



**Complied by the South Carolina Emergency Management Division**

**South Carolina Emergency Response Commission (SERC) MISSION:**

The mission of the South Carolina Emergency Response Commission (SERC) is to supervise and support the activities of the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) in each of the emergency planning districts or counties making sure (1) that plans in each district are adequately developed, maintained and exercised to ensure an effective response to accidents and incidents involving hazardous materials and (2) and by receiving, processing and reporting on chemical information received under the federal community right-to-know laws.

**SERC ACTIVITIES**

The SERC conducted two meetings this year, the first in December and the second in June. The SERC was briefed by representatives from the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) regarding Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulatory changes, the Insurance Reserve Fund regarding sovereign immunity and Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) liability, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) regarding the Critical Infrastructure Protection Program, the Department of Public Safety (Transport Police) about its highway safety mission, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal for an update on the HazMat Working Group project. Other agenda items included a presentation from the Lower Rivers Regional LEPC on best practices for regional groups, the Union County LEPC initial formation process, the SERC's LEPC membership requirements, and LEPC status updates.

South Carolina now has 44 counties with active LEPCs, equating to 96% county participation across the state. The regional LEPC concept continues to provide a viable option for small county participation; 13 counties participate in one of the four regional LEPCs. New LEPCs are forming in Clarendon and Lee counties. The Colleton County LEPC has reformed into a single county LEPC organization.

The SERC, working through the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) Regional Emergency Managers (REMs), continues its role in assisting counties to either form a stand-alone committee or to join with other county LEPCs in a regional LEPC. The REMs have been very successful during the year coordinating with county emergency managers and offering assistance and networking opportunities in LEPC development.

SERC members visited several LEPC meetings during the year and have reported on the results of those visits. SCEMD distributes a LEPC meeting schedule twice a year and makes the schedule available as needed.

Three SERC members have retired or otherwise left the Commission and the SERC is coordinating for replacements to fill these vacancies.

The SERC newsletter continues to be published monthly to all LEPC chairpersons. During the past year, six newsletters were published and distributed with contributions from the Southeast Region Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), SCEMD, DHEC and other sources.



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL



### Risk Management Program at LEPC Meetings

The Risk Management Program is designed to reduce the risk of accidental releases of regulated chemicals and their impacts on the surrounding community and environment. An updated Risk Management Program (RMP) regulation was finalized January 13, 2017. In June 2017, the EPA delayed the effective date of the regulation pending reconsideration. On August 17, 2018, the courts vacated the June 2017 rule delaying the regulatory requirements. In addition, the EPA proposed changes to the regulation with the public comment period ending August 23, 2018. In response to the regulation changes, the Air Toxics Section attended a SERC meeting and several LEPC meetings to inform members of the RMP requirements as well as what the LEPCs can expect to see. Both the 2017 final version and the 2018 proposed version of the rule have requirements for communication between regulated facilities and the local responders, including the LEPCs. This coordination is necessary to prepare for responses to a release of a regulated chemical. Both rules also require field and tabletop exercises of the facility's emergency response plan.

Presentations were given at both the Berkeley and Charleston LEPC meetings. These presentations included a brief overview and history of the RMP and the status of the regulation. The discussion then moved to how facilities, LEPCs, and first responders can increase communication, what is required in the regulation for communication from the facility to the LEPC and/or responders, and then to an open dialogue on the importance of increased communication. These meetings were very productive and have resulted in a better understanding of the Risk Management Program as well as the requirements that may impact LEPCs and first responders.

### Risk Management Program Workshop

In response to changes in the Risk Management Program regulation, the Air Toxics Section hosted a RMP Workshop on October 2, 2018 at its Columbia, SC location. Over 100 regulated facilities and stakeholders were in attendance, including local responders, LEPC members, facility personnel, and consultants. Experience with and knowledge of the Program by attendees varied from the new participant in the field to many years of experience. One attendee stated that she was new to emergency response and the workshop helped her have a good overview of the program and how it would impact her.

Workshop topics included an overview and history of the Program, a regulatory update on the final and proposed versions of the rule, and tips on how to prepare for an inspection. Sessions on specific requirements in the rule, and common issues noted during inspections were provided. Topics sparking the most discussion were maintenance and training, both large parts of the preventive aspect of the Rule.

The overall purpose of the meeting was to discuss compliance and foster communication between the regulated facilities and the responders. The workshop provided an opportunity for them to gather in one location and offer their perspective through questions and networking. The response to the workshop was overwhelmingly positive with nearly 70% of attendees providing feedback.



## ABBEVILLE COUNTY LEPC



*"Heritage With A Future"*

In 2018, the Abbeville County LEPC revamped its organizational structure and revised its by-laws. Newly appointed leadership included a new Chairman, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Information Coordinator. In addition to the new leadership, there were several sub-committees created: Business/Industry Outreach, Public Information, Hazardous Materials Identification, and the Public Safety Executive Committee. The Chairman of the LEPC then appointed the leadership of each of these sub-committees. The committee also spoke at several civic events to recruit industry and community members to become part of the LEPC.

The goals of the committee during 2019 are to continue to recruit within the community, identify countywide areas for improvement pertaining to hazardous materials response, and to begin the steps toward a full-scale exercise.

## ANDERSON COUNTY LEPC



Anderson County has an active LEPC that meets six times a year at the County Emergency Operations Center located at the Anderson University Center of Excellence. The LEPC membership is well represented from many disciplines from industry and volunteer organizations as well as city, county and state agencies.

