



Mission Statement

The Mission of the Lackawanna County Local Emergency Planning Committee is to promote safety in the community through hazardous materials awareness, supporting planning efforts, encouraging cooperative partnerships between community and industry, and developing and sponsoring educational and training programs relative to hazardous materials and emergency preparedness for Lackawanna County emergency responders, industry and the community.

2020 Meeting Schedule

March 12th
June 25th
September 17th
November 19th

All meetings begin at 1:30 PM and are held at the Public Safety Center in Jessup
(Dates subject to change)

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

The Local Emergency Planning Committee of Lackawanna County was created as a direct result of Congress passing Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. Congress enacted this law to help local communities protect public health, safety and environment from chemical hazards.

The LEPC oversees the Hazardous Materials Response Account in addition to approving the Off-site Emergency Response Plans. The committee meets quarterly.

Act 165 defines LEPC membership in the following manner:

A local committee shall be composed of:

The county emergency management coordinator
One county commissioner

And at least one person selected from each of the following groups:

Elected officials representing local governments within the county.
Law enforcement, first aid, health, local environmental, hospital and transportation personnel.
Firefighting personnel.
Civil defense and emergency management personnel.
Broadcast and print media.
Community groups not affiliated with emergency service groups.

Owners and operators of facilities subject to the requirements of SARA, Title III.

Along with Act 165 legislation, Lackawanna County passed an ordinance requiring reporting facilities to pay chemical and off-site emergency response planning fees. Currently the annual fees are \$75.00 per chemical and \$100.00 per off-site emergency response plan. The reporting period runs from January 1st to March 1st. For this reason, the Act 165/Hazardous Materials Response Account was created. By law, this is a segregated account that can only be used for the Hazardous Materials Program.

What is SARA Title III?

In 1980, the U.S. enacted a federal law called the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act or CERCLA to facilitate the cleaning-up of sites contaminated by hazardous chemicals. Enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this law is also commonly known as Superfund. The name Superfund is derived from the special trust fund CERCLA instituted to pay for the clean-up of sites when the responsible party is no longer identifiable.

In 1986, the U.S. made significant changes and additions to Superfund with the passage of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act or SARA. The law was a direct response to the 1984 chemical disaster in Bhopal, India where methyl isocyanate gas leaked from a tank and killed approximately 3,800 people and injured thousands more.

One of the biggest changes instituted under SARA was the passage of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act or EPCRA. A separate law unto itself, it is commonly known as SARA Title III and it sets requirements for local and state emergency planning around hazardous chemicals, the right of the public to access information on chemical hazards in their community, and the reporting responsibilities for facilities that use, store, and / or release hazardous chemicals.

SARA Title III has four provisions:

- Emergency Planning (Sections 301-303)
- Emergency Release Notification (Section 304)
- Hazardous Chemical Storage Reporting Requirements (Section 311-312)
- Toxic Chemical Release Inventory (Section 313)