

# REGION 6 LEPC Update



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This marks the start of our 22<sup>st</sup> year of issuing the Update to our LEPC / State partners. Hope you feel the Update helps !

**ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL REGION 6 ANNUAL LEPC CONFERENCE!!!!**



Thanks to the support of the Corpus Christi / Nueces County LEPC, and our 5 State Partners, and of course, all the attendees, we once again experienced another successful annual LEPC Conference.

Over 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference drew over 180 attendees, proving that the need for such a conference is still realistic.

Classes at the conference included: Understanding and Using the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) for response and planning; Poison Control Centers and LEPCs; The New Marplot - A New View for Planning; Local Government Reimbursement Program; EPCRA Revised Regulations; Media Partners during HazMat Event; Media Resources during a HazMat Incident; Basics of LEPCs; Tier II Submit Workshop; When the Fed's and State Respond; Working with Industry to Plan for Natural Disasters; Planning Using CAMEO/ALOHA/MARPLOT; Ethanol Planning & Response; LEPC Liability



Issues; NOAA's Chemical Response Tool; Toxicology Support: Aiding Emergency Responders and Communities Impacted by Chemical Emergencies; NWS Support during a HazMat Incident; Future of LEPCs; and Status of the Region - LEPC Newsletter, Webpage, National LEPC Survey, EPlan.

*In addition, we have a wonderful motivational talk by Captain George Burk on "Overcoming Adversity, Organizational Management, Value Centered Leadership"*

**A special thanks to Mari Cuevas, Nueces County LEPC, who did a wonderful job hosting the conference, and doing the majority of the legwork to make this conference so successful.**



*If you did not get to attend this year, we will see you next year !!*

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# 2008 Nationwide Survey of Local Emergency Planning Committees



EPCRA was passed in the wake of the Bhopal disaster in India, where more than 2,000 people died as a result of an accidental release of a hazardous chemical.

In order to prevent similar occurrences in the United States, EPCRA established a national framework to mobilize local government officials, businesses, and other citizens to plan for chemical accidents in their communities and required each state to create a SERC.

SERCs were charged with establishing LEPCs, which provide a forum for first responders, State and local elected officials, emergency managers, industry representatives, hospital and public health officials, the news media, and the general community to work together and achieve local solutions.

LEPCs work to identify chemical hazards, develop and maintain emergency plans in case of an accidental release, and encourage continuous attention to chemical safety, risk reduction, and accident prevention in their communities.

Because of their broad-based membership, LEPCs are able to foster a valuable dialogue within the community to prevent and prepare for accidental (and terrorist-related) releases of hazardous chemicals.



In April 2008, the EPA conducted a Nationwide Survey of LEPCs. EPA surveyed LEPCs in both 1994 and 1999 to gauge levels of LEPC compliance and activity, but there had been no subsequent systematic nationwide analysis of LEPC activity.

In the seven years since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, local emergency planning has evolved — most notably, in the amount of information available to assist LEPCs in preparing for and preventing chemical emergencies. EPA decided to “check the pulse” of LEPCs across the nation by conducting the 2008 LEPC Survey.

All three survey results will be included in the email of this newsletter to all parties.

The goals of this survey were to:

1. Track the progress of LEPCs by assessing their current activity; and
2. Probe current LEPC practices and preferences regarding several important issues, including: communication with local citizens, proactive accident prevention efforts, and the effectiveness of selected OEM products and services.



## Survey Design

The 2008 LEPC Survey employed a universe or census approach. Both lessons-learned from prior LEPC surveys and limited knowledge of the composition of the entire population of LEPCs made a census-based approach most appropriate.

Because the methodologies used in this survey differed from past surveys, it is important to note that comparisons between the results reported here and past surveys are not statistically significant.

## Data Collection

While previous surveys were paper-based, the 2008 LEPC Survey was administered electronically in an attempt to reduce the burden on respondents, increase efficiency, and improve data quality.