The Anderson County LEPC was very busy during the 2017-2018 year. The annual Oconee Fixed Nuclear Facility (FNF) Exercise provided a long term period of training and preparation. In the fall, the LEPC conducted a Fundamentals Course for Radiological Monitors &

Emergency Workers. All radiological detection portals were tested in preparation for the FNF exercise. The FNF exercise took place at T.L. Hanna High School on June 20. The exercise was a huge success with over 70 participants. Many the LEPC partners participated, including the HazMat Team, Emergency Management, DSS, DHEC, FEMA,



Anderson Medical Center (AnMed), and Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental Health. In addition to participating in the FNF exercise, HazMat responded to several incidents, mainly involving transport trucks. On March 9, 2018,



they were dispatched to Belton where a fuel tanker carrying aviation jet fuel overturned in a resident's front yard. Coincidentally, a different fuel tanker overturned on the same front lawn in December; in each incident, less than twenty gallons of product spilled thanks to leak control measures implemented by Anderson County HazMat.

Additionally, the HazMat team provided fire and HazMat coverage for the 2018 Anderson Airshow. They also presented a "DrugIQ" class that focused on incidents involving fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.



The County HazMat team also responded to a large boat fire at a marina on Lake Hartwell, providing assistance with fire extinguishment and spill control of hazardous materials into the lake.

The LEPC received several informative presentations during the past year; presenters include Chris Carnell, speaking on EPCRA history at the national, state and county level, Brandon Grooms, who discussed pipeline safety, and John Bone with SLED's Office of Homeland Security, who provided information on SC Homeland Security WMD Special Response Teams.

Future goals of the Anderson County LEPC include sustaining community outreach, developing subcommittees, and integrating planning and training. Next year the LEPC intends to focus on recruitment, more active participation and involvement by local industry and enhanced communications and coordination among LEPC partners. Finally, there will also be a focus on improving emergency responders' use of E-Plan information prior to entering facilities containing hazardous materials. The current Tier II system will be updated to provide a more accurate awareness of chemicals within the county.

The Anderson County LEPC applied for a grant through the South Carolina Emergency Management Division to conduct a Commodity Flow Study. This study will evaluate the types and amounts of hazardous materials transported through Anderson County by over-the-road carriers. This study will provide emergency planners with additional details on the transportation routes within the county that are used to move hazardous materials, as well as will highlight changes in what materials are transported and the amounts of material being transported. Understanding these changes are key to ensuring first response agencies are properly prepared to deal with the materials being moved through their respective jurisdictions.

The LEPC provided numerous training opportunities and equipment for classes that focused on chemical awareness, HazMat technician training, and confined space rescue. These training classes were made available to responders from different departments throughout Anderson County. The LEPC received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback on the usefulness of these classes and their ability to prepare first responders for dangerous situations. Training conducted in 2018 included a review of HAZMAT response protocols and a lesson on how to request mutual aid for HAZMAT. Issues and weaknesses were identified as well.



Report authored by: Robert Elrod, LEPC Chairman; with input from John Hendrix, LEPC Vice Chairman; Terry King, Anderson County HazMat Team Coordinator; James McAdams ACSO-EMD and Kimrey Dillon, ACSO-EMD.

## BEAUFORT COUNTY LEPC

In 2018, both Hazardous Materials Response Teams were funded by a South Carolina's Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) grant in the amount of \$29,581.42 for several training courses as well as the purchase of two pieces of training equipment.



The Northern Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team, which responds to hazmat incidents in the Northern part of Beaufort County, requested funds for the following trainings:

- 1) 8-hour HazMat IQ V20: Above the Line/Below the Line Training.
- 2) 16-hour HazMat IQ Tactics: Propane IQ Training. This training prepares responders to safely mitigate a propane emergency, including tactical considerations, container assessment, leak control options, and flaring operations. As a result of this training, which brought the team to a higher level of response capability, they have used their expertise in this area on two separate occasions.

Both training events were completed on May 1-3, 2018.

The Hilton Head-Bluffton Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team, which responds to HazMat incidents in the Southern part of Beaufort County, requested funds for the following trainings:

- 1) A three-day HazMat Operations Course completed on June 13-15, 2018. This course greatly enhanced the abilities of those students who utilize HazMat techniques, making them fully and technically qualified to make safe, informed decisions and comply with federal law regarding proper identification of the entire range of unknown substances.
- 2) A three hour course on PEAC WMD HazMat Software training completed on July 16-18, 2018. PEAC-WMD Software provides vital Hazmat and CBRNE information, enabling Hazmat Responders to make informed decisions at the incident. The PEAC Software includes integrated mapping, GPS connectivity, over 100,000 chemical names, synonyms and trade names, multiple modeling tools, and more. The PEAC Software has been designed as the complete decision support solution for Hazmat Professionals, for use at the scene, when seconds and lives count.

They also requested funds to purchase the following training equipment:

- 1) 1 – Chlorine Training Cylinder. This training device is designed to simulate leaks at the valve of the cylinder.
- 2) 3 – RAZOR Simulator M 10 Training Kits. These kits are used to train for the detection and identification of pathogens and bio-threat agents.



The Goals and Objectives for the LEPC/HazMat Program for the coming year, some of which have already been met, are:

- 1) Attendance of the Beaufort County HazMat Coordinator at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual E-Plan User's Group Training in Naples, FL on October 29-30, 2018.
- 2) Attendance of the Beaufort County HazMat Coordinator and Emergency Management Division Deputy Director at a tabletop exercise involving a massive fuel leak in the water at the Marine Corps Air Station on November 8, 2018.
- 3) Develop a public service announcement video about the LEPC to increase public awareness.

