

WHAT IF THERE'S A CHEMICAL EMERGENCY?

The primary responsibility of the LEPC is to develop an emergency response plan required by federal law. This plan must include:

Identification of facilities and transportation routes for hazardous materials:

Emergency response procedures, both on and off site;

Designation of a community coordinator and facility coordinator(s), who are responsible for implementing the plan.

Emergency notification procedures;

Methods for determining when an accidental release has occurred, the probable affected area and its population;

Description of a community and industry emergency equipment and facilities, and who is responsible for them;

Evacuation plans;

Description and schedules of a training program for emergency response personnel;

Methods and schedules for exercising emergency response plans.

HOW CAN I GET INFORMATION?

The LEPC is also responsible for establishing and implementing procedures for handling requests from the public for information about hazardous materials. In addition to fulfilling this area's Right-to-Know needs, the LEPC will provide the following information about local area emergency response capabilities;

Identity of facilities that use, make or store hazardous materials, storage locations, the amount of reportable material being stored at a facility, the nature of the hazards involved, proper handling methods for a given hazardous material, and amounts released into the air, land and water each year.

To request this information, or to review a copy of the emergency response plan, call the LEPC Community Information Coordinator at 765-521-0582.

In the event of:

A chemical emergency Call 911

An environmental emergency Call

888-233-7745

For environmental information Call

800-451-6027

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW

Local Emergency
Planning Committee



Henry County, Indiana
(765) 521-0582

In October, 1986, the Superfund Amendment & Reauthorization act (commonly known as "SARA") was signed into federal law. The main goal of SARA is to identify and clean up waste sites that may be toxic. Another important part of this law is Title III.. The Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-know Act.

Title III has two important provisions:

- 1)
It provides for emergency response planning to cope with the accidental release of toxic chemicals into the air, land and water.
- 2)
The community Right-to-Know provisions of Title III will help increase the public's awareness and access to information about the presence of hazardous chemicals in their communities, and the possible consequences should these chemicals accidentally be released into the environment.

WHAT IS THE LAW?

Under Title III, companies have to keep their communities informed about the chemicals that they make or use. This information, along with knowledge of chemicals that are transported through or near the community, helps citizens, businesses and local governments develop emergency response plans.

WHO HAS TO REPORT?

Facilities that make, use, store or transport hazardous materials are required by law to keep track of these materials. These records are filed with the local Emergency Management Agency.

Many businesses, ranging from large chemical plants to small businesses, such as dry cleaners or auto body repair shops, handle enough hazardous materials that they are required to report them under Title III requirements.

WHO COLLECTS INFORMATION FOR THIS AREA?

"This area" includes Henry County, the city of New Castle, and all the other communities of the county.

Under Title III, this area was required to organize a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). This committee is responsible for:

- 1) Collecting information about hazardous materials;
- 2) Developing local emergency response plans;
- 3) Providing information to the public about hazardous materials.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

The LEPC in this area is very active in handling its responsibilities under Title III. For any LEPC to be effective, it has to represent all the important elements of the community, and must reflect the needs and interests of those elements.

The local LEPC includes local government officials: police, fire and rescue officials: environmental and government planners: public health professionals: hospital officials: transportation officials, and representatives of local business organizations, community groups, and the media.

The LEPC meets at least quarterly in the County's Emergency Management Office. All meetings are open to the public, and are publicized in advance.