To ensure confidentiality, provide technical assistance, and guarantee that specific data quality objectives were met, a third-party contractor administered the survey.

In the months prior to launching the survey, EPA conducted a major outreach effort to update the contact information in its LEPC database. At the conclusion of this effort, the database contained e-mail addresses for 2,670 of the more than 3,000 known LEPCs.

On April 2, 2008, EPA launched the Web-based LEPC Survey by sending electronic survey invitations to each LEPC contact person with a listed e-mail address.

At the close of the survey, 939 LEPCs had responded, yielding a response rate of 39.8%. Although a total of 939 LEPC representatives took the survey, the number of people who answered each question varied. Individuals were not required to answer every question and were able to skip questions.

Finally, individuals who responded in either the affirmative or negative for certain questions were routed past other questions. Furthermore, for some questions, respondents were able to “select all that apply.”



## Executive Summary – What We Learned



### Overview

The majority of LEPCs responding to the 2008 survey serve rural or mixed rural/suburban residential populations under 50,000. Among the four U.S. regions, the Northeast is underrepresented in the survey data while the West, Midwest, and South are overrepresented (*way to go, Region 6 LEPCs !!!*). This difference in actual response rates vs. the universe of LEPCs is consistent with response rates from the 1999 LEPC Survey.

Survey results indicate that a dedicated membership is the greatest single factor contributing to an LEPC's success (33.3%) while 15.9% report that regularly scheduled meetings contribute most to their success as an organization.

Furthermore, there is an obvious sense of pride in the work of the LEPC—64.9% of responding LEPCs report that the LEPC on which they serve has had a positive impact on chemical safety in their community.

### Other Key Findings

- 9 out of every 10 responding LEPCs met at least once in the past year — three quarters of those LEPCs met at least quarterly.
- 60% of responding LEPCs reviewed and updated their emergency plan in the past 12 months.
- Three out of four responding LEPCs indicate that the majority of their membership is familiar with their emergency response plan.
- Over 75% of responding LEPCs exercised their emergency response plan in the past year with nearly seven of ten conducting full-scale exercises.
- The most active LEPCs are those that had at least one accident in the past five years.



- While three out of four LEPCs did not receive any technical assistance or guidance from the Federal government in the past five years, of those that did, 58.6% report that the assistance came from EPA. Close to 80% of those LEPCs indicate that EPA's support plays a significant role in guiding their LEPC activity.
- Nearly 70% of responding LEPCs that receive EPCRA Tier I and Tier II data receive it in the paper format.
- Over half of responding LEPCs use CAMEO.
- Two out of five responding LEPCs have an operating budget of which 35.9% is direct funding.
- Over half of responding LEPCs receive in-kind funding with the most frequent form being meeting space.

- Since the last LEPC survey in 1999, the percentage of LEPCs that incorporate homeland security into their emergency response plans nearly doubled (from 40.3% in 1999 to 77.5% today).
- Since 9/11, nearly half of responding LEPCs reported increasing their overall activity level. Only 4.0% said the overall activity level of their LEPC decreased since the events of 9/11.



## How are LEPCs Doing?

Responding LEPCs provided critical information about their organization, membership, and meetings.



### Organization

SERCs organized LEPCs within their respective states to facilitate emergency planning. Therefore, the number and average service area size of LEPCs in each state differs. Some SERCs established an LEPC for each county in the state, some established LEPCs for multi-county districts, and some established one LEPC for the entire state.

The number of LEPCs per state ranges from one to 553 (the average being 78). The number and make-up of LEPCs is not static; the survey shows LEPCs sometimes disband, form, and merge.

Table 1 below shows that the majority of responding LEPCs serve populations under 50,000 and are located in rural or mixed rural/suburban service areas; this finding is similar to those of previous surveys.