## **CALHOUN COUNTY LEPC**



Calhoun County is working to increase membership and participation in the LEPC group through the inclusion of Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). There was a tabletop discussion and exercise planned for October 18, 2018 that was cancelled due to Hurricane Florence and Tropical Storm Michael. This tabletop was rescheduled and conducted on December 4, 2018. CERT members and members of our Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams will also be included for a whole community approach.

## **CENTRAL MIDLANDS LEPC**

**Fairfield, Newberry, Saluda Counties**

Fairfield County, Newberry County, and Saluda County formed the Central Midlands LEPC in 2016. The regional LEPC allows the three counties to share information and resources. In its inception, the LEPC met once a quarter; however, it has now transitioned to meeting bi-annually. Over the last year, the Central Midlands LEPC conducted a variety of presentations, to include preparing employees for disasters, Earthquake preparedness, and the American Red Cross. The LEPC developed and adopted by-laws. During the next year, the Central Midlands LEPC is going to continue to grow the LEPC.

## **CENTRAL SAVANNAH RIVER AREA (CSRA)**

**Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield, McCormick Counties**

During the past year, the CSRA LEPC has accomplished several things. With funding from the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant, Barnwell County hosted several hazmat trainings ranging from hazmat technician to confined space rescue. The group conducted a member survey to see what they would like to have on a CSRA LEPC website. Aiken County took the lead and has developed a website that should be available in January 2019. Edgefield County used Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) funds to complete a HazMat transportation commodities study in the four counties that make up the CSRA LEPC. The members have started sharing



information on exercises and trainings that they are conducting or participating in with the committee so that others may benefit from the information. Additionally, the CSRA LEPC is looking at the LEPC checklist to determine strengths and areas of improvement. In the coming year the committee will look at expanding public education, membership, and joint exercises and training.

## CHARLESTON COUNTY LEPC



The Charleston County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was organized to fulfill the requirements of the federal regulations regarding Title III of the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. The organization is composed of concerned citizens and representatives of industry and emergency services. The LEPC seeks to formulate a partnership between its diverse members to prepare the county to withstand the effects of hazardous materials emergencies through planning and exercising of a comprehensive emergency action plan.

The Charleston County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is comprised of members from county and city departments, industry representatives and community members. Within Charleston County LEPC, documents to include reports, facility information, and hazard

information are under the supervision of the Charleston County Emergency Management Department (EMD).

EMD coordinates the LEPC for hazardous materials planning and emergency response. EMD also coordinates the "Knox Box" program and receives Tier II Chemical Inventory Reports on behalf of the LEPC. Meetings are open to the public and held the second Wednesday of every other month and begin at 9:30am at the Charleston County Emergency Services Building (8500 Palmetto Commerce Parkway, North Charleston). Charleston County's committee also participates in the Tri-County (Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester Counties) LEPC which meets on a semi-annual basis. Meetings rotate between the three counties; dates, times and locations are announced in the weeks prior to the actual meeting date.

ORDINANCE NO. 1139 and ORDINANCE NO. 914 were established to create a hazardous substances user-fee to be utilized to train personnel, purchase specialized emergency response equipment, and improve the hazardous substances response capability within Charleston County. Fees are per chemical or substance as reported in the Tier II report.

Not unlike other committees, the LEPC membership became somewhat complacent and began not to attend meetings. During the year the Executive Committee began an outreach effort to encourage attendance, resulting in a committee that is revitalized by not only checking off mandates but also by establishing goals.

Training and learning opportunities were made available to all committee members throughout the year. Industrial companies gave presentations and/or tours of their facility during meetings as well as presentations on chemical and detergent suicides and mock meth labs. Members participate in or attended the Emergency Operations Center Earthquake Exercise held in June as well as a number of Disaster Preparedness Presentations, Expo's, and major events such as the Black Expo and the Annual



Bridge Run. Members participated in classes on Public Services in Disasters (MGT 317), THIRA Training (MGT 310), and Emergency Response to Hazardous Materials.

On behalf of the LEPC, the Charleston County Emergency Management Department submitted the HMEP Grant reapplication in October of 2018 to obtain funding to support the mission of the LEPC. It is the goal of the committee to continue to hold regularly scheduled meetings and create subcommittees, as deemed appropriate by the committee. The LEPC will continue to offer training and learning opportunities for the LEPC members, first responders, and its community. The Committee will strive to build new relationships, strengthen partnerships, and identify community resources which may be available for use during emergencies. They will work as a partner with business and industry to improve participation in mandatory Tier II Chemical Annual reporting, promote maximum utilization of Material Safety Data Sheets, and increase awareness and emphasize the importance of reporting significant releases and up-to-date inventories.

## **CHEROKEE COUNTY LEPC**

This past year provided both challenges and progress for Cherokee County's LEPC. Although last year's goal to compile a Community All Hazards Response Plan fell slightly short of being reached, significant progress was made toward its development. Much of the information needed is compiled and the plan is complete, with the exception of individual company's response procedures. It is the committee's goal to complete the Response Plan this year.



With shortfalls duly noted, perhaps more important were the great strides and success stories from the previous year. Efforts were made to educate members of new available resources and cultivate the motto of "Business and Government Working Together".

Gaffney's new fire training facility provided the setting for January's meeting. Those members in attendance were provided a tour of the facility, which highlighted its capabilities and resources. LEPC members were offered its use when training their employees. During April's meeting, Gaffney Fire announced a new hazardous materials training schedule, which would take place on the last Saturday of every other month. The training was made available to all county fire departments, as well as LEPC members. During this same meeting, Derek McAbee demonstrated Cherokee County Emergency Management's new Drone Program, showcasing its capabilities and offering its use to industry, when needed.

