announcements (88.3%), fire/police departments going door-to-door (82.4%), and an emergency broadcast system (62.7%) are the mechanisms used to notify the public of a release requiring evacuation or shelter-in-place.

Most LEPCs (56.4%) received no public inquiries in the past 12 months; however 36.4% reported receiving and responding to one to five public inquiries. Those LEPCs that advertise meetings and the availability of their emergency plan and chemical information to the public, that serve large urban populations with higher accident histories, and that have a website, are most likely to receive a greater number of public inquiries (see Appendix B, Tables 18-23).

Responding LEPCs interact with chemical facilities in their service area most often through meetings (53.5%), visits to the facilities (45.8%), and the collection of reports and fees (44.6%). When asked how frequently LEPCs communicate with facilities (other than for the receipt of reports/fees), LEPCs most often answered annually (36.7%). Those LEPCs that use Tier I and II data and RMP data to make hazard reduction recommendations to industry are more likely to have more frequent contacts with industry (see Appendix B, Table 24).

³As part of the 2008 LEPC Survey, LEPCs were asked if they had a website and had the option to provide that website for inclusion in this report. A list of functional websites provided is available in Appendix C.

Changes in Activity Since 9/11: A Focus on Homeland Security

One of the primary goals of the 2008 LEPC Survey was to determine how LEPC activities changed in the post 9/11 environment. Questions on homeland security (*defined for the purposes of this survey as the potential for terrorist events and/or events extending beyond chemical to radiological and biological incidents*) were first asked in the 1999 survey. At that time, 40.3% of active LEPCs indicated they had incorporated counter-terrorism measures into their emergency response plans. 2008 survey results show that a much higher percentage of responding LEPCs incorporated homeland security into their plans (77.5%).

When asked how LEPC activity levels changed since 9/11, responding LEPCs most frequently reported that their level of activity remained the same (43.9%). 14.9% of LEPCs said their activity levels increased greatly, and one-third (33.0%) said their activity levels increased somewhat. Only 4.0% said the overall activity level of their LEPC decreased since the events of 9/11.

LEPCs were originally designed to provide a forum for emergency management agencies, responders, industry, and the public to work together to evaluate, understand, and communicate chemical hazards in the community and develop appropriate emergency plans in case of accidental release of these chemicals. However, in recent years, LEPCs' planning efforts have often been refocused to include planning for a variety of disaster that may affect their communities.

Numerous LEPCs report that since 9/11, they take an all-hazards approach to planning and no longer solely focus on chemical emergency preparedness. For some LEPCs, this has resulted in increased interest and participation from both current LEPC membership as well as from the general public.

Many LEPCs also commented on their relationship with the emergency management agency (EMA) in their service area. As LEPCs take more of an all-hazards approach to planning, some responding LEPCs indicate that their activities are duplicative of those activities conducted by the local EMA. Some LEPCs report that they benefit from close coordination with the EMA, while others said that the local EMA had taken over LEPC activities, or that the LEPC had or desired to merge with the EMA.

Citizen Corps

In January 2002, the USA Freedom Corps was launched to build on the spirit of service that emerged throughout the country following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Citizen Corps is the component of USA Freedom Corps that creates opportunities for individuals to volunteer to help their communities prepare for and respond to emergencies. Coordinated nationally by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), at the local level, Citizen Corps initiatives are carried out by Citizen Corps Councils. Currently, there are 2,298 County/Local/Tribal Citizen Corps Councils⁴ across the country.

Survey results show that 46.6% of LEPCs have Citizen Corps Councils within their communities. LEPCs serving larger urban populations are more likely to have a Citizen Corps Council (see Appendix B, Tables 25 and 26). LEPCs most frequently report that they work independently from the Citizen Corps Council located in their community (36.5%), 26.7% coordinate and work in close cooperation with their Citizen Corps Council, and 24.8% report that their LEPC merged with their local Citizen Corps Council. LEPCs that serve larger populations are more likely to work independently from the Citizen Corps Council (see Appendix B, Table 27). In the open-ended question, several LEPCs said that merging with their Citizen Corps Council resulted in increased interest and meeting attendance as well as the incorporation of all-hazards planning.

⁴More information about Citizen Corps is available online at <http://www.citizencorps.gov/>

Types Of Assistance

Survey respondents provided feedback on the types of assistance that their LEPC receives. This assistance ranges from direct and indirect funding to technical assistance and guidance from Federal agencies.

Direct Funding

The majority of responding LEPCs do not have an operating budget (59.3%) and do not receive direct funding (64.1%). In the open-ended question, many LEPCs commented on the need for funding with several LEPCs noting that they would use this funding to develop alternative means of disseminating public warnings/notifications.

Most LEPCs that receive direct funding obtain it through state fees from EPCRA report submissions (54.2%) and Federal funding such as the Department of Transportation (DOT) Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grants (39.7%). In the open-ended question, several LEPCs that receive HMEP Grants identified the need for more freedom in determining how that funding is spent. LEPCs would like to use funding to hire personnel, buy equipment, and for activities not just related to chemical emergencies but to all hazards.

LEPCs that serve populations over 500,000 are more likely to receive direct funding than LEPCs that serve smaller populations (see Appendix B, Table 28). Furthermore, LEPCs that do not receive direct funding are more likely not to have met in the past 12 months (see Appendix B, Table 29).

Indirect Funding

More LEPCs receive indirect funding (56.3%) than direct funding, most often in the form of meeting space (93.3%), materials and office supplies (69.5%), and the use of computers or other equipment (68.9%).

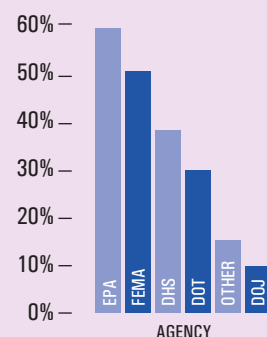
Technical Assistance/Guidance

The majority of LEPCs (72.8%) do not receive technical assistance or guidance from the Federal government. Figure 4 illustrates that those that receive technical assistance, most often receive that assistance from EPA (58.6%) and FEMA (51.7%).

The majority of LEPCs that receive support from EPA (77.9%) “agree” or “strongly agree” that this support plays a significant role in guiding their LEPC activities. Those LEPCs that receive EPCRA data through *Tier2 Submit* and RMP data from EPA are more likely to agree that EPA’s support has played a significant role in guiding their LEPC activities than LEPCs that receive data through other channels (see Appendix B, Tables 30 and 31).

When responding LEPCs were asked how frequently they visit the EPA OEM website (www.epa.gov/oem), 36.1% answered “never,” 28.4% answered “at least once a year,” and 21.8% reported visiting the site “at least once every six months.” Those who visited the website found the information they were looking for after browsing through the site (59.2%) or after performing a search (28.0%). The majority of LEPC representatives who use the website (66.0%) said they are “moderately satisfied” with the technical information they received.

Figure 4. Assistance from Federal Agencies

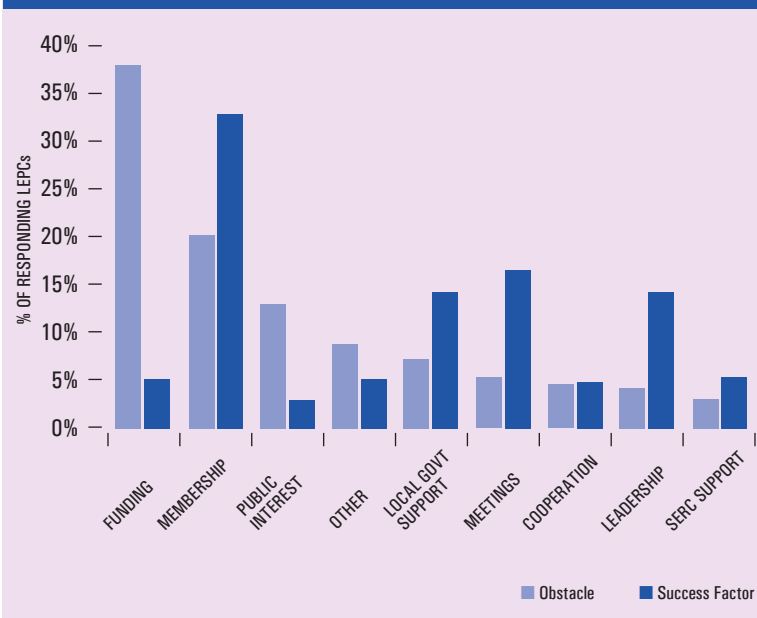


Success Factors and Obstacles to Success

Responding LEPCs most frequently report that dedicated membership is the greatest single factor contributing to the success of their LEPC (33.3%) while lack of funding is the greatest single obstacle (37.3%).