Population Size	Service Area Type					Total
	Rural	Rural/Suburban	Suburban	Suburban/Urban	Urban	
< 50,000	40.2%	19.1%	2.1%	0.9%	0.2%	62.5%
50,001 - 100,000	4.2%	9.7%	0.8%	0.6%	0.5%	15.8%
100,001 - 500,000	1.4%	11.1%	0.6%	2.7%	1.4%	17.2%
500,001 - 1,000,000	0%	0.8%	0.2%	1.5%	0.1%	2.6%
> 1,000,000	0%	0.6%	0%	0.9%	0.4%	1.9%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>45.8%</b>	<b>41.3%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 1. Actual Response Rates vs. Universe of LEPCs

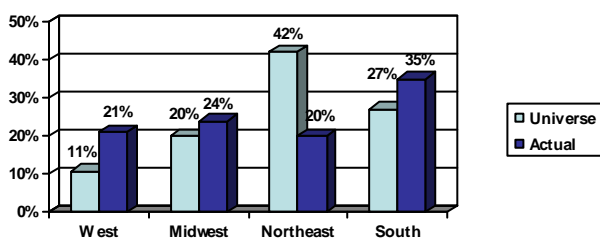


Figure 1 illustrates that over one-third (34.6%) of responding LEPCs operate in the South, one-quarter (24.2%) operate in the Midwest, and one-fifth operate in the West (20.9%) and in the Northeast (20.3%)

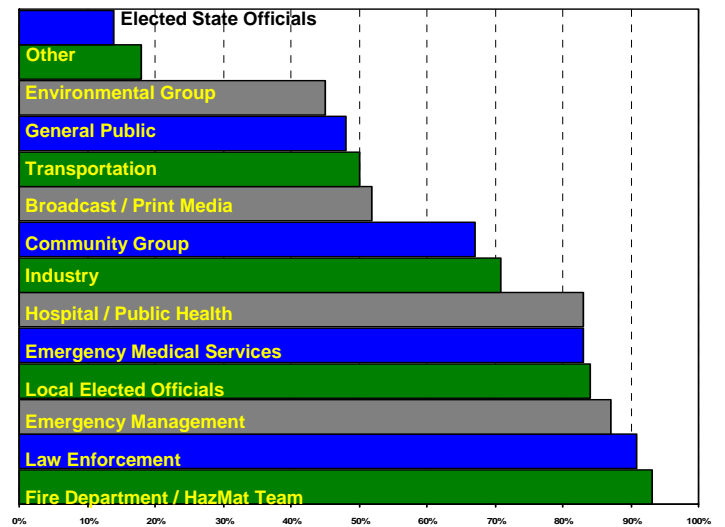
When these actual response rates are compared with the regional distribution of all known LEPCs, the Northeast is underrepresented and the West, Midwest, and South are overrepresented in the survey data. This difference in actual response rates vs. the universe of LEPCs is consistent with response rates from the 1999 LEPC Survey.



## Membership

Under EPCRA, LEPC membership must include (at a minimum): elected state and local officials; police, fire, civil defense, and public health professionals; environment, transportation, and hospital officials; facility representatives; and representatives from community groups and the media.

Figure 2 shows the membership of responding LEPCs. Participation on LEPCs by fire departments or hazmat representatives (93.2%), law enforcement representatives (90.7%), and civil defense representatives and emergency managers (87.1%) are highest. Survey results also reveal that the majority (65.8%) of responding LEPCs elect their chairpersons. Previous surveys did not ask for this level of detail regarding membership. The 1994 and 1999 only collected the total number of individual members in the LEPC.



## Meetings

38.7% of LEPCs said they met quarterly in the past twelve months, 11.8% met as needed, and 8.8% reported that they had not met. Those that had not met in the past 12 months most frequently cited a lack of interest from members (30.4%), while 8.9% said they had not met due to a lack of resources. LEPCs located in more suburban or urban service areas are more likely to meet bi-monthly than those located in rural areas. Data also show that as accident history in LEPC service area decreases, so does the likelihood that the LEPC met in the past 12 months.