A previous incident which involved a hazardous materials response and the Gaffney Board of Public Work's dual water main breaks (which resulted in water loss to the entire county) were other topics highlighted during meetings. This served to showcase local response and mitigation actions for future incidents. A final success story for the Cherokee County LEPC was Hazardous Material training. This year's training was funded by HMEP grant funds, which are made available to active LEPCs. Thirty-nine individuals completed the Hazardous Materials Technician Refresher course and twelve completed the initial Hazardous Materials Awareness course.





## CHESTER COUNTY LEPC



On May 15, 2018, the Chester Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) held their annual Hazardous Materials Transportation Exercise. This exercise is sponsored by the LEPC using funding from the Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) grant. The purpose of this exercise was to enhance the level of preparedness of Chester County's emergency responders to respond to hazardous-materials transportation incidents. Emphasis was placed on identifying hazardous materials and using reference tools to formulate a response plan. Hands-on training focused on suppression methods using hand lines and the Chester County Hazardous Materials Team Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) truck to supply a foam blanket over a leaking container trailer. The ARFF truck, a surplus purchase from a major

airport, has a wide range of uses, from foam application by front or top mount turrets totally controlled from the inside cockpit to hand lines for cleanup operations. The truck carries a 1000 gallon water tank that can be discharged for conventional firefighting and dry powder that can also be discharged from the turrets. This gives the responders numerous options for suppression depending on the type of chemicals involved.

There were 24 exercise participants, along with eight vehicles which included an EMS unit, a Rehab Unit, two Fire Engines, two Service Trucks, a Tanker, and the ARFF Truck. There were also several observers from the LEPC membership. A group of 6 students enrolled in Basic Firefighting courses from the local vocational centers also attended to observe operations and learn tactics.



These exercises enable the county and chemical facilities to identify strengths and incorporate them into the best practices that sustain and enhance existing capabilities. They also provide an objective assessment of gaps and shortfalls within plans, policies, and procedures and address areas for improvement prior to a real world incident. These type exercises also help clarify roles and responsibilities among different entities prior to a real world event. Finally, they improve interagency coordination and communications and identify needed resources and opportunities for improvement.

Members of the LEPC help emergency responders put faces with facilities and help facilities understand what information first-responders need. The LEPC in Chester County is also a resource used during a time of severe weather threats to our area. The LEPC leadership communicated with chemical facilities in the county during Hurricane Florence and addressed threats to Chester County. They provided updates to the facilities on threats posed by the hurricane and were provided with emergency plans taken to secure chemicals as well as employee safety measures conducted at their locations. This was the first time these types of measures were taken by the LEPC leadership and validated the cooperation and coordination that the Chester LEPC has been building with its members over the years.



## COLLETON COUNTY LEPC



Colleton County LEPC conducted its first meeting on Thursday, August 26, 2018. There were twenty-seven people in attendance from industry, health facilities, and local responders. The group elected Mr. Josh Bartel as the Chairman, Deputy Chief Dr. David Greene as the Vice-Chairman, and Captain Janet Laney as the Secretary. Mr. Bartel is the Safety Manager at Balchem industries. He has established a very progressive safety program at that facility, and Colleton Fire-Rescue has enjoyed a great working relationship with him and his facility for a long time. The LEPC also established a sub-committee to work out the by-laws, mission statement and objectives for the future. On Wednesday, November 28, 2018, the Colleton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) met and adopted its by-laws, mission statement, and planning objectives. The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Colleton EOC (108 Simmons Street, Walterboro). The LEPC will meet quarterly after that date on the last Wednesday of the second month of each quarter (February, May, August, November).

### Colleton LEPC Mission Statement

The Colleton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) shall exist to drive continual improvement on issues relating to community health and safety by acting as a conduit for the flow of knowledge with the express purpose of better preparing citizens, private industry and local emergency response agencies for all hazardous emergency situations.

The LEPC set short, mid, and long term planning objectives for the committee to work towards. Several short term goals have already been completed. The Committee designated a subcommittee to establish a mission statement, as well as objectives, which have been completed, and accepted unanimously by the members. The committee has developed a website, which includes a process for businesses or citizens to request the LEPC identify any hazardous material near their homes or facilities. Each of these items were also short term objectives. The committee expects to accomplish more of their short and mid-term goals during the upcoming year. The objectives are listed on the website.

The LEPC has established a web page at [www.colletonfire.com/em/lepc](http://www.colletonfire.com/em/lepc), and from this page, citizens can make an EPCRA Right to Know Act Request.



## FLORENCE COUNTY LEPC

Florence County LEPC conducted four quarterly meetings during this time frame. The LEPC has been working with Johnson Controls on response plans for molten lead as well as for fires where sulfuric acid is involved. Johnson Controls was provided capability briefings during their annual safety meeting along with Windy Hill Fire Rescue. Florence County Hazmat Team conducted a tour of Johnson Controls Recycling Center. The LEPC is compiling site safety plans from local industries and entering the data into on-line mapping software. A



\$10,000 grant has been requested to assist with hazardous materials training. Tier II fees were collected in the amount of approximately \$20,000.

## GREENVILLE COUNTY LEPC



The Greenville County LEPC continues efforts to improve the county's ability to respond to hazardous materials incidents. Focus over the past year has been on HazMat training, purchasing equipment, updating emergency plans, and encouraging facilities with hazardous materials to collaborate with local first responders.

The Greenville County LEPC hosted an Ammonia Safety and Emergency Response Training class for approximately forty local responders. The class consisted of a half day of classroom instruction covering the hazards, storage, and transportation of ammonia followed by a half day of hands-on practical skills training in mitigating live ammonia releases. Greenville County has over thirty facilities that store and utilize anhydrous ammonia, not including the amounts traversing through our area via highway and rail. This was first time Greenville County Emergency Response Team members were able to attend a local class with live anhydrous ammonia release training. The skills learned during this training will benefit the entire region in the event of an ammonia release.

