

Oregon's Local Emergency Planning Committees

Local Solutions for Local Issues



Oregon State Police
Office of State Fire Marshal
Emergency Planning &
Response Section

Presentation Outline

- Historical Context
- Legislative Authority
- LEPC's in Oregon
- Value of LEPC's
- Starting an LEPC

Catastrophic Beginnings

- Hazmat incidents make headlines:
 - 1979, Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania
 - 1984, Bhopal, India
 - 1985, Institute, West Virginia



Bhopal, India

- December 3, 1984
- 40 tons of toxic gas released (methyl isocyanate)
- 3,800 deaths
- 11,000 disabilities



Institute, West Virginia

- August 11, 1985
- Release of aldicarb oxime
- Approximately 150 people hospitalized



Initial Federal Efforts

- EPA creates the Chemical Emergency Preparedness Program (CEPP)
 - Voluntary effort
 - Goal was to improve planning and implement accidental release provisions at the state & local level
- Community Awareness & Emergency Response (CAER) program
 - Created by the Chemical Manufacturer's Association (CMA)
 - Goal was to build closer working relationships between facilities and surrounding communities
 - CAER Groups still exist in Oregon today

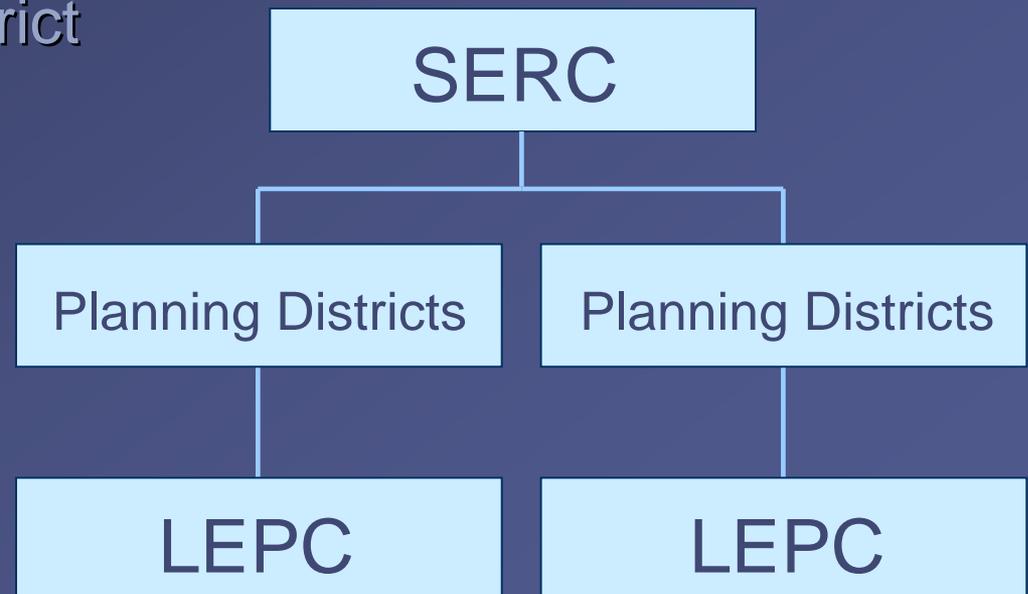
Emergency Planning & Community Right to Know Act

- Federal law established in 1986
- Administered by EPA
- Four major provisions:
 - Emergency Planning (Section 301-303)
 - Emergency release notification (Section 304)
 - Hazardous chemical storage reporting requirements (Section 311-312)
 - Toxic chemical release inventory (Section 313)