The majority of responding LEPCs (67.6%) indicate that they advertise their meetings to the public, primarily in newspapers (63.5%). This finding is consistent with findings in previous surveys. LEPCs also advertise with postings on-line (42.9%) and in government buildings (42.4%).

Many LEPCs shared that achieving good participation rates at meetings is difficult because LEPC members are volunteers and are often busy with their other jobs or familial commitments. Several LEPCs that serve small rural populations noted that they had merged with other LEPCs serving similar populations and that this merger effectively increased LEPC activity and support.



## Emergency Response Plans



EPCRA required that LEPCs submit an emergency response plan to their SERC no later than October 1998.

Required elements of emergency response plans include, among other things

- the identification of facilities and transportation routes of extremely hazardous substances,
- descriptions of emergency response procedures,
- outlines of emergency notification procedures and evacuation plans,
- designation of a community coordinator and facility emergency coordinator(s) to implement the plan.

60% of responding LEPCs reviewed and updated their emergency plan in the past 12 months. 42.8% of LEPCs said that their plan was reviewed by their SERC in the last 12 months. Over one-third (37.4%) of responding LEPCs said their emergency response plans were authored primarily by more than one LEPC member and many (32.9%) said that the plan was authored by both LEPC members and outside sources.



LEPCs most frequently answered "somewhat familiar" (36.5%) or "familiar" (35.5%) when asked, "How familiar are the majority of your LEPC members with your emergency response plan?" Data show that members of LEPCs that met in the past 12 months are more likely to be familiar with their emergency response plans than members of LEPCs that did not meet.

Figure 3. Contents of Emergency Response Plan

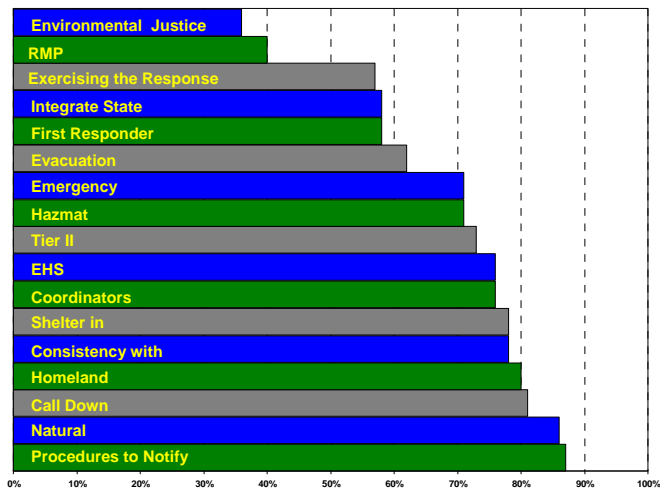


Figure 3 shows the various contents of LEPCs' emergency response plans. Close to nine out of ten LEPCs report that their plans include procedures to inform the public about natural hazards.

Fewer than 40% of responding LEPCs include environmental justice in their plans. Of note, the percentage of responding LEPCs that include Homeland Security (77.5%) in their emergency response plan is considerably higher than the 40.3% reported in the 1999 survey.

More than three-quarters of responding LEPCs (76.8%) exercise their emergency response plans; 71.3% of those LEPCs exercised that plan within the past 12 months. This finding is similar to findings from previous surveys. 74.0% of functioning LEPCs in the 1994 survey and 69.1% of active LEPCs in the 1999 survey indicated that they had exercised their emergency response plan in the past year.

Results from the 2008 LEPC Survey indicate that LEPCs most frequently exercise their plans using table-top (83.5%) or full-scale (68.9%) exercises.

Data also show that LEPCs that reviewed their emergency response plans either in the past 12 months or within the past one to two years are more likely to exercise their plan than those that did not review it as recently.

When asked what plan emergency responders would use if a chemical accident occurred in an LEPC's jurisdiction, respondents were able to "select all that apply" — 54.3% said that responders would use a plan developed by the LEPC, 56.5% said that they would use a plan developed by another emergency response organization, and 46.5% said responders would coordinate their response efforts with a plan developed by a chemical facility.



