

Annual Report 2015

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

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Contents

Overview	1
Finance Subcommittee	2
Risk Awareness Subcommittee	3
Emergency Response & Communications Subcommittee	4
Pipeline Damage Prevention Subcommittee	5
Executive Subcommittee	5

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

City of Corpus Christi-Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee

Overview

Chairman: Chief Robert Rocha, Corpus Christi Fire Department

Vice-Chairperson: David Cave, CITGO Refining

Secretary/Treasurer: Rick Ramos, Corpus Christi Fire Department

Local Emergency Planning Committee Coordinator: Joanne Salge

During calendar year 2015, the City of Corpus Christi / Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) carried out the goal of educating the citizens of Nueces County regarding potential, hazardous chemicals in the Community. The LEPC instructs citizens on what actions to take during a chemical emergency to protect themselves and their families by utilizing concepts such as, Shelter-in-Place and/or evacuation, depending on the situation. These initiatives also include knowing where to find, and how to obtain, information during a chemical emergency.

In addition to public education, the LEPC continues to fulfill its statutory duty (as set forth in the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act) to collect and maintain annual Tier II chemical inventory information provided by facilities in Nueces County that use, store, and/or produce hazardous chemicals. The LEPC regularly responds to public requests for information regarding this chemical inventory information. Tier II information is provided to the Annville Volunteer Fire Department, Refinery Terminal Fire Company, Corpus Christi Fire Department Hazmat stations, Robstown Fire Department and surrounding agencies, as requested.

Updates to the LEPC By-Laws were completed in January 2015 to reflect the change in the City of Corpus Christi's fiscal year to begin on October 1 through September 30. Additionally, the by-laws recognized the vehicle provided to the LEPC coordinator as a take home vehicle.

The LEPC General meetings are being held every other month beginning each year in January. The average meeting attendance has been 42. During the General Meetings this year, presentations were provided by Fire Chief Robert Rocha, John Metz with the National Weather Service, representatives from the United States Coast Guard discussing Bakken crude

transportation, Jeff Pollack with the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Battalion Chief Jim Devisser discussing unmanned aerial systems. A special meeting was held on July 27, 2015 to gain membership approval for a Texas Division of Emergency Management Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning grant application to conduct a commodity flow study.

Finance Subcommittee

Chairperson: Rick Ramos, Corpus Christi Fire Department

Vice-Chairperson: Danielle Hale, Nueces County Office of Emergency Management

The annual LEPC budget of \$129,048.70 for fiscal year 2014-2015 was approved by City Council. The budget funds consist of business and industry donations. The donation requests are based on the supply of hazardous chemicals that are reported by each agency in their annual Tier II information. Requests for support are mailed to each reporting entity which currently totals 431.

The LEPC was awarded a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Planning (HMEP) Grant to assist with and provide the local match for a hazardous materials vulnerability assessment; and to increase effectiveness in safe and efficient handling in hazardous material transportation incidents. The project cost was \$34,593.22 and was completed at the end of October 2015. In August, the LEPC submitted a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Planning (HMEP) grant application and has been approved project funding for a commodity flow study. The project total is \$70,000.00.

The first financial audit of the LEPC was completed in 2014 and very favorable with few findings which have been addressed and corrective action taken. On April 30, 2015, the City's Audit Committee hosted a follow up meeting with the LEPC and concluded that all recommendations had been fully implemented and commended management for its timely implementation of audit report recommendations.

The City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, the Port of Corpus Christi Authority and the LEPC continue to work together through an Interlocal Agreement for a five (5) year term ending in 2019. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is well supported in the community and by industry.