LEPC funds were used to purchase a MultiRAE Pro 4 Gas Meter with Gama for a local fire department. This equipment replaced obsolete equipment and will provide a means for early gas detection and increased firefighter safety when responding to incidents.

Another project worked on during the last year, and will continue to work on, is a review of HazMat incident plans and local emergency plans. Jessica Stumpf, the Greenville County Emergency Management Planning Coordinator, has done considerable work on updating and rewriting local plans. Our Special Operations Coordinator, Kevin King, has completely revised and improved the training and management of the Emergency Response Team. The LEPC's ability to manage incident planning and tasking will continue to improve as the Rhodium Incident Management Suite is implemented, which provides a complete command and control solution that allows for quick information consolidation and asset coordination.

The final objective for the year was to encourage more interaction and collaboration between facilities that store hazardous materials and their local emergency responders. A speaker was invited to the quarterly meeting to talk about the importance of facility site visits and encourage facilities to share information and collaborate with local fire departments and first responders.

For the coming year, the Greenville County LEPC will continue sponsoring training classes and purchasing equipment for first responders. The LEPC will also focus on the healthcare aspect of local hazardous materials planning, a component we have not explored in detail during our quarterly



meetings. Some planned topics include hospital preparedness planning for radiological emergencies and a greater understanding of the Upstate Healthcare Coalition. This will include their plans for setting up and managing a Family Assistance Center following a mass casualty incident. Information and guidance on risk management planning will continue to be provided in support of the numerous facilities in Greenville County that are required to submit annual risk management plans.

## GREENWOOD COUNTY LEPC



Greenwood County LEPC completed its first full year of meetings in December of 2017. This capped an eighteen-month process to re-establish the LEPC in the county. On average, thirty-one people attended each meeting representing private industry, local media, local and state government, medical community, school districts and local businesses.

Quarterly meetings are held each year. The Greenwood County LEPC's meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the following months: March, June, September and December. While the location changes for each, the time of all meetings is 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. These meetings are held at different LEPC members' facilities and have ranged in content from a briefing on and a display of the hazardous material team's equipment to a table top exercise on coordinated response.

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The LEPC also has four subcommittees: Emergency Planning, Coordinated Response, Outreach, and Membership. These sub committees meet periodically to work on goals established and adopted by the full committee. The Outreach subcommittee developed the LEPC's logo as well as worked to improve Facebook and Twitter accounts to better communicate with the public. The Coordinated Response Subcommittee has established procedures for all businesses and industries when requesting emergency responders during fires and hazardous material spills. Other objectives for the committees are developing ways to sustain members and increase membership, updating the county emergency response plan for hazardous materials and developing an emergency plan template which can be used by businesses and industry in the county.

## GEORGETOWN COUNTY LEPC



### **"Continued LEPC Success through Partnerships"**

On April 23, 2018, the Georgetown County LEPC/COAD hosted a wildfire tabletop exercise that included scenarios and injects that were relevant to all members of the very diverse group. The exercise was planned and facilitated by the Georgetown County Emergency Management Department with assistance from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and the South Carolina Forestry Commission.



It utilized a wildland-urban interface scenario that resulted in tactical response operations as well as secondary impacts to adjacent jurisdictions and facilities due to smoke inundation. The exercise provided an opportunity for members of the LEPC/COAD to exhibit their unique ability to integrate into the emergency management spectrum. The discussion-based exercise focused on the response and initial recovery to the wildfire scenario, and included topics such as; firefighting operations, mass care, transportation impacts, public information, and continuity of operations. This exercise further exemplified the importance of partnerships between local jurisdictions, business and industry partners and other organizations active within the community.



## KERSHAW COUNTY LEPC



### 2018 Objectives and Accomplishments

1. Encourage Prevention by providing public information on the causes of hazardous material accidents.
2. Encourage Preparedness through the development of Emergency Response Plans by those entities handling, manufacturing, storing, transporting or disposing of hazardous chemicals.
3. Encourage Planning for emergencies by making training available to first responders, businesses, and members of the LEPC.

At the May 29, 2018 LEPC Meeting Oak-Mitsui presented their Emergency Preparedness program and briefed the responders on the layout of their facility as well as areas of concern for response. Gerald Blanchard (EMS) presented on the progress of the ASHER Subcommittee in preparing for active shooter/hostile event response and future plans for a full-scale exercise.

As of May 8, 2018 Gerald Blanchard, Deputy Director of EMS, is now a Certified Healthcare Emergency Professional.

On March 21, 2018 Fire, EMS, DOT, Highway Patrol, Special Operation's Team, Contracted Services and Emergency Management responded to an overturned tanker at 341 and Coates Road. Traffic was re-routed due to the danger of possible explosion of the gasoline tanker.

At the November 30, 2017 LEPC Meeting the school district presented on their Rapid Responder Program.

On August 15, 2017, Lugoff Fire, Columbia Fire Haz-Mat I, Emergency Management, EMS, Sheriff's Office, Special Operations and CSX Law Enforcement responded to a cargo train derailment without injuries.



## LANCASTER COUNTY LEPC



Lancaster County LEPC's objectives were focused on building preparedness and response capabilities for the 2017-2018 period. In support of the County Hazard Mitigation Plan, the LEPC has assisted with mitigation projects that build preparedness and response capabilities for natural and technological disasters in Lancaster County. Five of the mitigation projects listed in the Plan are directly related to the implications of hazmat incidents on the population of Lancaster County. Of these, three are tied to incident response and two are related to preparedness for responders and stakeholders.

