

# Starting an LEPC

Each LEPC can establish its own boundaries for which it will be responsible. An LEPC can choose to develop at the county, city, or regional level, depending upon the representation of the group and the needs of the area.



**For more information about LEPC's in your area, or to learn about starting an LEPC, contact the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal, Planning & Training Assistance Group.**

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# Oregon Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs)

*Local Resources for Local Issues*

## OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL



**LEPC** *Local Resources for Local Issues*  
**Oregon Local Emergency Planning Committees**

# Supporting Localized Emergency Planning & Preparedness

Disasters that can jeopardize a community's safety are best understood by the people who live, work and play there. Depending on where you live in Oregon, your greatest disaster risk might be a windstorm, flood, wildfire, drought, snowstorm, earthquake, or tsunami. However, there is one type of disaster that can occur anywhere in Oregon.

Between 2000 and 2006, in Oregon there were more than 1,700 reported hazardous material releases.

In 1986, the federal government established the Emergency

Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). The intent of this law is to give citizens



the right to know what types of hazardous materials are in their communities, so they can be prepared to respond when a release occurs.

Part of this law provides states with the opportunity to create **Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs)**.

## LEPC Purpose

LEPC's seek to address local risk from hazardous material releases, both at fixed-sites and in transportation. They utilize a variety of methods and strategies in order to ensure local preparedness and planning is in place within their jurisdiction.

In the aftermath of tragedies like 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, LEPC's across the nation are beginning to undergo a change of focus. In addition to hazardous materials, many LEPC's are broadening their scope to assist in community preparedness for all types of emergencies. LEPC's are beginning to tackle issues such as meth labs, school safety, or other issues of local concern.

## LEPC Membership

LEPC's are composed of a diverse cross-section of people representing the interests of the community. An LEPC's level of success often depends upon its ability to involve a broad base of local resources and disciplines. LEPC's should have participation from the following groups:

- Emergency responders (police, fire, EMS, etc)
- Emergency managers
- Industry
- Local government
- Media
- Health officials
- Transportation officials
- Local citizens

## LEPC Support

As in other states, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) is responsible for the establishment and coordination of LEPC's. In Oregon, SERC duties have been appointed to the State Fire Marshal. In addition, an Oregon SERC Advisory Board (OSAB), composed of representatives from state agencies, tribes, and LEPC chairpersons, is being developed to assist the SERC in supporting LEPC's.

The Office of State Fire Marshal, through the Emergency Planning & Response Section, Planning & Training Assistance group, provides a number of tools and resources to LEPC's:

- LEPC Start-up Assistance
- Member Training
- LEPC Toolkit Resource
- Community Capability Assessment (CCA)
- Facility Hazmat Reporting
- Grant Assistance
- Administrative Assistance
- Informational Presentations