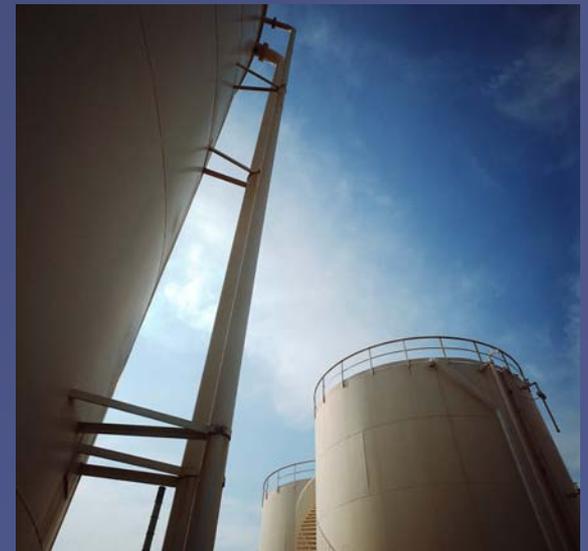
EPCRA Section 301

- States establish State Emergency Response Commissions (SERC)
- Designate Local Emergency Planning Districts (LEPD's)
- Appoint Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC's) for each district



EPCRA Section 302

- EPA designates 356 substances as Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS)
- Sets threshold planning quantities (TPQ's) for each EHS
- Notification requirements for covered facilities possessing TPQ's
 - Must notify the SERC and LEPC within 60 days of possession



EPCRA Section 303

- Development of community emergency response plans
- Focused on, but not limited to, facilities with extremely hazardous substances
- Plans must include 9 elements

9 Planning Elements

1. Identify facilities and transportation routes of extremely hazardous substances
2. Emergency response procedures, on and off-site
3. Designate a community emergency coordinator and a facility coordinator
4. Emergency notification procedures

9 Planning Elements

5. Methods for determining the probable affected area and population
6. Describe emergency equipment at each facility subject to these requirements
7. Outline evacuation plans
8. Provide a training program for emergency responders
9. Include methods and schedules for exercising the emergency plan

