

EPCRA Public Service Announcement, 5/27/09

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), created a working partnership between federal, state, and local governments; the public; and industry to identify potential chemical hazards in the community and to do emergency planning for chemical accidents.

What is a hazardous Chemical? If any chemical, either alone or in combination with other substances, has the potential to threaten human health or the environment, it is considered to be a hazardous chemical. Emergency planning addresses chemical hazards present at permanent facilities and on transportation routes.

In Wisconsin, each county is designated as an emergency planning district and has a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). LEPC activities include emergency response planning, training, exercising, education, outreach, program administration, and local program initiatives. The local emergency planning done as part of EPCRA helps prepare the community in advance for handling hazardous chemical accidents. If there is an emergency, information will be available from local authorities and the news media. In a major accident, they will broadcast emergency instructions which should be followed carefully and thoroughly.

If you see an accident or incident that may involve hazardous chemicals, notify your local emergency authorities. Let authorities and trained emergency responders handle the situation.

EPCRA requirements: Emergency Planning Notification: Facilities that have present an extremely hazardous substance (EHS) at or above a chemical-specific threshold planning quantity (TPQ) are required to notify the SERB and the county LEPC that the facility is subject to the planning provisions of the law. This must be done within 60 days of the EHS being present at any one time at the facility at or above the TPQ.

Facilities subject to the EPCRA reporting are required to provide the LEPC with the name of a facility representative who will participate in the emergency planning process as the facility emergency coordinator, and must develop and implement the emergency plan.

A facility must immediately provide notice of a release of a comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) hazardous substance or an EHS which meets or exceeds the reportable quantity (RQ) for release to the National Response Center at 800-424-8802 and WI Spill hotline at 800-943-0003 and the LEPC through the Douglas County Emergency Management Office at 715-395-1636.

The above information is a short synopsis of EPCRA. To obtain detailed chemical reporting requirements or more information, please contact: **The EPCRA Division at WI Emergency Management, 2400 Wright Street, PO Box 7865, Madison, WI 53707-7865 Phone (608) 242-3232 <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/index.asp>**