



## Starting an LEPC

Each LEPC can establish its own boundaries for which it will be responsible. An LEPC can choose to develop at the county, city, or regional level, depending upon the representation of the group and the needs of the area.

For more information about LEPCs in your area, or to learn about starting an LEPC, contact the Office of State Fire Marshal, Planning & Training Assistance Staff at (503) 378-3473 or e-mail [sfm.cr2k@state.or.us](mailto:sfm.cr2k@state.or.us)



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## Supporting Localized Emergency Planning & Preparedness



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Disasters that can jeopardize a community's safety are best understood by the people who live, work, and play there. Depending on where you live in Oregon, your greatest disaster risk might be a windstorm, flood, wildfire, drought, snowstorm, earthquake, or tsunami. There is one type of disaster however, that can occur anywhere in Oregon.

**In Oregon, more than 1,600 hazardous chemical releases were reported between 2000 - 2008.**

In 1986, Congress passed the Emergency Planning & Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). The intent of this law is to give emergency responders, emergency planners, and citizens the right to know what types of hazardous chemicals are in their communities.

EPCRA also provides an opportunity for communities to develop a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). With an LEPC in place, communities can enhance the coordination of response activities, and educate the public on how to protect themselves when a release occurs.



## LEPC Purpose

LEPCs address risk from hazardous chemical releases at fixed-sites and in transit. They use a variety of methods and strategies to ensure community preparedness and planning is accomplished within their districts.

Following tragedies like 9-11 and Hurricane Katrina, LEPCs across the nation are beginning to undergo a change of focus. In addition to hazardous chemicals, many LEPCs are broadening their scope to assist in community preparedness for all types of emergencies.

## LEPC Membership

LEPCs are composed of a diverse cross-section of people representing the interests of the community. The success of an LEPC depends upon its ability to involve a broad base of local resources and disciplines. LEPCs should have participation from the following groups:

- Elected officials
- Emergency managers
- Fire departments, other first responders
- Law enforcement
- Public health officials
- Local environmental groups
- Hospitals
- Transportation (road, railway, air, water)
- Broadcast and print media
- Community groups (Red Cross, Community Emergency Response Teams, neighborhood associations, etc.)

- Hazardous Materials Response Teams
- Public Works
- Owners and operators of facilities subject to EPCRA requirements
- Public at Large
- School Districts/Academia



## LEPC Support

The Office of State Fire Marshal, through the Emergency Planning & Response Section, Planning & Training Assistance Program, provides tools and resources to LEPCs. These include but are not limited to:

- LEPC Start-up Assistance
- Member Training
- LEPC Resource Toolkit
- Community Capability Assessment Process (CCAP)
- Facility Hazmat Reporting Information
- Grant Assistance
- Administrative Assistance
- Presentations
- Information Clearinghouse