Our August 2017 meeting utilized the November GridEx IV power outage exercise to address the effects of a long-term, widespread power outage (LTPO) on LEPC members' facilities. Due to varied LEPC membership, these facilities range from industrial and manufacturing sites to fire and police stations and medical facilities. As the membership walked through the scenario, each organization considered the impacts on its own daily operations from an incident of this scope. In preparation for this and other incident profiles, certain LEPC members were added into the contact list for initial notification groups for major disasters in the county.

The November 2017 meeting consisted of a table-top exercise (TTX) that focused on the response to and mitigation of a major hazmat release resulting from a traffic collision along a major state highway in Lancaster. The scenario was gradually expanded to include a majority of agencies and organizations present at the meeting, while remaining realistic and manageable. The scenario outlined in GridEx was then applied to the TTX to discuss considerations for the challenges presented by lack of electricity. For this exercise, the LTPO was considered to have just begun, with no protracted difficulties from long-term outage factored into the TTX.

In spring of 2018, our February meeting was used to introduce LEPC members to the ESF-10 (Hazardous Materials) EOP Annex. The membership was taught what role ESF-10 plays in certain disasters and how the ESF integrates into EOC operations. Because of the planning and coordination duties of the LEPC in relation to hazmat incidents, the importance of the LEPC's role in ESF-10 was highlighted and participation in the ESF was sought from the membership. To build preparedness for hazmat-related incidents, the LEPC will coordinate with ESF resources.

During the May 2018 meeting, DHEC representatives presented the State's plan for response to a major terrorist event, particularly an event involving the use of anthrax as a mass casualty agent. The use of PODs, as in the Lancaster County exercised during GridEx, was shown to the membership to be a vital piece of any DHEC response to a mass casualty incident such as this, any other nerve agent attack, or a radiological event. Lancaster County's lack of Special Medical Needs Sheltering was also discussed and ways to increase this capacity will be explored by the Lancaster County Emergency Management staff.

Lancaster County LEPC's objective for the 2018-2019 year is to continue building response capability for major incidents, especially those related to hazmat. Partnerships among LEPC members and between the membership and Lancaster County Emergency Management will be utilized to establish a training and exercise program to strengthen the role of the LEPC and make participation in the LEPC more meaningful to both the membership and the community.



## LAURENS COUNTY LEPC

Laurens County has an active LEPC which meets bi-monthly, excluding the months of June and July. These meetings average approximately 50 attendees from county and city agencies, industries, schools, state agencies and other organizations within the county. They are generally held at Laurens City's new recreational facility "The Ridge".



Laurens County incorporates an all-hazards approach to LEPC meetings, which brings together a diverse group of individuals who are able to share their knowledge and information to enhance preparedness, response and recovery. A broad range of topics, including mental health programs, industry information, weather, DHEC concerns, upcoming events within the county, and other topics helpful for planning purposes are discussed.

Over the past couple of years, Laurens County Schools have adopted the Standard Response Protocol to aid in school safety. Laurens County EMA arranges a walk-through of every school in the county, both public and private, for first responders from law enforcement agencies, EMS, EMA, fire personnel, DNR, and hospital administration. These have aided tremendously in the development and enhancement of school safety plans. Laurens County EMA is also arranging these first responder tours for industries and other facilities upon request. The goal is to meet face-to-face and become familiar with the plants and facilities prior to an event

## LOWER RIVERS REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE Allendale, Bamberg, Hampton, Jasper Counties

The Lower Rivers Regional Local Emergency Planning Committee consists of Allendale, Bamberg, Hampton, and Jasper counties. The County Directors decided a Regional LEPC was the best option for their small, rural counties. The Directors, along with their SCEMD Regional Emergency Manager, conducted a planning meeting to determine their path forward. An invitation was sent by each Director to members of their community. The inaugural meeting was conducted on April 18, 2017. The Committee met several times in 2018 and began developing their by-laws. The officers elected were Chairperson Susanne Peeples, Hampton County Emergency Management Director, Vice-Chairs or Co-chairs Don Walters, Safety and Health Officer at Archroma and Gidget Stanley-Banks, Allendale County Emergency Management Director and Brenna Hancock, Hampton County Fire Rescue, Secretary. The Co-chairs made a presentation to the State Emergency Response Commission in June of this year. The Committee has encountered challenges, but is working to refocus their goals and mission for 2019.

The following challenges were identified in the inaugural year:

- Communication methods involving numerous counties
- Reaching everyone in the community that needs to be involved
- Each county "carrying their load" or doing their part
- Geography
- Getting industry and community leaders to attend LEPC meetings
- The support of local communities with education and public awareness



- D.O.T. and Industry Risk-based Planning and Resourcing awareness to the communities

The advantages and goals to accomplish in 2018-2019 are the following:

- Regional concept is good for small rural communities
- Each county can be involved and help divide the “work load”
- Geography allows LEPC members to visit different counties and industries
- Our resources extend further when we engage others in the community
- Community & Industry buy-in
- Educating surrounding counties and local communities

## MIDLANDS LEXINGTON/ RICHLAND COUNTY LEPC

The Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) were created in 2010 for the purpose of enhancing hazardous materials preparedness and emergency response nationwide by forming partnerships with local industries and government, as required by Title 42 of United States Code. The Midlands Lexington/Richland Local Emergency Planning Committee (MLRLEPC) was formed in 2016 in the effort of combining two large industrial counties that border each other throughout the area and share many of the same municipalities, jurisdictions, and corporate and non-corporate areas, all of which share businesses and overlap throughout both counties. Major interstate systems and highways interconnect both counties at several junctions and first responders have mutual aid agreements with one another for quick responses to incidents, with many assets available and additional first responder staff. These partnerships ensure facility response plans and capabilities fit together with local government emergency plans; misperceptions between industry and local response forces can have a catastrophic impact on not only the facility, but on the citizens of both Lexington and Richland counties. The Midlands Lexington/Richland Local Emergency Planning Committee met in March of 2018 with over 50 participants, including government agencies, both local and state, law enforcement, fire, EMS, utility operators, industries, County/Municipal Emergency Management, and various non-profit agencies.