## How Accident History Affects LEPCs



Responding LEPCs most frequently report that one to five chemical accidents occurred in their service area over the past five years.

LEPCs also report that these chemical accidents resulted in improved coordination efforts between their LEPC and industry/facilities in their service area (54.4%) and in the revision of emergency response plans based on lessons-learned from the accidents (42.1%).

Interestingly, LEPCs located in communities that had no accidents in the past five years indicate lower levels of agreement that their LEPC has a positive impact on chemical safety in their community.

The more accidents that occur within a community, the higher level of agreement that the LEPC has a positive impact on chemical safety in their community.

## Using and Managing Data

Survey respondents provided feedback on the ways that they use CAMEO, Tier I and II data, and RMP data.

Questions related to data use and management and specifically asked whether LEPCs use specific applications/data and how they use those applications/data.





## CAMEO

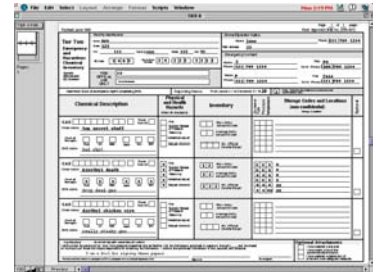
CAMEO is a system of software applications used to plan for and respond to chemical emergencies. Developed by EPA and NOAA, CAMEO assists front-line chemical emergency planners and responders to access, store, and evaluate information critical for developing emergency plans.

Approximately half of responding LEPCs (51.4%) report use of CAMEO, most often to access chemical information (74.8%), for emergency planning (72.5%), and for actual emergencies (71.6%). 55.4% of LEPCs that use CAMEO use it to manage Tier II data. In the open-ended question, several LEPCs requested that EPA provide training on CAMEO.

## Tier I and II Data

Facilities subject to EPCRA sections 311-312 are required to annually submit an Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form to their LEPC, SERC, and local fire department. Facilities provide either a Tier I or Tier II form (in most states the Tier II form is required).

EPA developed Tier2 Submit to help facilities prepare an electronic chemical report. Responding LEPCs primarily receive Tier I and II data via paper submissions (68.7%) with 14.9% of LEPCs primarily receiving that data via state or local electronic submissions (e.g., diskette or CD).



Only 8.1% of responding LEPCs receive Tier II data through Tier2 Submit from EPA. LEPCs that serve large urban populations are more likely to receive data via electronic submission or via web-based submission.



When asked how they manage Tier I and II data, LEPCs most frequently responded through paper files (73.7%) while 29.7% use CAMEO to manage Tier I and II data. 37.4% of responding LEPCs only use paper filing systems to manage this data, a decrease from both the 1994 and 1998 surveys (55.0% and 46.6% respectively).

The majority of responding LEPCs (75.6%) use Tier I and II data for emergency planning purposes (e.g., hazard analysis and identification of risk areas) and emergency response (71.0%). 39.4% use the data to make preparedness recommendations to local governments and 12.0% use the data to make hazard reduction recommendations to industry.

## RMP Data

Under section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act, facilities that produce, handle, process, distribute, or store certain chemicals are required to develop a Risk Management Program, prepare a Risk Management Plan (RMP), and submit the RMP to EPA. Approximately one-third (32.5%) of responding LEPCs use RMP data.

LEPCs that serve larger populations and areas with a history of chemical accidents are more likely to use RMP data. Most LEPCs that use RMP data use the data to improve emergency planning (88.6%) and for emergency response (77.9%). 40.4% use the data to support homeland security and 38.6% use the data to work with industry to prevent accidents.



The majority of LEPCs that use RMP data obtain the data from their state (62.3%) although 15.7% obtain it from EPA. The vast majority of those who answered "other" (55.9%) obtain the data directly from facilities.



