

# Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act

## EPCRA

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(40 CFR 355, 370, and 372)

- Title III of Superfund amendments of 1986
- In response to Bhopal, India incident of 1984 (Union Carbide plant, methyl isocyanate)
- Act allows communities to plan for emergencies

## EPCRA Requirements

- Release Notification
- Storage Notification and Reporting
- MSDS Reports

## EPCRA Definitions

- *Extremely Hazardous Substance*
  - Flammable, explosive, or highly toxic chemical
  - Exceeds Threshold Planning Quantities (TPQ)
  - Listed in 40 CFR 355, Appendix A and B

## EPCRA Definitions

- Hazardous Chemicals
  - Material Safety Data Sheets
  - Defined by Hazardous Characteristics
    - Physical Hazards (e.g., combustible, explosive, flammable, water reactive, organic peroxide, oxidizer, unstable...)
    - Health Hazards (e.g., carcinogens, toxic agents, reproductive toxins, sensitizers, damaging to lungs, skin, eyes, nephrotoxins, neurotoxins, hepatotoxins, irritants, corrosives...)
- Exemptions (hazardous wastes, manufactured articles, consumer products)

## Release Reporting

- Required if:
  - Hazardous substance release is greater than Reportable Quantity
- Must notify:
  - National Response Center (800-424-8802)
  - State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), in GA 800-241-4113 ; in SC 888-481-0125
  - Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

## Notification Procedure

- Provide information to SERC & LEPC about:
  - Chemical
  - Quantity
  - Precautions
  - Health risks and medical needs
  - Time & duration
  - Media (soil, air, water)
  - Point of contact
- Follow-up with written notice
  - Response actions taken
  - Health risks and medical attention
  - Update of any other reported information

## Storage Notification

(40 CFR 370)

- Sections 311 and 312 of EPCRA
- For use in local emergency response planning
- Information on chemicals stored on-site

## Tier I and Tier II Reports

- Reported annually, no later than March 1.
- Reported to SERC, LEPC, and local fire departments
- Report any chemicals stored in quantities over thresholds, at any time during the previous year
  - Hazardous Chemical  $\geq$  10,000 lbs
  - Extremely Hazardous Substance (EHS)  $\geq$  500 lbs
  - Extremely Hazardous Substance  $\geq$  TPQ

## Tier I Report

- Standard Report of:
  - Estimated maximum amount by hazard category
  - Average daily amount throughout year
  - General storage location
  - Maximum no. of days a single chemical was on-site



## MSDS Reports

(When a new chemical is introduced on-site)

- Reports filed with SERC and LEPC
- Within 3 months of a new chemical on-site
- For chemicals present over storage notification thresholds
  - Hazardous Chemical  $\geq$  10,000 lbs
  - EHS  $\geq$  500 lbs
  - EHS  $\geq$  TPQ

## Additional Resources

- Georgia Environmental Protection Division
  - [www.dnr.state.us/dnr/enviro](http://www.dnr.state.us/dnr/enviro)
  - 404-656-6905
- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Considerations
  - [www.scdhec.net/eqc/baq/html/eqeprca.html](http://www.scdhec.net/eqc/baq/html/eqeprca.html)
  - [www.state.sc.us/epd/library/epcra/epcra\\_new.html](http://www.state.sc.us/epd/library/epcra/epcra_new.html)
  - 803-898-3849
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  - [www.epa.gov/Region4/air/epcra](http://www.epa.gov/Region4/air/epcra)
  - EPCRA Hotline: 800-424-9346
  - Region 4 POC: 404-562-9188