## SPARTANBURG COUNTY LEPC



The Spartanburg County LEPC continues to experience incremental growth while carrying out various initiatives. For example, for 2017/2018, the LEPC funded the new Support Services/Rehab trailer, conducted Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA's), emailed all Tier II contacts for a membership drive, incorporated our LEPC members into GridEx, offered training to our members, and during both years, played an integral part in Community Emergency Preparedness Day. In July 2017, the LEPC-funded Rehab Trailer officially went into service. This trailer is fully equipped to run rehab operations for large response incidents. While utilized for emergency response activations, the unit is also used to conduct Fire Alarm Blitzes and other exercises/community events. In addition to the Rehab trailer, the LEPC continues to conduct HVAs for any industry/business that wishes to receive this free service.

The LEPC HVA subcommittee attempts to conduct HVA's for various LEPC members. Last year one was conducted at Draexlmaier and in 2018, a partial HVA was done for BASF (had to postpone entire site assessment due to severe weather). These HVA's are conducted by LEPC members from various





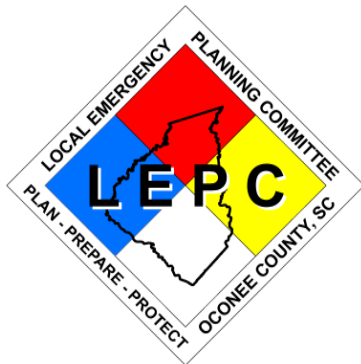
professions so a thorough assessment can be given. Usually an HVA team consists of professionals from Industry, DHEC, EM, Fire, and Law Enforcement. These different perspectives help provide a product that is very beneficial to our LEPC members. An email campaign was utilized to increase registration.

This year the Spartanburg LEPC contacted all Tier II reporting facilities in an effort to make them aware of our presence and garner more active participation. While this campaign did not yield huge results we did add several key industries, such as Milliken, to our group. The LEPC expanded membership in 2018. Members had the opportunity to participate in last year's GridEx exercise with hopes to offer additional Palmetto based training for 2018/2019. In addition to GridEx and Palmetto, LEPC will continue to offer free training and exercise opportunities to members. This year, LEPC, along with the HazMat team, participated in an emergency exercise/presentation at BASF.

LEPC members participated in several emergency focused training events at various locations throughout the year. The also provided training such as "Stop the Bleed" training to companies who are member of the LEPC. Free training services will continue to be offered in hopes of having a better training LEPC. Spartanburg County was offered as a location for AWR-147, Rail Car Incident Response.

For the past nine years, the Inman Community has hosted our Annual Community Emergency Preparedness Day in a partnership of the LEPC, OEM/CERT, and City of Inman. Every year, the LEPC is one of several organizations/departments present at Community Emergency Preparedness Day. Combining the Community Emergency Preparedness Day with the Inman Harvest Day increases public awareness and visibility. The new partnership has been very successful and response agencies continue to support the initiative by participating in this annual event. This event affords the LEPC the opportunity to provide lifesaving information to our public on an annual basis.

## OCONEE COUNTY LEPC



The Oconee County Local Emergency Planning Committee meets quarterly. There are sixty-one members from agencies and organizations within Oconee County. Various trainings and presentations are a part of every meeting. This meeting agenda creates a better understanding of the needs and concerns of agencies and organizations that are members.

On August 16, 2017, Chief Scott Krein gave a presentation on the upcoming Solar Eclipse that was forecasted for August 21. A member met with the Beaverdam Baptist Association and Red Cross concerning the need for emergency shelter planning and organization. There were two HazMat incidents; one being a minor boating accident and the

other being an envelope that was found with powder in it in Toccoa, GA. Anderson WMD/Hazmat and Oconee County responded along with the FBI and GBI.

On November 15, 2017, the discussion focused on funding because of Hurricane Irma. Oconee County's percentage of outages was more than any other county in the state; because of that, Oconee County qualified for public assistance. The County also received a grant for public outreach. This included funds for smoke detectors, special needs and emergency preparedness planning. A



presentation, “Are You Ready”, was made wherein fifty-five weather alert radios and “Are You Ready” books were given out.

The February 21 meeting was changed to March 21, 2017 because of weather and a flu outbreak. The upcoming biennial Duke drill with full activation of the EOC was discussed. The drill was held on August 14, 2018. There was only one Hazmat incident. The new Hazmat quick response truck was put into service.

Topics at the May 16, 2018 meeting included the commodity study. Oconee County received a grant for this study and partnered with Pickens County for the purpose of getting two sides of one road. The commodity study will be used to do a Hazmat Gap Analysis. A decontamination drill was held on June 19, 2018. Oconee County supported Anderson County at a fire at Portman Marina.

## PICKENS COUNTY LEPC



The Pickens County LEPC objectives for the 2017/2018 year:

- Complete a Commodity Flow Study and, based off data collected, revise Hazardous Material Standard Operating Guides (SOGs). (Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Study was completed April 2018).
- Pickens County Emergency Management purchased several gas meters for the Hazardous Incident Response Team to respond to incidents such as carbon dioxide. Training was conducted with local Carbon Dioxide vendor on response and proper handling of carbon dioxide tanks.

