

Introduction

The Local Emergency Planning Committee

The U.S. Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act requires each Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to prepare a Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan (CERP) for its jurisdiction.

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) designated the DeKalb County Local Emergency Planning Committee after Governor Jim Thompson named IEMA as the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) in 1987. This county, which has been defined as the DeKalb County LEPC jurisdiction, is bounded by Kane County on the east, Kendall County to the southeast, LaSalle County to the south, Lee and Ogle Counties to the west, Winnebago County to the northwest, and Boone and McHenry Counties to the north.

IEMA appointed the DeKalb County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the Committee was organized, with bylaws created, on June 21, 2001.

The Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan

The DeKalb Co. LEPC is required under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) to create a Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan (CERP).

The purpose of this CERP is to document Hazardous Materials planning in DeKalb County. Initially, the CERP is expected to plan for releases of Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) as defined by EPCRA. The CERP is a living document and was updated in September of 2019 and will be reviewed annually by the DeKalb County LEPC and updated as needed by the DeKalb County LEPC Chairperson.

Assumptions

It is assumed that in the event of a hazardous materials incident, there will be several agencies involved in the response actions. There may be several governmental jurisdictions involved in an incident. The potential for a high rate of incidents will most likely continue due to the mobility of commerce and the economic demands for products, which contain hazardous materials. Each incident will create a threat to the surrounding area. Factors such as weather, outside environment and chemical reactions can alter the complexity of the incident at any time. An incident that is affecting only one jurisdiction may change suddenly and affect several jurisdictions. For this reason, once a hazardous material incident has been confirmed, all jurisdictions that might be affected will be notified and kept informed of the situation. Critical resources to limit or minimize the adverse effects of such incidents will be readily available. Local officials in key positions and all levels of government will develop procedures for mitigating such

potential disasters and respond to any hazardous material spill in such a manner that limits the damage to life and property.

CERP Requirements

The CERP must comply with the requirements of EPCRA (specifically 42 USC §11003 - Comprehensive Emergency Response Plans). These requirements are:

1. List of facilities that store EHS, routes likely to be used in the transport of EHS, and those facilities that contribute or subjected to additional risk due to proximity to facilities that store EHS. §11003(c)(1)
2. Methods and procedures to be followed by facility owners and local emergency and medical personnel to respond to any release of such substances (EHS). §11003(c)(2)
3. Designation of a community emergency coordinator and facility emergency coordinators. §11003(c)(3)
4. Procedures providing reliable, effective, and timely notification to persons designated in the emergency plan and to the public, that a release has occurred (consistent with §11004). §11003(c)(4)
5. Methods for determining the occurrence of a release, and the area or population likely to be affected by such release. §11003(c)(5)
6. Description of emergency equipment and facilities in the community and at each facility in the community (with EHS) and identification of persons responsible for such equipment and facilities. §11003(c)(6)
7. Evacuation plans, including provisions for a precautionary evacuation and alternative traffic routes. §11003(c)(7)
8. Training programs, including schedules for emergency response and medical personnel. §11003(c)(8)
9. Methods and schedules for exercising the emergency plan. §11003(c)(9)

This plan is comprised of nine sections. Each will correspond to the plan requirements numbered above.