Figure 5 illustrates the importance of several success factors. For example, while LEPCs believe that a dedicated membership contributes most to their success (33.3%), 20.1% report that low membership is a hindrance. LEPCs also indicate lack of public interest as an obstacle to success.

Figure 5: Greatest Success Factors and Obstacles to Success



Additional LEPC Needs

The areas in which responding LEPCs most need assistance are outreach and communication with the public (42.5%) followed by identification of and compliance assistance for non-reporting facilities (39.7%). These findings are consistent with feedback received at conferences and through other mechanisms. In the open-ended question, many LEPCs requested EPA assistance with outreach tools that outline LEPC purposes and goals so that LEPCs could use the tools both to educate new or potential LEPC members in addition to members of the general public. Several LEPC coordinators also requested that EPA develop a compendium of LEPC Best Practices or operational guidance both to assist newly forming LEPCs and to provide ideas for improvement of existing LEPCs.

Conclusion

The 2008 LEPC Survey provides a high-level snapshot of LEPC activity in the post 9/11 world. As with similar surveys, the results of this survey raise additional questions and may encourage conversations to help focus future LEPC activities. Through this survey effort, LEPCs shared valuable information and best practices. At the same time, they provided concrete feedback on the challenges they face. Despite these challenges, LEPCs continue to play a vital role in community emergency preparedness and 64.9% of LEPCs report that they have had a positive impact on chemical safety in their communities.

Appendix A:

Survey Responses by Question

Although a total of 939 representatives of LEPCs completed the survey, the number of people who answered each question varied. Individuals were not required to answer each question and were able to skip questions. Finally, individuals who responded in either the affirmative or negative for certain questions were routed past questions. For other questions, respondents were able to “select all that apply.” For this reason, the percentage for those questions may be greater than 100%.

LEPC Structure

How is your chairperson chosen?	Frequency	Percent
Elected by LEPC	601	65.8%
Other ¹	184	20.2%
Volunteer	64	7.0%
Do not have a chairperson	23	2.5%
Have a chairperson but do not know how he/she was chosen	20	2.3%
Appointed by State Emergency response Commission (SERC)	15	1.6%
Rotating basis	6	0.7%
Total	913	100.0%

Representatives from which of the following groups or organizations make up your LEPC's membership?	Frequency	Percent
Fire department (or Hazmat) representatives	875	93.2%
Law enforcement representatives	852	90.7%
Civil defense (or Emergency management) representatives	820	87.1%
Hospital or public health representatives	786	83.7%
First Aid (Emergency Medical Service) representatives	783	83.4%
Elected local officials	782	83.3%
Representatives from industry/facilities affected by EPA Tier III of the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1986	641	68.3%
Community group representatives	597	63.6%
Broadcast and print media representatives	507	54.0%
Transportation representatives	492	52.4%
General public	467	49.7%
Local environmental group/organization representatives	427	45.5%
Other ²	132	14.1%
Elected state officials	106	11.3%
Total	939	

¹ Other includes: appointed by other local representatives (87) (including County Commissioners, Mayors or EMA directors) and likely other paid positions (70) (including County Judges, Local Emergency Management Manager, or Fire Chief)

² Other includes: local schools, colleges, universities, agriculture groups, and public utilities

Is there currently a Citizen Corps Council ³ within your community?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	421	46.6%
No	483	53.4%
Total	904	100%

Please describe the relationship between your LEPC and the Citizen Corps Council within your community.	Frequency	Percent
My LEPC and the Citizen Corps Council work independently	153	36.5%
My LEPC coordinates closely and works in cooperation with the Citizen Corps Council	113	26.7%
My LEPC merged with the Citizen Corps Council	104	24.8%
My LEPC infrequently coordinates with the Citizen Corps Council	49	11.7%
Total	419	100%

LEPC Meetings

How often has your LEPC met in the past 12 months?	Frequency	Percent
Weekly	0	0.0%
Monthly	158	17.4%
Bi-Monthly (every other month)	148	16.3%
Quarterly	352	38.7%
Yearly	64	7.0%
As needed	107	11.8%
Has not met in the past 12 months	80	8.8%
Total	909	100%

Why has your LEPC not met in the past 12 months?	Frequency	Percent
Did not need to meet	12	15.2%
No interest from members	24	30.4%
Insufficient resources (meeting location, time, funding)	7	8.9%
LEPC activities covered at other meetings	18	22.8%
Other ⁴	18	22.8%
Total	79	100%

Do you advertise your LEPC meetings to the public?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	606	67.6%
No	291	32.4%
Total	897	100%

How do you advertise your LEPC meetings to the public?	Frequency	Percent
Newspapers	385	63.5%
On-line	260	42.9%
Postings in government buildings	257	42.4%
Mailings	102	16.8%
Other ⁵	64	10.6%
Flyers and handouts	43	7.1%
Total	606	

³ A component of USA Freedom Corps that creates opportunities for individuals to volunteer to help their communities prepare for and respond to emergencies by bringing together local leaders, citizen volunteers and the network of first responder organizations.

⁴ Other includes: currently in transition, inactive and lack of interest/time

⁵ Other includes: media other than print (39), other local publications (7), and phone calls (6)

Emergency Plans

When did your LEPC last review and update its emergency response plan?	Frequency	Percent
Within the past 12 months	525	58.7%
1 - 2 years ago	137	15.3%
Over 2 years ago	112	12.5%
Plan has not yet been reviewed or updated	28	3.1%
Have a plan, but do not know when it was last reviewed and updated	41	4.6%
Do not have a plan	52	5.8%
Total	895	100%

Who was the primary author of your LEPC's emergency plan?	Frequency	Percent
One LEPC member	146	17.5%
More than one LEPC member	311	37.4%
Both LEPC members and outside sources	274	32.9%
A consultant or other outside party	101	12.1%
Total	832	100%

When did the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) last review your emergency plan?	Frequency	Percent
Within the past 12 months	346	42.8%
1 - 2 years ago	172	21.3%
Over 2 years ago	184	22.8%
Plan has not yet been reviewed	106	13.1%
Total	808	100%

How familiar are the majority of your LEPC members with your emergency response plan?	Frequency	Percent
Very Familiar	75	9.0%
Familiar	295	35.5%
Somewhat Familiar	303	36.5%
Slightly Familiar	124	14.9%
Not at All Familiar	33	4.0%
Total	830	100%

Does your emergency plan?	Frequency	Percent
Provide procedures for informing the public in an emergency	736	86.2%
Take into account natural hazards (e.g., hurricanes, earthquakes)	723	84.7%
Provide procedures for informing the key persons ("call down list") designated in the emergency plan	690	80.8%
Take into account homeland security (<i>The potential for terrorist events and/or events extending beyond chemical to radiological and biological incidents</i>)	662	77.5%
Demonstrate consistency with NIMS (National Incident Management System)	661	77.4%
Address use of shelter-in-place	660	77.3%
Designate a community emergency coordinator and facility emergency coordinators, who make necessary determinations to implement the plan	658	77.0%
Identify extremely hazardous substances (EHS) facilities subject to the plan	657	76.9%
Identify Tier I and II facilities	627	73.4%
Identify the routes likely to be used for the transportation of hazardous substances	606	71.0%
Describe emergency equipment available to the community	606	71.0%
Include evacuation plans, such as precautionary evacuations and alternative traffic routes	552	64.6%
Address training for first responders and other response personnel	514	60.2%