The Pickens County LEPC Objectives for the 2018/2019 year:

- Perform a gap analysis of our county's current HazMat policies, procedures, plans, training, response capabilities, effectiveness, as well as conduct a review of last updates.
- Review existing County and Mutual Aid equipment, personnel, and resources for availability, capability, and accessibility.

The Pickens County LEPC meets quarterly to discuss events in the county as well as training and educating LEPC members regarding HazMat incidents and exercises. This allows Tier II facilities to incorporate these elements into their planning and training.



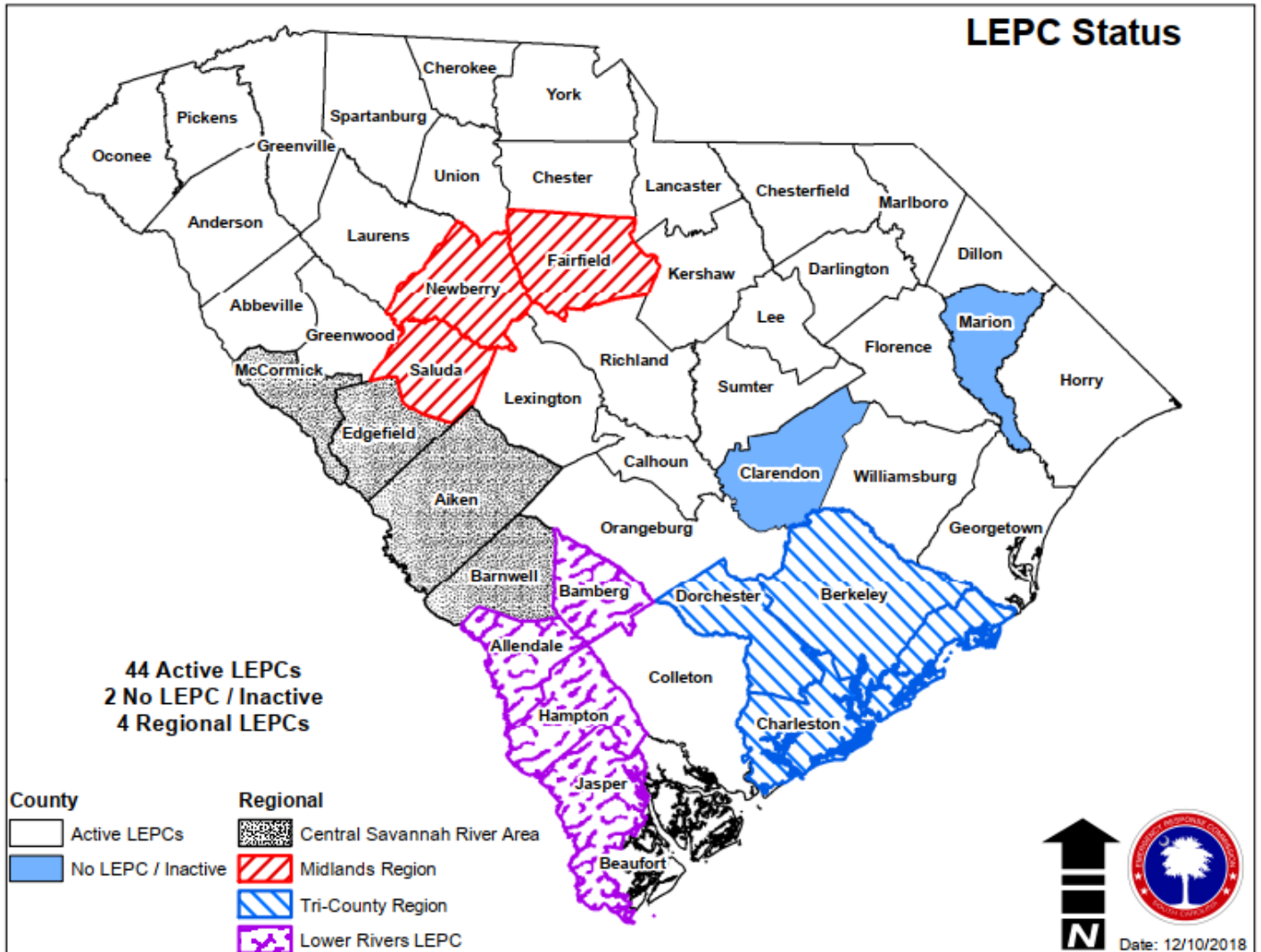
*Pickens County Hazardous Incident Response Team training on the new Propane Prop. The team focused on scene size-up, and determined strategies: offensive attack, defensive attack, and transitional mode.*



## WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY LEPC



The LEPC needed to increase community participation during this past year. Low community member turnout, averaging around seven to eight members per meeting, encouraged the LEPC to visit local businesses. The goal of this action was identify the needs of the community, determine what they could contribute, as well as expectations of the LEPC. To support this effort the meetings have been changed from monthly to quarterly, allowing time to conduct community visits on off months. The LEPC will meet in January, April, July and October of 2019. A very positive result of the community outreach with local businesses is the identification of items that they could donate, or make available during a disaster, such as fork lifts, parking lots, warehouse space, oxygen, etc. Meeting objectives in the near future is to increase community participation and grow our LEPC.



The South Carolina Emergency Response Commission (SERC) by-laws state that LEPC status and information will be collected in an annual report to the SERC. This process begins in August and is presented to the SERC not later than the December meeting.



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