# Using and Managing Data

## How LEPCs Communicate with the Public

Since 9/11, 76.0% of LEPCs report that the number of requests from the public for information has stayed the same. However, 42.2% of LEPCs report a change in the way chemical hazard information is made available to the public due to homeland security concerns. Larger populations with a greater history of accidents are more likely to have changed the way chemical hazard information is made available to the public.

The majority of responding LEPCs (59.1%) notify the public that their emergency plan and chemical hazard information is available, most often through notices in the newspaper (66.6%), which is consistent with how LEPCs say they advertise public meetings.

LEPCs that notify the public of their meetings are also more likely to notify the public that their emergency plans and chemical hazard information are available. Those LEPCs whose membership includes general public representatives are more likely to advertise public meetings and are more likely to notify the public that their plan and emergency information is available.

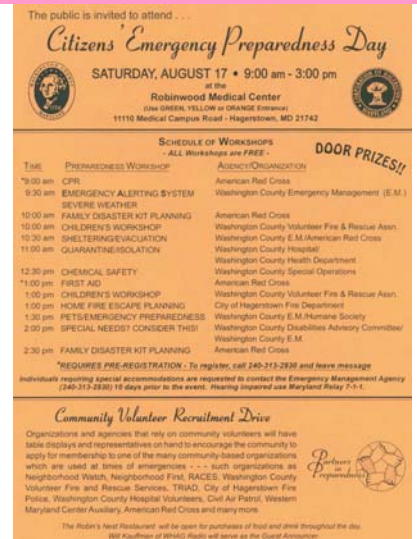


Less than one-quarter (23.6%) of responding LEPCs have a website. 3 LEPCs serving large urban populations with a greater history of accidents are more likely to have a website.

LEPCs most often report that radio/TV announcements (88.3%), fire/police departments going door-to-door (82.4%), and an emergency broadcast system (62.7%) are the mechanisms used to notify the public of a release requiring evacuation or shelter-in-place.

Most LEPCs (56.4%) received no public inquiries in the past 12 months; however 36.4% reported receiving and responding to one to five public inquiries. Those LEPCs that advertise meetings and the availability of their emergency plan and chemical information to the public, that serve large urban populations with higher accident histories, and that have a website, are most likely to receive a greater number of public inquiries.

Responding LEPCs interact with chemical facilities in their service area most often through meetings (53.5%), visits to the facilities (45.8%), and the collection of reports and fees (44.6%). When asked how frequently LEPCs communicate with facilities (other than for the receipt of reports/fees), LEPCs most often answered annually (36.7%). Those LEPCs that use Tier I and II data and RMP data to make hazard reduction recommendations to industry are more likely to have more frequent contacts with industry.



## Changes in Activity Since 9/11

### A Focus on Homeland Security

One of the primary goals of the 2008 LEPC Survey was to determine how LEPC activities changed in the post 9/11 environment. Questions on homeland security (defined for the purposes of this survey as the potential for terrorist events and/or events extending beyond chemical to radiological and biological incidents) were first asked in the 1999 survey. At that time, 40.3% of active LEPCs indicated they had incorporated counter-terrorism measures into their emergency response plans.

2008 survey results show that a much higher percentage of responding LEPCs incorporated homeland security into their plans (77.5%).

When asked how LEPC activity levels changed since 9/11, responding LEPCs most frequently reported that their level of activity remained the same (43.9%). 14.9% of LEPCs said their activity levels increased greatly, and one-third (33.0%) said their activity levels increased somewhat. Only 4.0% said the overall activity level of their LEPC decreased since the events of 9/11.







LEPCs were originally designed to provide a forum for emergency management agencies, responders, industry, and the public to work together to evaluate, understand, and communicate chemical hazards in the community and develop appropriate emergency plans in case of accidental release of these chemicals.

However, in recent years, LEPCs' planning efforts have often been refocused to include planning for a variety of disaster that may affect their communities. Numerous LEPCs report that since 9/11, they take an all-hazards approach to planning and no longer solely focus on chemical emergency preparedness. For some LEPCs, this has resulted in increased interest and participation from both current LEPC membership as well as from the general public.