Risk Awareness Subcommittee

Chairperson: Scott Nelson, Mark West

Vice-Chairperson: Billy Delgado, City of Corpus Christi, Emergency Operations

The subcommittee continues to work in cooperation with local business and industry to improve the awareness regarding chemical emergencies. The subcommittee attends and participates in health fairs, community events, community meetings, school fairs, tabletop drills, full scale drills, and other local events. Informational materials have been provided to approximately 7,000 attendees. Also, the subcommittee coordinated a limited multimedia outreach campaign. Three LEPC and ReverseAlert® commercial messages were aired on the KIII LED billboard, messages aired during NCAA College Bowl Series, and a small campaign on Time Warner Cable in October. The messages were viewed on the City of Corpus Christi's CCTV, and as always, the LEPC received outstanding support by KLUX radio.

Participation in ReverseAlert®, an emergency notification system, increased from 4,912 to 8,323 opt-in participants in 2015. Working with the City of Corpus Christi Office of Emergency Management, a utility insert focusing on hurricane preparedness, promoting the ReverseAlert® system and LEPC went to 94,000 households. The LEPC Information Line (826-4636) continues to be a good source of emergency information for the community.

Thirty five (35) tabletop drills and presentations were performed at several Nueces County schools, community meetings, and businesses. Tabletop scenarios were designed to best suit the agency location and possible incident that may occur in their area. The LEPC also participated in local, state, and federal agency planning and drill activities relating to potential chemical emergencies that may occur from both accidental and intentional incidents.

Two community tabletop drills were conducted at area elementary schools in cooperation with the Corpus Christi Community Advisory Committee, the Corpus Christi Fire Department, the Corpus Christi Police Department, the Corpus Christi Office of Emergency Management, Refinery Terminal Fire Company and industry.

Emergency Response and Communications Subcommittee

Chairperson: Chief Randy Paige, Corpus Christi Fire Department

Vice-Chairperson: Chris Garcia, CITGO Refining

The Emergency Response and Communications subcommittee (ERC) membership is a combination of first responders, industry representatives and several regulatory agencies. A multi-agency, emergency response, full scale drill was performed on August 26, 2015. This drill, hosted by Flint Hills Resources, involved several agencies from Nueces County including the Corpus Christi Fire Department, Corpus Christi Police Department, Annaville Volunteer Fire Department, Nueces County Office of Emergency Management and others. All agencies worked together and later critiqued the drill. Weather issues caused cancellation of several other industry drills that have been rescheduled for 2016.

To increase communication and build cooperation, site visits were conducted at major facilities for first responders. An emergency response guide was compiled for most of the major facilities, as well. Several joint training opportunities were conducted with industrial partners and an inventory of assets and equipment were collected. The Emergency Response and Communications Subcommittee supported a three-phase risk assessment in 2015.

Pipeline Damage Prevention Subcommittee

Chairperson: Roger Smith, Dow Pipeline

Vice-Chairperson: Henry Gonzalez, NuStar

Several pipeline companies and organizations are active in the Pipeline Damage Prevention Subcommittee. This Subcommittee supports pipeline ordinances for Corpus Christi- Nueces County, provides outreach, and works with the City's Pipeline Review Panel. The subcommittee, industry and the City's Legal Department are reviewing and updating the current pipeline ordinances.

During 2015, the Pipeline Damage Prevention Subcommittee was recognized by the Corpus Christi City Council and Mayor, as well as, the Nueces County Commissioner's Court during

“Safe Digging Month” for their efforts to increase safety and awareness. A safe digging utility insert went out to 94,000 households to support Texas 811 – One Call System.

In October 2015, the subcommittee planned and hosted the second annual Safe Digging Seminar at the Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds for over 200 participants. This free event was geared to excavators, safety personnel and organizations. The subcommittee developed a video, “Safe Digging – Call Before You Dig,” which was provided to each attendee. Industry sponsorship helped support the event.

Executive Subcommittee

Chairperson: Chief Robert Rocha, Corpus Christi Fire Department

Vice-Chairperson: David Cave, CITGO Refining

The LEPC Executive Subcommittee meets quarterly to provide support and guidance to the other LEPC subcommittees. The subcommittee also assists in setting goals, goal attainment, planning new projects, identification of new industrial partners and identification of potential hazards or concerns in the community.

Company Information

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