Integrate with other applicable state plans	514	60.2%
Outline methods to determine the area and population likely to be affected by a chemical release	509	59.6%
Include methods and schedules for exercising the emergency plan	478	56.0%
Identify Risk Management Program (RMP) facilities	357	41.8%
Take into account environmental justice (<i>The fair treatment for people of all races, cultures, and incomes regarding the development of environmental laws, regulations, and policies</i>)	311	36.4%
Total	854	

Has your LEPC exercised your emergency plan?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	625	76.8%
No	189	23.2%
Total	814	100%

How have you exercised your emergency plan?	Frequency	Percent
Table-top exercise	522	83.5%
Full-scale exercise	430	68.9%
Drill	299	47.8%
Actual response	299	47.8%
Public briefing	82	13.1%
Other ⁶	21	4.5%
Total	625	

When did your LEPC last exercise its emergency plan?	Frequency	Percent
Within the past 12 months	442	71.3%
1 - 2 years ago	128	20.6%
Over 2 years ago	44	7.1%
Exercised plan, but do not know when	6	1.0%
Total	620	100%

If an emergency at a chemical facility occurred tomorrow, responders would coordinate their response efforts with a plan developed by:	Frequency	Percent
Another emergency response organization (not the LEPC)	531	56.5%
The LEPC	510	54.3%
Chemical facility	437	46.5%
Other ⁷	28	3.0%
Do not know	23	2.4%
Total	939	

In the past five years, approximately how many chemical accidents have occurred in your LEPC's service area?	Frequency	Percent
None	162	18.8%
1 - 5	422	48.9%
6 - 10	108	12.5%
11 - 15	40	4.6%
15 or more	131	15.2%
Total	863	100%

⁶ Other includes: functional exercise (12)

⁷ Other includes: do not have a chemical facility (9), case-by-case (3), and Incident Commander (2)

How did these chemical accidents most impact the way your LEPC operates?	Frequency	Percent
Improved coordination efforts with industry/facilities	327	54.4%
Did not impact	266	44.3%
Revised emergency plan based on lessons-learned	253	42.1%
Extended LEPC membership	106	17.6%
Changed the way information is made available to the public	89	14.8%
Other ⁸	38	6.3%
Increased frequency of LEPC meetings	26	4.3%
Total	601	100%

Data Use and Management

How do you primarily receive Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Tier I and II data (Sections 311-312)?	Frequency	Percent
Paper	596	68.7%
State or local electronic submission (e.g., diskette or CD)	129	14.9%
State or local Web-based submission	73	8.4%
Tier II Submit from EPA	70	8.1%
Total	868	100%

How does your LEPC manage EPCRA Tier I and II data?	Frequency	Percent
Paper files	692	73.7%
CAMEO (Computer-Aided Monitoring of Emergency Operations) (A suite of software developed by EPA and NOAA used widely to plan for and respond to chemical emergencies)	279	29.7%
Database created by LEPC	144	15.3%
Other state or local database	143	15.2%
Web-based database	65	6.9%
Other ⁹	28	3.0%
Total	939	

How does your LEPC use EPCRA Tier I and II data?	Frequency	Percent
For emergency planning (e.g., hazard analysis, identification of risk areas)	712	75.6%
For emergency response	668	71.0%
To respond to public inquiries	420	44.7%
To make preparedness recommendations to local government	370	39.4%
To make hazard reduction recommendations to industry	113	12.0%
For zoning or other land use issues	80	8.5%
Other ¹⁰	30	3.6%
Total	939	

Does your LEPC use Risk Management Program (RMP) data?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	272	32.5%
No	566	67.5%
Total	838	100%

⁸ Other includes: increased awareness (9) increased training (4), and added reverse 911 system (2)

⁹ Other includes: do not know (5), not using (5) and E-Plan (4)

¹⁰ Other includes: not used by LEPC (17) , and for reference (2)

For what purpose(s) does your LEPC use RMP data?	Frequency	Percent
To improve you local emergency planning	241	88.6%
For emergency response	212	77.9%
To support Homeland security	110	40.4%
To work with industry to prevent accidents	105	38.6%
Other ¹¹	7	2.6%
Total	272	

From what source does your LEPC primarily obtain RMP data?	Frequency	Percent
State	167	62.3%
Other ¹²	59	22.0%
EPA	42	15.7%
Total	268	100.0%

Does your LEPC use CAMEO?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	444	51.4%
No	420	48.6%
Total	864	100.0%

For what purpose(s) does your LEPC use CAMEO?	Frequency	Percent
To access chemical information	332	74.8%
For emergency planning (e.g., screening and contingency plans)	324	72.5%
For actual emergencies	318	71.6%
For drills and exercises	313	70.5%
To manage Tier II data	246	55.4%
To respond to public inquires	124	27.9%
Other ¹³	6	1.4%
Total	444	

Communication

Does your LEPC have a Web site?	Frequency	Percent
Yes ¹⁴	207	23.6%
No	671	76.4%
Total		100%

Does your LEPC notify the public that its emergency plan and chemical hazard information is available?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	512	59.1%
No	355	40.9%
Total	867	100%

¹¹ Other includes: training, awareness and used by local administrators

¹² Other includes: facilities (33), local/county government (10), businesses (5)

¹³ Other includes: do not use/know, and mapping transportation routes

¹⁴ Web site addresses are listed in Appendix C

How does your LEPC notify the public that its emergency plan and chemical hazard information is available?	Frequency	Percent
Newspaper	341	66.6%
Public meetings	248	48.4%
Brochures	112	21.9%
LEPC Web site	100	19.5%
Radio/TV	75	14.6%
Other ¹⁵	46	8.9%
Total	512	

Which of the following mechanisms are in place to notify the public of a release requiring evacuation or shelter in place?	Frequency	Percent
Radio/TV announcements	829	88.3%
Fire/police – going door to door	774	82.4%
Emergency broadcast system	589	62.7%
Vehicle mounted voice communication	538	57.3%
Fixed sirens/audible alarms	386	41.1%
Telephone dialers	349	37.2%
Internet/cell phone alerts	251	26.7%
Fixed message boards on public roadways	158	16.8%
Other ¹⁶	35	3.7%
Do not know	11	1.2%
Total	939	

How many public inquiries has your LEPC received and responded to during the past 12 months?	Frequency	Percent
None	490	56.4%
1-5 inquiries	316	36.4%
6-10 inquiries	32	3.7%
10-20 inquiries	20	2.3%
21 or more	11	1.3%
Total	869	100%

How does your LEPC interact with chemical facilities in your area of service?	Frequency	Percent
Meetings	502	53.5%
Visits to the facilities	430	45.8%
Collecting reports/fees	419	44.6%
Discussion about Risk Management Program (RMP) plans	120	12.8%
Other ¹⁷	76	8.1%
Total	939	

¹⁵ Other includes: other web sites (17), library (5), posting in government buildings (3) and word of mouth (3)

¹⁶ Other includes: CodeRed emergency notification (6), mobile message board (4), and currently updating (4)

¹⁷ Other includes: not applicable (26), incident response (4) and fire department inspections/visits (3)

Other than receipt of reports/fees from chemical facilities in your area of service, how often does your LEPC communicate with those facilities?	Frequency	Percent
Weekly	4	0.5%
Monthly	74	8.6%
Quarterly	193	22.5%
Every six months	54	6.3%
Annually	314	36.7%
Never	217	25.4%
Total	856	100.0%

Funding

Does your LEPC have an operating budget?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	355	40.7%
No	518	59.3%
Total	873	100.0%