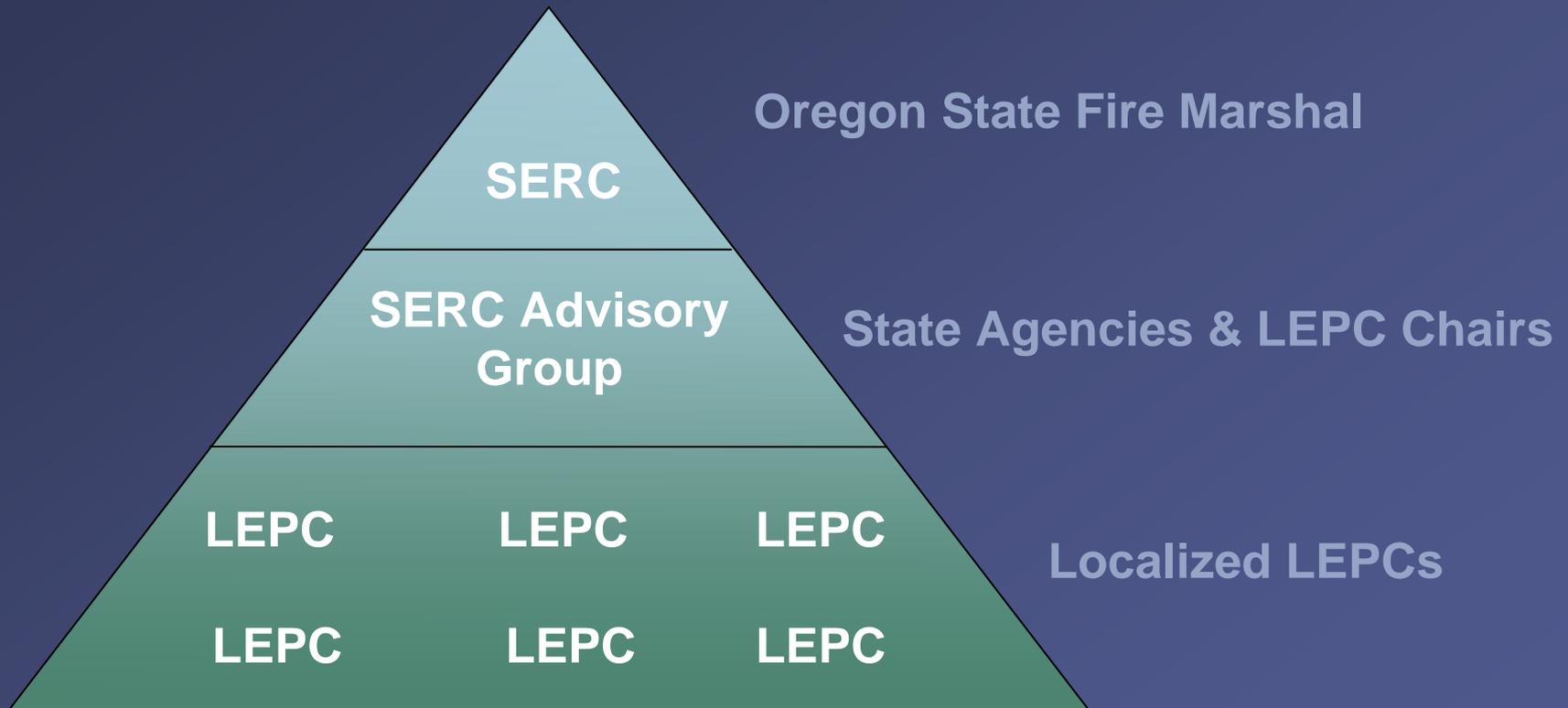
History of LEPC's in Oregon

- Existing Interagency Hazard Communication Council (IHCC) assigned SERC responsibilities
- Established entire state as 1 local emergency planning district
- Appointed 1 statewide LEPC
- Oregon Office of Emergency Management assigned administrative duties
- Duties assigned to Office of State Fire Marshal in 1999
- 2005 - House Bill 2101 abolishes the IHCC, transfers SERC responsibilities to the State Fire Marshal

A New Direction

- OSFM supports formation of multiple LEPC's at the local level
 - Oregon's communities have unique hazards
 - Local efforts lead to the most effective solutions
- Focus on hazardous materials but including other concerns
- Establishment of a SERC Advisory Group
 - Representatives from appropriate agencies
 - Chairpersons of LEPC's
 - Provides guidance to SERC and assistance to LEPC's

Oregon's LEPC Structure



Benefits of an LEPC

- Focused planning at local level
- Increased information gathering authority
- Forum to enhance relationships between local government, industry, and the public
- Increased safety and protection of public health and the environment

Starting an LEPC in Oregon

- Identify a core group of motivated individuals
 - Citizens, facility operators, emergency responders, etc.
 - Already existing groups that can be utilized? (CAER, CERT, Citizen Corps, etc.)
- Establish LEPC boundaries
 - No set parameters
 - City, county, etc
- Identify common concerns
 - Hazmat
 - Natural hazards
 - Meth labs
 - School safety
 - etc

Request an Oregon LEPC Starter Kit:

**Oregon Office of
State Fire Marshal**

(503) 934-8219

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LEPC Membership

LEPC's should include a broad range of participants, including, but not limited to:

- Emergency responders (fire, police, EMS)
- Emergency management personnel
- Representatives from local industry
- Local government officials
- City council members
- Broadcast & print media representatives
- Members of the general public
- School representatives
- Local Red Cross

LEPC's Area of Coverage

- Each LEPC establishes an area of coverage
 - Region (multi-county)
 - County boundary
 - City limits
 - Area of a city
 - Other geographic parameter

LEPC Support

- SERC Advisory Committee
 - Clearinghouse for Oregon LEPC info
 - Technical assistance for local projects
 - Local LEPC's voice to the SERC
- Office of State Fire Marshal
 - Technical assistance and support
 - Community Capability Assessment Program (CCAP)
 - Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant opportunities

Contact Information

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