

## **OREGON'S SERC & LEPC STRUCTURE**

The first requirement of the EPCRA statutes is the establishment of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). The Governor of each state was required to appoint a SERC by 1987. The governors were given an option to make one or more existing emergency response organizations that were state-sponsored or state-appointed, the SERC. The Governors were required to try to appoint persons to the SERC who would have technical expertise in the field of emergency response.

The SERC's responsibility was to establish local emergency planning districts within the state and then to appoint LEPC's within those planning districts. The SERC's were to provide administrative oversight and assistance to the LEPC's in accomplishing their requirements.

In Oregon, the "State Fire Marshal" is the SERC. In order to comply with EPCRA requirements for SERC membership, the State Fire Marshal established the Oregon SERC Advisory Board, (OSAB) consisting of chairs of the local LEPCs and representatives of certain state agencies.

The SERC and related administrative functions are currently located at The Office of State Fire Marshal, 4760 Portland Rd NE, Salem Or 97305-1760. This is also the location for Oregon's Community Right to Know Section.

In Oregon, local agencies, community groups and individuals interested in developing an LEPC are allowed to identify their own planning district. It may be a single community, several communities working together, or it could be one or more counties working in cooperation. The goal is to promote localized emergency planning and LEPC establishment by allowing the locals to identify the areas and issues that are of concern to them in order to create a vested interest in the outcomes of their endeavors.