Does your LEPC receive direct funding?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	312	35.9%
No	556	64.1%
Total	868	100.0%

Please indicate the agencies/organizations from which your LEPC receives direct funding.	Frequency	Percent
State fees from Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) report submission	169	54.2%
Federal funding – e.g., Hazmat Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grants	124	39.7%
Other local government funding	105	33.7%
Other state government funding	64	20.5%
Local fees from EPCRA report submission	27	8.7%
Private industry	26	8.3%
Other ¹⁸	15	4.8%
Total	312	

Does your LEPC receive any indirect/in-kind funding (e.g., meeting space, office equipment)?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	489	56.3%
No	379	43.7%
Total	868	100.0%

Please indicate the type of indirect funding your LEPC receives.	Frequency	Percent
Meeting space	456	93.3%
Materials or office supplies	340	69.5%
Use of computers or other equipment	337	68.9%
Office space	280	57.3%
Printing	264	54.0%
Other ¹⁹	47	9.6%
Total	489	

¹⁸ Other includes: other grants (7), donations (3) and membership dues (2)

¹⁹ Other includes: supplemental staff (25), grants (4) and advertisements (3)

Support from Federal Agencies

In the past five years, did your LEPC receive technical assistance or guidance from any federal government agencies?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	232	27.2%
No	621	72.8%
Total	853	100.0%

From which of the following federal agencies did your LEPC receive technical assistance or guidance?	Frequency	Percent
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	136	58.6%
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	120	51.7%
DHS (other than FEMA)	89	38.4%
U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)	69	29.7%
Other ²⁰	34	14.7%
U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	23	9.9%
Total	232	

The support (technical assistance or guidance) received from EPA has played a significant role in guiding your LEPC's activities:	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	18	12.9%
Agree	77	55.0%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	38	27.1%
Disagree	5	3.6%
Strongly Disagree	2	1.4%
Total	140	100%

As a representative of your LEPC, how often do you visit the EPA Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Web site http://www.epa.gov/oem (formerly http://www.epa.gov/ceppo) for technical guidance or other information?	Frequency	Percent
At least once a week	22	2.5%
At least once a month	97	11.1%
At least once every six months	190	21.8%
At least once a year	248	28.4%
Never	315	36.1%
Total	872	100%

When visiting the OEM Web site, I found the information I was looking for:	Frequency	Percent
After browsing through the site	319	59.2%
After performing a site search	151	28.0%
Right away	44	8.2%
I was unable to find the exact information	25	4.6%
Total		100%

²⁰ Other includes: OSHA (2), DOE (1) and DNR (1) Note: many survey respondents included different state sources including SERC, state DEQ and the state EMA when the questions asked about Federal funding sources.

Please rank your level of satisfaction with the technical information you received by visiting the OEM Web site.	Frequency	Percent
Very Satisfied	87	16.1%
Moderately Satisfied	356	66.0%
Slightly Satisfied	90	16.7%
Not At All Satisfied	6	1.1%
Total	539	100%

Homeland Security

Since the events of 9/11, the overall activity level of your LEPC has:	Frequency	Percent
Increased Greatly	130	14.9%
Increased Somewhat	288	33.0%
Stayed About the Same	383	43.9%
Decreased Somewhat	18	2.1%
Decreased Greatly	17	1.9%
Do Not Know	36	4.1%
Total	872	100%

Since 9/11, the number of requests from the public for chemical hazard information has:	Frequency	Percent
Increased Greatly	5	0.6%
Increased Somewhat	70	8.2%
Stayed About the Same	646	76.0%
Decreased Somewhat	13	1.5%
Decreased Greatly	15	1.8%
Do Not Know	101	11.9%
Total	850	100%

Since 9/11, has your LEPC changed the way chemical hazard information is made available to the public due to homeland security concerns?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	356	42.2%
No	488	57.8%
Total	844	100%

Strengths and Additional Needs

What is the single greatest factor contributing to the success of your LEPC?	Frequency	Percent
Dedicated membership	278	33.3%
Regularly scheduled meetings	133	15.9%
Dedicated leadership (Chair)	118	14.1%
Local government support	117	14.0%
State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) support	45	5.4%
Funding	44	5.3%
Other ²¹	42	5.0%
Cooperation from regulated community	39	4.7%
Public interest	18	2.2%
Total	834	100%

²¹ Other includes: LEPC not successful (13), agency leadership (4) and currently building LEPC (3)

What is the greatest obstacle to the success of your LEPC?	Frequency	Percent
Funding	318	37.3%
Low membership involvement	171	20.1%
Public apathy	110	12.9%
Other ²²	70	8.2%
Poor local government support	57	6.7%
Infrequent and/or irregular meetings	42	4.9%
Limited cooperation from regulated community	35	4.1%
Lack of dedicated leadership	30	3.5%
Poor State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) support	19	2.2%
Total	852	100%

In which of the following areas could your LEPC use assistance?	Frequency	Percent
Outreach and communicating with the public	399	42.5%
Identification and compliance assistance for non-reporting facilities	373	39.7%
Conducting drills and exercises	347	37.0%
Data management	320	34.1%
Developing/reviewing local emergency response plans	272	29.0%
Determining the level of risk in your jurisdiction	254	27.1%
Integrating homeland security into emergency plans	200	21.3%
Coordination with state and federal agencies	185	19.7%
Total	939	

The LEPC on which I serve has had a positive impact on chemical safety in the community (prevention, preparedness, and response).	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	139	15.9%
Agree	427	49.0%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	264	20.3%
Disagree	20	2.3%
Strongly Disagree	22	2.5%
Total	872	100%

²² Other includes: time constraints (13), none (10) and low staff (4)

Appendix B: Cross-Tabulations

Table 1. Q55 v. Q21	Relationship between activity level and service type				
Activity Level	Rural	Mixed/Rural	Suburban	Mixed/Suburban	Urban
Has not met	11.06%	6.97%	8.82%	6.67%	4.35%
Bi-monthly	11.78%	17.43%	26.47%	30.00%	21.74%
Monthly	13.94%	20.91%	14.71%	20.00%	21.74%
Quarterly	39.18%	40.21%	38.24%	31.67%	30.43%
Yearly	9.62%	4.29%	0.00%	8.33%	8.70%
As needed	14.42%	10.19%	11.76%	3.33%	13.04%

Table 2. Q21 v. Q8	Meeting Frequency in Past 12 Months	
Number of Accidents	Has Not Met	Has Met
0	11.11%	88.89%
01-5	9.74%	90.26%
06-10	8.33%	91.67%
11-15	5.00%	95.00%
15+	3.82%	96.18%

Table 3. Q15 v. Q8	Meeting Frequency in Past 12 Months	
Familiarity With Plan	Has Not Met	Has Met
Very Familiar	1.33%	98.67%
Familiar	4.75%	95.25%
Somewhat Familiar	5.94%	94.06%
Slightly Familiar	12.10%	87.90%
Not at All Familiar	42.42%	57.58%

Table 4. Q12 v. 17	ERP Exercised	
Last ERP Review	No	Yes
<12 months	14.62%	85.38%
1-2 years	23.88%	76.12%
Over 2 years	40.74%	59.26%
No review	66.67%	33.33%
Do not know	61.76%	38.24%
Do not have	100.00%	0.00%

Table 5 Q55 v. Q21	Relationship between accident level and community impact	
Community Impact	No Accidents	One or More Accidents
Strongly Agree	15.32%	84.68%
Agree	18.41%	81.59%
Neither	22.37%	77.63%
Disagree	22.22%	77.78%
Strongly Disagree	15.79%	84.21%

Table 6. Q2 v. Q23	Tier I and II Data Submitted			
Population Size	Electronic	Web	Paper	Tier2 Submit
<50,000	12.96%	7.59%	71.85%	7.59%
50,001-100,000	11.03%	5.15%	75.00%	8.82%
100,001-500,000	21.19%	12.58%	57.62%	8.61%
500,001-1,000,000	25.00%	8.33%	54.17%	12.50%
>1,000,000	40.00%	20.00%	40.00%	0.00%

