

Annual Report 2017

**City of Corpus Christi-Nueces County Local Emergency
Planning Committee**

Tel 361-826-3960
Fax 361-826-4417

2406 Leopard Street, Suite 200
Corpus Christi, TX 78408

www.cclepc.org
joannes@cctexas.com

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“the LEPC continues to fulfill its statutory duty as set forth in the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act”

City of Corpus Christi-Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee

Overview

Chairperson: Chief Robert Rocha, Corpus Christi Fire Department

Vice-Chairperson: David Cave, CITGO Refining

Secretary/Treasurer: Rick Ramos, Corpus Christi Fire Department

Local Emergency Planning Committee Coordinator: Joanne Salge

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is well supported by the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, and the Port of Corpus Christi Authority through a five (5) year Inter-local Agreement which will provide a continued partnership until 2019.

During calendar year 2017, the City of Corpus Christi - Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) carried out its' goal of educating the citizens of Nueces County regarding potentially hazardous chemicals in the Community. The LEPC instructs citizens on what actions to take during a chemical emergency to protect themselves and their families by utilizing concepts such as Shelter-in-Place and/or evacuation, depending on the situation. These initiatives also include knowing where to find and how to obtain information during a chemical emergency.

In addition to public education, the LEPC continues to fulfill its' statutory duty (as set forth in the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act) to collect and maintain annual Tier II chemical inventory information from facilities in Nueces County that use, store, and/or produce hazardous chemicals. The LEPC regularly responds to public requests, as well as first responders, by providing Tier II information when requested.

In 2017, the average meeting attendance for LEPC General Meetings was 36. During the LEPC General Meetings, presentations were given by Dr. Richard Smith, Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi; LT. Kathryn Peek, United States Coast Guard; Steve Garland, Refinery Terminal Fire Company; Sarah Garza and Danielle Hale, Port of Corpus Christi Authority; Russell Ide, Valley Solvents and Chemicals; and Joshua Rungee, LoneStar 811. However, no special meetings were called during the year.

The LEPC Subcommittee Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons are currently fulfilling a two year term of office which runs from July 2016 to July 2018.

Finance Subcommittee

Chairperson: Rick Ramos, Corpus Christi Fire Department

Vice-Chairperson: Danielle Hale, Port of Corpus Christi Authority

The annual LEPC budget of \$128,555.35 for fiscal year 2016-2017 was approved by City Council. These funds consist of business and industry donations. Donation requests are mailed to each reporting entity and are based on the supply of hazardous chemicals that are reported in their annual Tier II submission which currently total 404.

The LEPC participated in a Local Emergency Planning Committee Grant Program sponsored by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The City of Corpus Christi- Nueces County was awarded \$92,662.80 to support three community projects. The Flint Hills Resources Helping Heroes Grant Fund awarded the LEPC \$2,500 to purchase all-hazard emergency radios for distribution in schools and other public buildings.

Risk Awareness Subcommittee

Chairperson: Raul Vasquez, Retired

Vice-Chairperson: Sharon Bailey Lewis, City of Corpus Christi, Environmental and Special Initiatives

The Subcommittee continues to work in cooperation with local business and industry to improve the awareness regarding chemical emergencies.

- Members have attended and participated in health fairs, community events, community meetings, school fairs, tabletop drills, facility drills, and other local events
- Materials have been provided to approximately 20,000 citizens
- The Subcommittee coordinated a multimedia outreach campaign in 2017. Three LEPC and ReverseAlert® commercial messages were aired on KIII TV and Spectrum Cable Network for a total of 678 spots. The messages were viewed on the City of Corpus Christi's CCTV; and as always, the LEPC received outstanding support by KLUX radio.
- The LEPC Shelter in Place activity book was updated and available for distribution in the community and by several agencies, groups and school districts
- The LEPC web page provides easy access to information and resources
- A new bilingual LEPC Shelter in Place brochure was created and copies distributed in the community
- A new Reverse Alert information card was created and also distributed in the community.

Participation in ReverseAlert®, an emergency notification system, increased from 10,185 to 19,334 opt-in participants in 2017. Standardized messages for the system were revised.