Many LEPCs also commented on their relationship with the emergency management agency (EMA) in their service area. As LEPCs take more of an all-hazards approach to planning, some responding LEPCs indicate that their activities are duplicative of those activities conducted by the local EMA.

Some LEPCs report that they benefit from close coordination with the EMA, while others said that the local EMA had taken over LEPC activities, or that the LEPC had or desired to merge with the EMA.



### Citizen Corps

In January 2002, the USA Freedom Corps was launched to build on the spirit of service that emerged throughout the country following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Citizen Corps is the component of USA Freedom Corps that creates opportunities for individuals to volunteer to help their communities prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Coordinated nationally by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), at the local level, Citizen Corps initiatives are carried out by Citizen Corps Councils. Currently, there are 2,298 County/Local/Tribal Citizen Corps Councils across the country.

Survey results show that 46.6% of LEPCs have Citizen Corps Councils within their communities. LEPCs serving larger urban populations are more likely to have a Citizen Corps Council.

LEPCs most frequently report that they work independently from the Citizen Corps Council located in their community (36.5%), 26.7% coordinate and work in close cooperation with their Citizen Corps Council, and 24.8% report that their LEPC merged with their local Citizen Corps Council. LEPCs that serve larger populations are more likely to work independently from the Citizen Corps Council.

In the open-ended question, several LEPCs said that merging with their Citizen Corps Council resulted in increased interest and meeting attendance as well as the incorporation of all-hazards planning.

More information about Citizen Corps is available online at <http://www.citizencorps.gov/>



## Types Of Assistance

Survey respondents provided feedback on the types of assistance that their LEPC receives. This assistance ranges from direct and indirect funding to technical assistance and guidance from Federal agencies.

### Direct Funding

The majority of responding LEPCs do not have an operating budget (59.3%) and do not receive direct funding (64.1%). In the open-ended question, many LEPCs commented on the need for funding with several LEPCs noting that they would use this funding to develop alternative means of disseminating public warnings/notifications.

Most LEPCs that receive direct funding obtain it through state fees from EPCRA report submissions (54.2%) and Federal funding such as the DOT-HMEP Grants (39.7%). In the open-ended question, several LEPCs that receive HMEP Grants identified the need for more freedom in determining how that funding is spent.





LEPCs would like to use funding to hire personnel, buy equipment, and for activities not just related to chemical emergencies but to all hazards. LEPCs that serve populations over 500,000 are more likely to receive direct funding than LEPCs that serve smaller populations. Furthermore, LEPCs that do not receive direct funding are more likely not to have met in the past 12 months.

### Indirect Funding

More LEPCs receive indirect funding (56.3%) than direct funding, most often in the form of meeting space (93.3%), materials and office supplies (69.5%), and the use of computers or other equipment (68.9%).

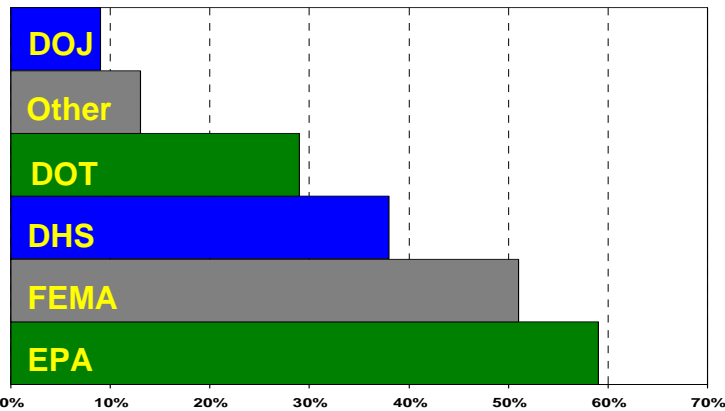
### Technical Assistance/Guidance

The majority of LEPCs (72.8%) do not receive technical assistance or guidance from the Federal government. Figure 4 illustrates that those that receive technical assistance, most often receive that assistance from EPA (58.6%) and FEMA (51.7%).