Table 7. Q3 v. Q23	Tier I and II Data Submitted			
Service Area	Electronic	Web	Paper	Tier2 Submit
Rural	10.26%	8.72%	75.13%	5.90%
Mixed Rural	16.62%	8.03%	65.37%	9.97%
Suburban	23.53%	2.94%	61.76%	11.76%
Mixed Suburban	25.00%	6.67%	60.00%	8.33%
Urban	28.57%	19.05%	47.62%	4.76%

Table 8. Q2 v. Q26	RMP Use	
Population Size	No	Yes
<50,000	70.43%	29.57%
50,001-100,000	67.91%	32.09%
100,001-500,000	64.86%	35.14%
500,001-1,000,000	50.00%	50.00%
>1,000,000	25.00%	75.00%

Table 9. Q3 v. Q26	RMP Use	
Service Area	No	Yes
Rural	75.60%	24.40%
Mixed Rural	59.77%	40.23%
Suburban	75.76%	24.24%
Mixed Suburban	62.07%	37.93%
Urban	57.89%	42.11%

Table 10. Q2 v. Q51	Change in Info Made Available to Public	
Population Size	No	Yes
<50,000	61.22%	38.78%
50,001-100,000	59.69%	40.31%
100,001-500,000	49.66%	50.34%
500,001-1,000,000	39.13%	60.87%
>1,000,000	37.50%	62.50%

Table 11. Q21 v. Q51	Change in Info Made Available to Public	
Chemical Accidents	No	Yes
0	67.74%	32.26%
01-5	57.82%	42.18%
06-10	59.81%	40.19%
11-15	57.89%	42.11%
15+	44.09%	55.91%

Table 12. Q10 v. Q32		Notification of Plan	
Notification of Meeting	No	Yes	
No	65.34%	34.66%	
Yes	29.55%	70.45%	

Table 13. Q5 v. Q10		Meeting Advertisement	
Public Representation	No	Yes	
Yes	23.80%	76.20%	
No	41.46%	58.54%	

Table 14. Q5 v. Q32		Plan Notification	
Public Representation	No	Yes	
Yes	34.23%	65.77%	
No	47.99%	52.01%	

Table 15. Q2 v. Q31		Website	
Population	No	Yes	
<50,000	85.53%	14.47%	
50,001-100,000	72.26%	27.74%	
100,001-500,000	61.18%	38.82%	
500,001-1,000,000	25.00%	75.00%	
>1,000,000	25.00%	75.00%	

Table 16 Q3 v. Q31		Website	
Service Area	No	Yes	
Rural	83.63%	16.37%	
Mixed Rural	77.41%	22.59%	
Suburban	67.65%	32.35%	
Mixed Suburban	40.00%	60.00%	
Urban	42.86%	57.14%	

Table 17. Q21 v. Q31		Website	
Number of Accidents	No	Yes	
0	88.13%	11.88%	
01-5	81.67%	18.33%	
06-10	69.44%	30.56%	
11-15	60.00%	40.00%	
15+	59.54%	40.46%	

Table 18. Q10 v. Q35	Public Inquiries				
Notification of Meeting	0	01-05	06-10	10-20	21+
N	62.91%	31.64%	2.18%	2.18%	1.09%
Y	52.90%	38.91%	4.44%	2.39%	1.37%

Table 19. Q32 v. Q35	Public Inquiries				
Notification of Plan	0	01-05	06-10	10-20	21+
N	66.86%	29.75%	0.57%	2.27%	0.57%
Y	48.52%	41.42%	5.92%	2.37%	1.78%

Table 20. Q2 v. Q35	Public Inquiries				
Population Size	0	01-05	06-10	10-20	21+
<50,000	67.22%	29.26%	2.04%	0.93%	0.56%
50,001-100,000	47.79%	42.65%	7.35%	2.21%	0.00%
100,001-500,000	38.00%	50.00%	5.33%	4.67%	2.00%
500,001-1,000,000	12.50%	66.67%	0.00%	12.50%	8.33%
>1,000,000	0.00%	56.25%	18.75%	6.25%	18.75%

Table 21 Q3 v. Q35	Public Inquiries				
Service Area	0	01-05	06-10	10-20	21+
Rural	69.37%	27.34%	2.03%	1.01%	0.25%
Mixed Rural	50.00%	41.34%	4.75%	3.07%	0.84%
Suburban	33.33%	60.61%	0.00%	0.00%	6.06%
Mixed Suburban	30.00%	51.67%	6.67%	6.67%	5.00%
Urban	30.00%	45.00%	15.00%	0.00%	10.00%

Table 22. Q21 v. Q35	Public Inquiries				
Accidents	0	01-05	06-10	10-20	21+
0	78.13%	21.25%	0.00%	0.63%	0.00%
01-5	61.87%	31.65%	4.80%	1.44%	0.24%
06-10	40.74%	52.78%	2.78%	1.85%	1.85%
11-15	37.50%	50.00%	2.50%	7.50%	2.50%
15+	28.24%	54.96%	5.34%	6.11%	5.34%

Table 23. Q31 v. Q35	Public Inquiries				
Website	0	01-05	06-10	10-20	21+
No	60.69%	33.89%	3.31%	1.66%	0.45%
Yes	42.16%	44.61%	4.90%	4.41%	3.92%

Table 24. Q27 v. Q37	Chemical Facility Interaction					
Hazard Reduction Recommendations to Industry	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly	Semi-annually	Annually	Never
Yes	0.95%	17.14%	30.48%	11.43%	34.29%	5.71%
No	0.40%	7.46%	21.44%	5.59%	37.02%	28.10%

Table 25. Q2 v. Q6	Citizen Corps Council in Community	
Population Size	No	Yes
<50,000	64.36%	35.64%
50,001-100,000	41.96%	58.04%
100,001-500,000	32.26%	67.74%
500,001-1,000,000	30.43%	69.57%
>1,000,000	6.25%	93.75%

Table 26. Q3 v. Q6	Citizen Corps Council in Community	
Service Area	No	Yes
Rural	64.25%	35.75%
Mixed Rural	48.38%	51.62%
Suburban	44.12%	55.88%
Mixed Suburban	23.73%	76.27%
Urban	29.17%	70.83%

Table 27. Q2 v. Q7	Relationship Between LEPC and Citizen Corps Council			
Population Size	Independent	Merged	Coordinate Closely	Coordinate Infrequently
<50,000	27.86%	30.85%	30.85%	10.45%
50,001-100,000	36.59%	31.71%	24.39%	7.32%
100,001-500,000	47.12%	13.46%	25.00%	14.42%
500,001-1,000,000	43.75%	6.25%	25.00%	25.00%
>1,000,000	73.33%	6.67%	0.00%	20.00%

Table 28. Q2 v. Q39	Receives Direct Funding	
Population Size	No	Yes
<50,000	63.45%	36.55%
50,001-100,000	68.38%	31.62%
100,001-500,000	67.33%	32.67%
500,001-1,000,000	50.00%	50.00%
>1,000,000	37.50%	62.50%

Table 29. Q39 v. Q8	Meeting Frequency	
Direct Funding	Has Not Met	Has Met
No	12.97%	87.03%
Yes	1.28%	98.72%

Table 30. Q23 v. Q45	EPA Support Plays a Significant Role		
Receive EPCRA Data	Strongly Agree/Agree	Neither	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
Tier II	86.67%	13.33%	0.00%
Electronic	72.22%	22.22%	5.56%
Web	61.11%	33.33%	5.56%
Paper	65.91%	29.55%	4.55%

Table 31. Q28 v. Q45	EPA Support Plays a Significant Role		
Receive RMP Data	Strongly Agree/Agree	Neither	Disagree/Strongly Disagree
EPA	88.24%	5.88%	5.88%
Other	70.59%	23.53%	5.88%
State	66.67%	29.63%	3.70%

