



# LEPC Ledger



## What are your LEPC's resolutions/ goals for this year?

The start of the New Year is a great time to make changes. Take some time to go through the LEPC questionnaire in the LEPC Starter kit and review the LEPC Membership and responsibilities document on the KDEM LEPC resources webpage and see where you need some improvement. Then act on it. Don't let the opportunity to grow and improve slip away as many New Year's Resolutions do.

If you have any suggestions for topics, wish to contribute articles, or want to provide comments, please contact me at [harry.p.heintzelman@us.army.mil](mailto:harry.p.heintzelman@us.army.mil) or (785) 274-1408

## Have you thought about School Preparedness for chemical releases?

ShohoneHigh School, Idaho, March of 2010: a students necklace that contained mercury broke and 40-50 students were possibly exposed to mercury. Syracuse NY, Aug 30 2001: Crystallized picric acid ( explosive) was discovered in a school lab. Grafton, Mass. 2011: North Grafton Elementary School was evacuated after employees at a nearby company mixed nitric acid and water.

Any of these incidents could happen in your community. Is your school district ready to deal with them? When was the last time your LEPC or fire department sat down with school officials and discussed potential chemicals hazards and and school Hazmat response plans ?

Educators have knowledge of how to handle students and parents, but may not have the knowledge to deal with a hazmat scenario. Your LEPC should have the expertise to deal with the hazmat, but may not understand the behavior of children and their parents in an emergency. Your job as an LEPC is to bring the pieces together. Invite your school district (and colleges, universities, etc.) to join your LEPC if you haven't done so. Then work with them to develop a HAZMAT plan. And don't forget the campaign to inform parents of the procedures and the reasoning behind them.

One good starting point for school preparedness is the Kansas center for Safe and Prepared Schools web page. It has links to planning documents, training opportunities, etc.

<http://www.kansastag.gov/KDEM.asp?PageID=191>

Another source for school preparedness is:

<http://www.ready.gov/school-emergency-plans>

## Useful Links.

**Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders** WISER provides a wide range of information on hazardous substances, including substance identification support, physical characteristics, human health information, and containment and suppression advice.  
<http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov/>

**USDOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Association Library** Access to electronic/ smart phone apps of the ERG and other HAZMAT documents. Contains both free and purchasable documents.  
<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/library>

## 2011 Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Data Released

The 2011 Toxic Release Inventory is now available from the EPA. If you are not familiar with TRI, this is an annual report on disposal or releases of over 650 chemicals of interest due to potential health effects. The 2011 data shows a decrease in air pollutants even though the total amount of chemicals reported under TRI rose.

If you open the link below you will find several tools you can use to review the data. To find out what is being released in your county, use the TRI Explorer.

<http://www.epa.gov/tri/>



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## Who is responsible for reporting chemical spills and/or releases?

The spiller is responsible for reporting any releases of chemicals into the environment. Under EPCRA and KSA 65-5708, they have to verbally contact the LEPC, CEPR, KDHE and the NRC, as soon as practicable, not to exceed 15 minutes. Each LEPC designates who will receive the notice for them. Most counties have dispatch contact the Emergency Manager. The next call is to the CEPR. KDEM's Staff Duty Officer is the designated contact for all releases. KDHE should be notified of releases onto soil or into waterways. At the federal level the National Response Center (NRC) is notified of releases that meet the criteria set forth in SARA TITLE III.

After making the verbal report to the CEPR, the spiller has 7 days to follow-up with a written report (KS Form A). Reports should be completed using the electronic KS Form A at: <http://spillreporting.kansastag.gov/>. Emergency Managers can also obtain copies of reports affecting their county from this link. If you have any questions not answered on the site or need access to the database please contact **Jennifer Clark at 274-1394 or email to [jennifer.m.clark66.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:jennifer.m.clark66.nfg@mail.mil)**

One thing to remember is that petroleum products are governed by the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), not EPCRA. Refined products may be subject to both requirements. Unfortunately, OPA has different reporting procedures that can create some reporting discrepancies. Regardless, all releases should be reported to the EPCRA players, since they are still potentially harmful to the environment and humans

For more information checkout: <http://www.kdheks.gov/spill/>



**EPA Outreach to Agribusinesses:** (Left to right: Kris Lancaster, EPA agricultural public affairs specialist, Patricia Reitz, EPA environmental engineer and Josh Svaty, EPA senior advisor) EPA Region 7 staff presented information about preventing accidental releases of anhydrous ammonia and other topics to members of the Missouri Agribusiness Association at their annual winter conference in Columbia, Mo., December 12. Anhydrous ammonia is a source of nitrogen fertilizer widely used for corn, milo and wheat production. It is generally safe if proper handling, operating and maintenance procedures are followed. EPA works with agriculture retailers and emergency responders to prevent releases and protect people when accidental releases occur. Staff will also be attending the Nebraska Agribusiness Association conference on Jan. 30 and Agribusiness Association of Iowa conference on Feb. 12. A video to assist agricultural retail anhydrous ammonia facilities can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/region7/priorities/agriculture/index.htm>

## Can anyone use Crisis City for Training?

Crisis City began as a vision to train and prepare city, county, and state level First Responders, Military, Emergency Management, and other response organizations. The development of Crisis City provides real life, multi discipline scenario training.

Crisis City Training Center is located 10 miles southwest of Salina Crisis City has classroom space for up to 120 students, hands on training venues and an observation tower. Some of the many hands-on venues include a Search & Rescue rubble pile, an urban city area, a train derailment with HAZMAT capability, an active shooter school building, a pipeline leak mitigation venue, and a high angle rescue tower.

If you wish to use the training facility, you will need to bring your own equipment. Lodging (open bay barracks on site, and Single room off site) and meals can be requested through the Kansas National guard at rates well below hotel rates. And don't forget to ask for directions. GPS and online directions aren't accurate and will likely leave you in a field.

To request use of the facility, check out upcoming training, or to get more information please go to <http://www.kansastag.gov/KDEM.asp?PageID=370>