The majority of LEPCs that receive support from EPA (77.9%) “agree” or “strongly agree” that this support plays a significant role in guiding their LEPC activities. Those LEPCs that receive EPCRA data through Tier2 Submit and RMP data from EPA are more likely to agree that EPA’s support has played a significant role in guiding their LEPC activities than LEPCs that receive data through other channels.



Figure 4. Assistance from Other Federal Agencies



When responding LEPCs were asked how frequently they visit the EPA OEM website ([www.epa.gov/oem](http://www.epa.gov/oem)), 36.1% answered “never,” 28.4% answered “at least once a year,” and 21.8% reported visiting the site “at least once every six months.”

Those who visited the website found the information they were looking for after browsing through the site (59.2%) or after performing a search (28.0%).

The majority of LEPC representatives who use the website (66.0%) said they are “moderately satisfied” with the technical information they received.

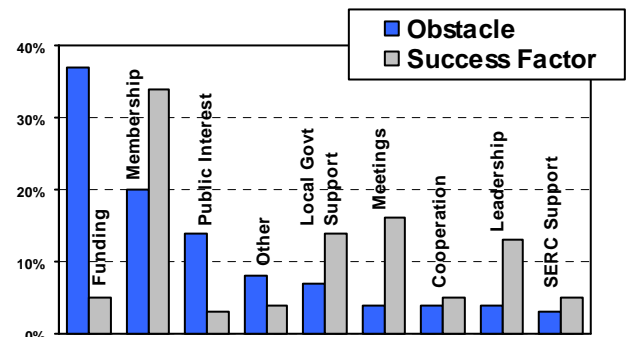
Figure 5. Greatest Success Factors and Obstacles to Success

### Success Factors and Obstacles to Success

Responding LEPCs most frequently report that dedicated membership is the greatest single factor contributing to the success of their LEPC (33.3%) while lack of funding is the greatest single obstacle (37.3%).

Figure 5 illustrates the importance of several success factors. For example, while LEPCs believe that a dedicated membership contributes most to their success (33.3%), 20.1% report that low membership is a hindrance.

LEPCs also indicate lack of public interest as an obstacle to success.



## Additional LEPC Needs

The areas in which responding LEPCs most need assistance are outreach and communication with the public (42.5%) followed by identification of and compliance assistance for non-reporting facilities (39.7%).

These findings are consistent with feedback received at conferences and through other mechanisms. In the open-ended question, many LEPCs requested EPA assistance with outreach tools that outline LEPC purposes and goals so that LEPCs could use the tools both to educate new or potential LEPC members in addition to members of the general public.

Several LEPC coordinators also requested that EPA develop a compendium of LEPC Best Practices or operational guidance both to assist newly forming LEPCs and to provide ideas for improvement of existing LEPCs.

### LEPC Best Practices Guide



## Conclusion



The 2008 LEPC Survey provides a high-level snapshot of LEPC activity in the post 9/11 world.

As with similar surveys, the results of this survey raise additional questions and may encourage conversations to help focus future LEPC activities.

Through this survey effort, LEPCs shared valuable information and best practices.

At the same time, they provided concrete feedback on the challenges they face.

Despite these challenges, LEPCs continue to play a vital role in community emergency preparedness and 64.9% of LEPCs report that they have had a positive impact on chemical safety in their communities.

## Emergency Numbers for Spill Reporting in Region 6

Arkansas Dept. of Emergency Management	800-322-4012
Louisiana State Police	877-925-6595
New Mexico State Police	505-827-9126
Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality	800-522-0206
Texas Environmental Hotline	800-832-8224
*****	
National Response Center	800-424-8802
EPA Region 6	866-372-7745
CHEMTREC	800-424-9300