Appendix C: LEPC Websites

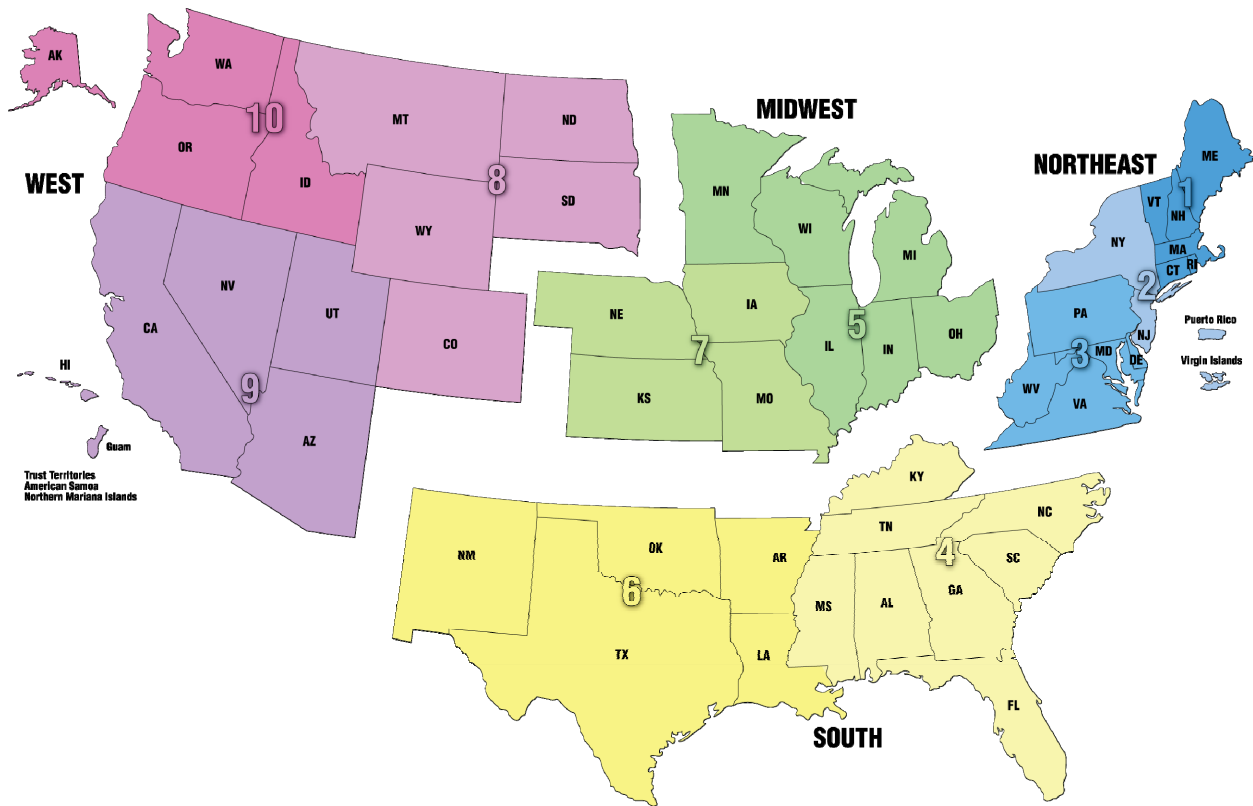
As part of the 2008 LEPC Survey, LEPCs were asked if they had a website and had the option to provide that website for inclusion in this report. A list of functional websites is provided below:

LEPC/EMA	STATE	Website Address
Northwest Arctic Borough	AK	www.nwabor.org
Shelby County	AL	http://www.shelbycountyalabama.com/
Maricopa County	AZ	www.maricopa.gov/emerg_mgt/
Boulder	CO	www.boulderoem.com
Jefferson County	CO	www.gcglc.com/LEPC.htm
Wolcott	CT	www.wolcottct.com/detail.cfm?sid=10
North Central Florida	FL	www.ncflepc.org
Southwest Florida Region	FL	www.swfrpc.org
Tampa Bay Region	FL	www.tbrpc.org/lepc/lepc.shtml
Treasure Coast Region	FL	www.trpc.org
Carroll County	GA	www.westgalepc.com
Cobb County	GA	www.cobbresourcecouncil.org
Columbia County	GA	http://www.columbiacountyga.gov/index.aspx?page=2570
Henry County	GA	www.henrycountylepc.org
Honolulu	HI	www.honolulu.gov/ocda/lepc/index1.htm
Region 5	IA	www.regionvhazmat.org
Story County	IA	www.storycounty.com/emergencymanagement
Jerome County	ID	www.jeromecounty.org
Clark County	IN	www.clarkcounty911.com/LEPC
Hamilton County	IN	www.in-hc-lepc.org/
Henry County	IN	www.henrycoema.org/
Marion	IN	www.gov.grant.in.uinquire.us/ema/lepc.html
Ripley County	IN	www.ripleylepc.com
Vanderburgh County	IN	www.lepc.evvindiana.org
Seward County	KS	www.sewardcountymem.com
Assumption Parish	LA	www.assumptionoep.com
St. Mary Parish	LA	www.parish.st-mary.la.us
Southwick County	MA	http://www.southwickma.org/Public_Documents/SouthwickMA_DeptPages/sema
Dorchester County	MD	www.dorchesterentymd-ema.com
Fredrick County	MD	www.co.frederick.md.us/index.asp?NID=2212&ART=4657&admin=1
Montgomery County	MD	www.montgomerycountymd.gov/firtmpl.asp?url=/content/firerescue/oem/s3lepc.asp
Worcester County	MD	http://www.co.worcester.md.us/EmergencyServices/local_emer_plng_comm.htm
Hancock County	ME	www.co.hancock.me.us/ema/side_menu/planning.html
Oxford County	ME	www.megalink.net/~oxctyema/
Marinette County	MI	www.marinettecounty.com
Andrew County	MO	http://www.andrewcounty.org/emergencymanagement.htm
Bootheel	MO	www.bootheellepc.com
Meramec Region	MO	www.meramecregion.org
Mo River	MO	www.mo-river.net/
St. Louis City	MO	www.stlouiscitylepc.com/
St. Louis County	MO	www.stlouisco.com/police/oem/lepc_1.html
Rowan County	NC	www.rowancountync.gov
Stokes County	NC	www.co.stokes.nc.us/em
Dickey County	ND	www.dickeynd.com
Sargent County	ND	www.sargentnd.com
Hall County	NE	www.grand-island.com/lepc/
Region 5-6	NE	www.region5-6.org
Ocean City	NJ	www.ocemergency.com