- Working with the City of Corpus Christi Office of Emergency Management, a utility insert focusing on hurricane preparedness, promoting the ReverseAlert® system and LEPC went to 96,000 households

The LEPC Information Line (361-826-4636) continues to be an excellent source of emergency information for the Community.

Other activities completed in 2017 were:

- Forty seven (47) tabletop drills and presentations were performed at Nueces County schools, community meetings, and businesses. Tabletop scenarios were designed to best suit the location and possible incident that may occur in the area
- The LEPC also participated in local, state, and federal agency planning and drill activities relating to potential chemical emergencies that may occur from both accidental and intentional incidents
- Approximately 300 Shelter in Place kits were provided to area school districts
- Two community tabletop drills were conducted in cooperation with the Corpus Christi Community Advisory Committee, the Corpus Christi Fire Department, the Corpus Christi Police Department, the Corpus Christi Office of Emergency Management, Refinery Terminal Fire Company and industry stakeholders

Emergency Response and Communications Subcommittee

Chairperson: Chris Garcia, CITGO Refining

Vice-Chairperson: Joseph Cantu, Valero

The Emergency Response and Communications subcommittee (ERC) membership is a combination of first responders, industry representatives and regulatory agencies to promote preparedness for a wide variety of potential hazards.

- To increase communication and build cooperation, site visits were conducted at major facilities for first responders on three consecutive days to include all shifts
- Emergency Response Plans and a listing of assets and equipment was compiled for most of the major facilities
- Several joint training exercises were conducted with industrial partners
- The Subcommittee distributed copies of the 2016 Emergency Response Guide to LEPC membership, first responders, and facility representatives. Additional resources and information is available on the LEPC website – www.cclepc.org
- In late August, Hurricane Harvey made landfall in the Coastal Bend. Catastrophic damage to homes, business, industry and landscape occurred. Many area agencies and first responders continue to be actively involved in the ongoing recovery efforts

- In October, the LEPC sent five (5) representatives to the annual HOTZONE Conference in Houston, TX

Pipeline Damage Prevention Subcommittee

Chairperson: Roger Smith, Dow Pipeline

Vice-Chairperson: Brianna Lohse, Koch Pipeline

Several pipeline companies and organization are active in the LEPC Pipeline Damage Prevention Subcommittee. This Subcommittee works with the Corpus Christi Pipeline Ordinance in connection with outreach, funding and review requests for the Pipeline Review Panel.

- The Subcommittee completed a review of the pipeline ordinances with the City of Corpus Christi's Legal Department and Industry. The revised ordinance was approved by City Council and is in effect.

During 2017, the LEPC Pipeline Damage Prevention Subcommittee was recognized by the Corpus Christi City Council and Mayor, as well as, the Nueces County Commissioner's Court during "Safe Digging Month" for their efforts to increase safety and awareness.

- A safe digging utility insert went out to 98,500 City and County households to support safe digging practices by all excavators.
- In November 2017, the Subcommittee planned and hosted the Fourth Annual Safe Digging Seminar at the R.M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds for over 260 participants. This free event was geared to excavators, utility workers, and safety personnel.
- The Subcommittee generated a video, "Safe Digging – Call Before You Dig," which was provided to each attendee. Industry sponsorship funded the event

Executive Subcommittee

Chairperson: Chief Robert Rocha, Corpus Christi Fire Department

Vice-Chairperson: David Cave, CITGO Refining

The LEPC Executive Subcommittee meets quarterly to provide support and guidance to all LEPC subcommittees. The Executive Committee is comprised of the LEPC Chairperson, LEPC Vice-Chairperson, the Mayor of the City of Corpus Christi, the County Judge of Nueces County, and the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the LEPC Subcommittees. The Executive subcommittee provides guidance with:

- Setting goals and a working budget for each LEPC Subcommittee
- Measuring LEPC Subcommittee goal attainment - some Subcommittee goals are ongoing from year to year while other items are at 100% attainment

- Ensuring financial stability through grants and donations - the Subcommittee's direct contact with facilities and establishing priorities on funding opportunities have led to increased donations and continued success in securing grants
- Identification and implementation of new projects such as expanding the Safe Digging Seminar to include information for and participation by first responders
- Identification of new industrial partners has increased participation and support and outreach to existing companies has increased participation in the LEPC Subcommittees.

Company Information

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