LEPC/EMA	STATE	Website Address
Albuquerque - Bernalillo	NM	www.lepcabq.org
Clovis-Curry County	NM	www.cityofclovis.org/lepc
Steuben County	NY	www.steubencony.org/emo/lepc.html
Bowling Green/Warren	OH	www.wclepc.org
City of Columbus	OH	www.cepac.org
Cuyahoga County	OH	www.lepc.cuyahogacounty.us
Montgomery/Greene County	OH	www.mgclerc.org
City of Atoka	OK	www.atokaeoc.org
Kingfisher	OK	www.kfrem.org
Berks County	PA	www.berksema.com
Bucks County	PA	www.buckslepc.org
Chester County	PA	www.chesco.org/des
Columbia County	PA	www.columbiacountyema.org
Fayette County	PA	www.fcema.org
Lehigh County	PA	www.lehighcounty.org/EMA/em.cfm?doc=LEPC.HTM
Westchester County	PA	www.westchestergov.com/health/LEPC2000.htm
Aiken County	SC	www.aikencountysc.gov/lepc/
Spartanburg County	SC	www.scoem.org
Brookings County	SD	www.emergency.brookingscountysd.gov/LEPC%20Homepage.htm
Clay County	SD	www.claycountyoe.org
Davison County	SD	www.davisoncounty.org
Lake County	SD	www.lakecountysd.com/lepc/
Bradley County	TN	www.bradleycountylepc.com
Morgan County	TN	www.morgancountyema.com
Roane County	TN	www.roanelepc.com
Beaver County	TX	www.ptsi.net/bvreoc
Coastal Plain	TX	www.coastalplainlepc.org
Collin County	TX	www.co.collin.tx.us/fire_marshall/lepc/lepc.jsp
Corpus Christi/Nueces	TX	www.cclepc.org
Humble	TX	http://www.cityofhumble.com/emd.html
Lubbock County	TX	www.co.lubbock.tx.us/LEPC/lepc.htm
Navarro County	TX	www.navarrocountyoe.org
Potter and Randall County	TX	www.potterrandall-lepc.com
Uintah County	UT	http://www.co.uintah.ut.us/em/lepc.php
Windham Region	VT	www.lepc.windham.vt.us/
Franklin County	WA	www.franklinem.org
Grays-Harbor County	WA	www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/info/DEM
Skamania County	WA	www.skamania-dem.org/LEPC.html
Milwaukee County	WI	http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/IncidentsDisasters15644.htm
Oneida County	WI	www.co.oneida.wi.gov
Cabell/Wayne	WV	www.cwlepc.com
Kanawha Putnam	WV	www.kpepc.org
Tyler County	WV	www.tylerwv.org
Lincoln County	WY	www.lcwy.org
Sweetwater County	WY	www.sweet.wy.us/ema
Uinta County	WY	http://www.uintacounty.com/index.asp?NID=125

Appendix D: Map of EPA Regions

For the purposes of this report, EPA Regions were combined into four larger geographic regions: Northeast (Regions 1, 2 and 3); South (Regions 4 and 6); Midwest (Regions 5 and 7); and West (Regions 8, 9 and 10)



Appendix E: Survey Questions

Demographic Information

1) In which state is your Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) located?

2) What size population does your LEPC serve?

- a) Fewer than 50,000
- b) 50,001 to 100,000
- c) 100,001 to 500,000
- d) 500,001 to 1,000,000
- e) More than 1,000,000

3) How would you best describe your LEPC's service area?

- a) Predominantly or entirely rural
- b) Mixed rural/suburban
- c) Predominantly suburban
- d) Mixed suburban/urban
- e) Predominantly or entirely urban

LEPC Structure

4) How is your chairperson chosen?

- a) Elected by LEPC
- b) Appointed by State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)
- c) Rotating basis
- d) Volunteer
- e) Other _____
- f) Have chairperson but do not know how he/she was chosen
- g) Do not have a chairperson

5) Representatives from which of the following groups or organizations make up your LEPC's membership? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Elected local officials
- ☐ Elected state officials
- ☐ Fire department (or Hazmat) representatives
- ☐ Law enforcement representatives
- ☐ Civil defense (or Emergency management) representatives
- ☐ First Aid (Emergency Medical Service) representatives
- ☐ Hospital or public health representatives
- ☐ Local environmental group/organization representatives
- ☐ Transportation representatives
- ☐ Broadcast and print media representatives
- ☐ Community group representatives
- ☐ General public

- ☐ Representatives from industry/facilities affected by EPA Title III of the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1986 representatives
 - ☐ Other _____
- 6) Is there currently a Citizen Corps Council (component of USA Freedom Corps that creates opportunities for individuals to volunteer to help their communities prepare for and respond to emergencies by bringing together local leaders, citizen volunteers and the network of first responder organizations) within your community?
- a) Yes
 - b) No – *Skip to Question 8*
- 7) Please describe the relationship between your LEPC and the Citizen Corps Council within your community.
- a) My LEPC merged with the Citizen Corps Council
 - b) My LEPC coordinates closely and works in cooperation with the Citizen Corps Council
 - c) My LEPC infrequently coordinates with the Citizen Corps Council
 - d) My LEPC and the Citizen Corps Council work independently

LEPC Meetings

- 8) How often has your LEPC met in the past 12 months?
- a) Weekly
 - b) Monthly
 - c) Bi-Monthly (every other month)
 - d) Quarterly
 - e) Yearly
 - f) As needed – *(a-f) Skip to Question 10*
 - g) Has not met in the past 12 months
- 9) Why has your LEPC not met in the past 12 months?
- a) Did not need to meet
 - b) No interest from members
 - c) Insufficient resources (meeting location, time, funding)
 - d) LEPC activities covered at other meetings
 - e) Other _____
- 10) Do you advertise your LEPC meetings to the public?
- a) Yes
 - b) No – *Skip to Question 12*
- 11) How do you advertise your LEPC meetings to the public? (Select all that apply)
- ☐ Newspapers
 - ☐ On-line
 - ☐ Flyers and handouts
 - ☐ Mailings
 - ☐ Postings in government buildings
 - ☐ Other _____

Emergency Plan

12) When did your LEPC last review and update its emergency response plan?

- a) Within the past 12 months
- b) 1 - 2 years ago
- c) Over 2 years ago
- d) Plan has not yet been reviewed or updated
- e) Have a plan, but do not know when it was last reviewed and updated
- f) Do not have a plan – *Skip to Question 19*

13) Who was the primary author of your LEPC's emergency plan?

- a) One LEPC member
- b) More than one LEPC member
- c) Both LEPC members and outside sources
- d) A consultant or other outside party

14) When did the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) last review your emergency plan?

- a) Within the past 12 months
- b) 1 - 2 years ago
- c) Over 2 years ago
- d) Plan has not yet been reviewed

15) How familiar are the majority of your LEPC members with your emergency response plan?

Very
Familiar

Familiar

Somewhat
Familiar

Slightly Familiar

Not at All
Familiar

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

16) Does your emergency plan? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Take into account natural hazards (e.g., hurricanes, earthquakes)
- ☐ Take into account homeland security (*The potential for terrorist events and/or events extending beyond chemical to radiological and biological incidents*)
- ☐ Take into account environmental justice (*The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies*)
- ☐ Identify extremely hazardous substances (EHS) facilities subject to the plan
- ☐ Identify Tier I and II facilities
- ☐ Identify Risk Management Program (RMP) facilities
- ☐ Identify the routes likely to be used for the transportation of hazardous substances
- ☐ Provide procedures for informing the key persons ("call down list") designated in the emergency plan
- ☐ Designate a community emergency coordinator and facility emergency coordinators, who make necessary determinations to implement the plan
- ☐ Provide procedures for informing the public in an emergency

- ☐ Address use of shelter-in-place
- ☐ Outline methods to determine the area and population likely to be affected by a chemical release
- ☐ Describe emergency equipment available to the community
- ☐ Include evacuation plans, such as precautionary evacuations and alternative traffic routes
- ☐ Address training for first responders and other response personnel
- ☐ Include methods and schedules for exercising the emergency plan
- ☐ Integrate with other applicable state plans
- ☐ Demonstrate consistency with NIMS (National Incident Management System)

17) Has your LEPC exercised your emergency plan?

- a) Yes
- b) No – [Skip to Question 20](#)

18) How have you exercised your emergency plan? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Full-scale exercise
- ☐ Table-top exercise
- ☐ Public briefing
- ☐ Drill
- ☐ Actual response
- ☐ Other _____

19) When did your LEPC last exercise its emergency plan?

- a) Within the past 12 months
- b) 1 - 2 years ago
- c) Over 2 years ago
- d) Exercised plan, but do not know when

20) If an emergency at a chemical facility occurred tomorrow, responders would coordinate their response efforts with a plan developed by: (Select all that apply)

- ☐ The LEPC
- ☐ Another emergency response organization (not the LEPC)
- ☐ Chemical facility
- ☐ Other _____

21) In the past five years, approximately how many chemical accidents have occurred in your LEPC's service area?

- a) None – [Skip to Question 23](#)
- b) 1-5
- c) 6-10
- d) 11-15
- e) 15 or more

22) How did these chemical accidents most impact the way your LEPC operates?

- a) Improved coordination efforts with industry/facilities
- b) Revised emergency plan based on lessons-learned
- c) Changed the way information is made available to the public
- d) Extended LEPC membership
- e) Increased frequency of LEPC meetings
- f) Other _____
- g) Did not impact

Data Use and Management

- 23) How do you **primarily** receive Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Tier I and II data (Sections 311-312)?
- a) Paper
 - b) Tier2 Submit from EPA
 - c) State or local electronic submissions (e.g., diskette or CD)
 - d) State or local Web-based submission
- 24) How does your LEPC manage EPCRA Tier I and II data? (Select all that apply)
- ☐ Paper files
 - ☐ CAMEO (Computer-Aided Monitoring of Emergency Operations) (A suite of software developed by EPA and NOAA used widely to plan for and respond to chemical emergencies)
 - ☐ Database created by LEPC
 - ☐ Other state or local database
 - ☐ Web-based database
 - ☐ Other _____
- 25) How does your LEPC use EPCRA Tier I and II data? (Select all that apply)
- ☐ For emergency planning (e.g., hazard analysis, identification of risk areas)
 - ☐ For emergency response
 - ☐ To make hazard reduction recommendations to industry
 - ☐ To make preparedness recommendations to local government
 - ☐ To respond to public inquiries
 - ☐ For zoning or other land use issues
 - ☐ Other _____
- 26) Does your LEPC use Risk Management Program (RMP) data?
- a) Yes
 - b) No – *Skip to Question 29*
- 27) For what purpose(s) does your LEPC use RMP data? (Select all that apply)
- ☐ To improve your local emergency planning
 - ☐ For emergency response
 - ☐ To work with industry to prevent accidents
 - ☐ To support homeland security
 - ☐ Other _____
- 28) From what source does your LEPC primarily obtain RMP data?
- a) State
 - b) EPA
 - c) Other _____
- 29) Does your LEPC use CAMEO?
- a) Yes
 - b) No – *Skip to Question 31*
- 30) For what purpose(s) does your LEPC use CAMEO? (Select all that apply)
- ☐ For emergency planning (e.g., screening and contingency plans)
 - ☐ For actual emergencies

- ☐ For drills and exercises
- ☐ To access chemical information
- ☐ To manage Tier II data
- ☐ To respond to public inquiries
- ☐ Other _____

Communication

31) Does your LEPC have a Web site?

- a) Yes. Please provide the Web address: _____(optional)
- b) No

32) Does your LEPC notify the public that its emergency plan and chemical hazard information is available?

- a) Yes
- b) No – *Skip to Question 34*

33) How does your LEPC notify the public that its emergency plan and chemical hazard information is available? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Brochures
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Radio/TV
- ☐ Public meetings
- ☐ LEPC Web site
- ☐ Other _____

34) Which of the following mechanisms are in place to notify the public of a release requiring evacuation or shelter in place? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Radio/TV announcements
- ☐ Internet/cell phone alerts
- ☐ Telephone dialers
- ☐ Fixed sirens/audible alarms
- ☐ Emergency broadcast system
- ☐ Fire/police – going door to door
- ☐ Vehicle mounted voice communication
- ☐ Fixed message boards on public roadways
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ Do not know

How many public inquiries has your LEPC received and responded to during the past 12 months?

- a) 1-5 inquiries
- b) 6-10 inquiries
- c) 10-20 inquiries
- d) 21 or more
- e) None

35) How does your LEPC interact with chemical facilities in your area of service? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Collecting reports/fees
- ☐ Meetings
- ☐ Visits to the facilities
- ☐ Discussion about Risk Management Program (RMP) plans
- ☐ Other _____

36) Other than receipt of reports/fees from chemical facilities in your area of service, how often does your LEPC communicate with those facilities?

- a) Weekly
- b) Monthly
- c) Quarterly
- d) Every six months
- e) Annually
- f) Never

Funding

37) Does your LEPC have an operating budget?

- a) Yes
- b) No

38) Does your LEPC receive direct funding?

- a) Yes
- b) No – *Skip to Question 42*

39) Please indicate the agencies/organizations from which your LEPC receives direct funding. (Select all that apply)

- ☐ State fees from Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) report submission
- ☐ Local fees from EPCRA report submission
- ☐ Other local government funding
- ☐ Other state government funding
- ☐ Federal funding – e.g., Hazmat Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grants
- ☐ Private industry
- ☐ Other _____

40) Does your LEPC receive any indirect/in-kind funding (e.g, meeting space, office equipment)?

- a) Yes
- b) No – *Skip to Question 44*

41) Please indicate the type of indirect funding your LEPC receives. (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Office space
- ☐ Meeting space
- ☐ Materials or office supplies
- ☐ Use of computers or other equipment
- ☐ Printing
- ☐ Other _____

Support from Federal Agencies

42) In the past five years, did your LEPC receive technical assistance or guidance from any federal government agencies?

- a) Yes
- b) No – *Skip to Question 47*

43) From which of the following federal agencies did your LEPC receive technical assistance or guidance? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- ☐ U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- ☐ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- ☐ DHS (other than FEMA)
- ☐ U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)
- ☐ Other _____

44) The support (technical assistance or guidance) received from EPA has played a significant role in guiding your LEPC's activities:

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

45) As a representative of your LEPC, how often do you visit the EPA Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Web site <http://www.epa.gov/oem> (formerly <http://www.epa.gov/ceppo>) for technical guidance or other information?

- a) At least once a week
- b) At least once a month
- c) At least once every six months
- d) At least once a year
- e) Never – *Skip to Question 50*

46) When visiting the OEM Web site, I found the information I was looking for:

- a) Right away
- b) After performing a site search
- c) After browsing through the site
- d) I was unable to find the exact information

47) Please rank your level of satisfaction with the technical information you received by visiting the OEM Web site.

Very Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Not At All Satisfied
☐	☐	☐	☐

Homeland Security

(The potential for terrorist events and/or events extending beyond chemical to radiological and biological incidents)

48) Since the events of 9/11, the overall activity level of your LEPC has:

Increased Greatly	Increased Somewhat	Stayed About the Same	Decreased Somewhat	Decreased Greatly	Do Not Know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

49) Since 9/11, the number of requests from the public for chemical hazard information has:

Increased Greatly	Increased Somewhat	Stayed About the Same	Decreased Somewhat	Decreased Greatly	Do Not Know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

50) Since 9/11, has your LEPC changed the way chemical hazard information is made available to the public due to homeland security concerns?

- a) Yes
- b) No

Strengths and Additional Needs

51) What is the single greatest factor contributing to the success of your LEPC?

- a) Funding
- b) Dedicated leadership (Chair)
- c) Dedicated membership
- d) Regularly scheduled meetings
- e) Local government support
- f) Cooperation from regulated community

- g) State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) support
- h) Public interest
- i) Other_____

52) What is the greatest obstacle to the success of your LEPC?

- a) Funding
- b) Lack of dedicated leadership
- c) Low membership involvement
- d) Infrequent and/or irregular meetings
- e) Poor local government support
- f) Poor State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) support
- g) Public apathy
- h) Limited cooperation from regulated community
- i) Other_____

53) In which of the following areas could your LEPC use assistance? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Determining the level of risk in your jurisdiction
- ☐ Identification and compliance assistance for non-reporting facilities
- ☐ Conducting drills and exercises
- ☐ Developing/reviewing local emergency response plans
- ☐ Data management
- ☐ Outreach and communicating with the public
- ☐ Integrating homeland security into emergency plans
- ☐ Coordination with state and federal agencies

54) The LEPC on which I serve has had a positive impact on chemical safety in the community (prevention, preparedness, and response).

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please provide additional comments, including best practices, in the space below: