

Annual Report 2016

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

Tel 361-826-3960
Fax 361-826-4417

2406 Leopard Street, Suite 200
Corpus Christi, TX 78408

www.cclepc.org
joannes@cctexas.com

Contents

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

Chairperson: 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 2016, the City of Corpus Christi - Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) carried out its' goal of educating the citizens of Nueces County regarding potentially 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 from facilities in Nueces County that use, store, and/or produce hazardous chemicals. The LEPC regularly responds to public requests, as well as first responders, by providing Tier II information when requested.

The average meeting attendance in 2016 for LEPC General Meetings was 35. During the LEPC General Meetings, presentations were given by Chayne Sparagowski, Coastal Bend Council of Governments; Gretchen Arnold, Long Term Health Group; Dr. David Bierling, Texas A&M Transportation Institute; Marty Wind, 89.5 FM- KLUX Radio; Joshua Carrillo, Union Pacific Railroad; and a final report by Dr. David Bierling, Texas A&M Transportation Institute. However, no special meetings were called during the year.

Nomination and election of the LEPC Subcommittee Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons were held on July 5, 2016. The new officers will serve a term ending July 2018.

Finance Subcommittee

Chairperson: Rick Ramos, Corpus Christi Fire Department

Vice-Chairperson: Danielle Hale, Port of Corpus Christi Authority

The annual LEPC budget of \$115,223.61 for fiscal year 2015-2016 was approved by City Council and later amended to \$163,227.69 to include grant activity and funding provided by the Industry Education Awareness Communication Committee (IEACC). The budget funds consist of business and industry donations. The donation requests are mailed to each reporting entity which are based on the supply of hazardous chemicals that are reported in their annual Tier II submission and currently total 441.

- The LEPC was awarded a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Planning (HMEP) Grant in the amount of \$70,000.00 and approved project funding for a Commodity Flow Study. The Commodity Flow Study was conducted by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute and also partnered with the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- The LEPC participated in a Local Emergency Planning Committee Grant Program sponsored by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The City of Corpus Christi- Nueces County has been allocated funds to support three community projects.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is well supported by the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, and the Port of Corpus Christi Authority through a five (5) year Inter-local Agreement which will provide a continued partnership until 2019.

Risk Awareness Subcommittee

Chairperson: Raul Vasquez, Retired

Vice-Chairperson: Sharon Bailey Lewis, City of Corpus Christi, Environmental and Special Initiatives

The Subcommittee continues to work in cooperation with local business and industry to improve the awareness regarding chemical emergencies.

- Members have attended and participated in health fairs, community events, community meetings, school fairs, tabletop drills, full scale drills, and other local events.

- Materials have been provided to approximately 19,000 citizens.
- The Subcommittee coordinated a multimedia outreach campaign in 2016. Three LEPC and ReverseAlert® commercial messages were aired on KIII TV and Time Warner Cable (Spectrum). The messages were viewed on the City of Corpus Christi's CCTV; and as always, the LEPC received outstanding support by KLUX radio.
- The LEPC Shelter in Place activity book was updated and 15,000 copies printed for distribution. The LEPC web page was updated to provide easy access and more information.

Participation in ReverseAlert®, an emergency notification system, increased from 8,323 to 10,185 opt-in participants in 2016.

- 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 96,000 households.

The LEPC Information Line (361-826-4636) continues to be an excellent source of emergency information for the Community.

Other activities completed in 2016 were:

- Thirty (30) tabletop drills and presentations were performed at several Nueces County schools, community meetings, and businesses. Tabletop scenarios were designed to best suit the location and possible incident that may occur in the 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.
- Approximately 500 "Shelter In Place" kits were provided to area School Districts.
- 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 stakeholders.

Emergency Response and Communications Subcommittee

Chairperson: Chris Garcia, CITGO Refining

Vice-Chairperson: Joseph Cantu, Valero

The Emergency Response and Communications subcommittee (ERC) membership is a combination of first responders, industry representatives and regulatory agencies to promote preparedness for a wide variety of potential hazards.

- A multi-agency, emergency response, full scale drill was performed on September 14, 2016. This drill, hosted by CITGO, involved several agencies from Nueces County. Members of the Emergency Response-Communication Committee and the LEPC participated in other industry drills during 2016 including a two day drill at the Regional Fairgrounds hosted by CITGO.
- To increase communication and build cooperation, site visits were conducted at major facilities for first responders.
- Emergency Response Plans and a listing of assets and equipment was compiled for most of the major facilities.
- Several joint training exercises were conducted with industrial partners.
- The Subcommittee distributed copies of the 2016 Emergency Response Guide to LEPC membership, first responders, and facility representatives.

Pipeline Damage Prevention Subcommittee

Chairperson: Roger Smith, Dow Pipeline

Vice-Chairperson: Brianna Lohse, Koch Pipeline

Several pipeline companies and organization are active in the LEPC Pipeline Damage Prevention Subcommittee. This Subcommittee works with the Pipeline Ordinance for Corpus Christi- Nueces County, in connection with outreach, funding and review requests for the Pipeline Review Panel.

- The Subcommittee is reviewing the current pipeline ordinances with the City of Corpus Christi's Legal Department and industry to update the Ordinances.

During 2016, the LEPC 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 98,500 City and County households to support safe digging practices by all excavators.
- In October 2016, the Subcommittee planned and hosted the Third Annual Safe Digging Seminar at the R.M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds for over 200 participants. This free event was geared to excavators, utility workers, and safety personnel.
- The Subcommittee generated a video, "Safe Digging – Call Before You Dig," which was provided to each attendee. Industry sponsorship funded 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 all LEPC subcommittees. The Executive Committee is comprised of the LEPC Chairperson, LEPC Vice-

Chairperson, the Mayor of the City of Corpus Christi, the County Judge of Nueces County, and the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the LEPC Subcommittees. The Executive subcommittee provides guidance with:

- Setting goals and a working budget for each LEPC Subcommittee
- Measuring LEPC Subcommittee goal attainment - some Subcommittee goals are ongoing from year to year while other items are at 100% attainment
- Ensuring financial stability through grants and donations - the Subcommittee's direct contact with facilities and establishing priorities on funding opportunities have led to increased donations and continued success in securing grants
- Identification and implementation of new projects such as expanding the Safe Digging Seminar to include information for and participation by first responders.
- Identification of new industrial partners has increased participation and support and outreach to existing companies has increased participation in the LEPC Subcommittees
- Identification of potential hazards or concerns in the community such as increased truck traffic on highways resulted in the 2016 Commodity Flow Study

Company Information

City of Corpus Christi-Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee

2406 Leopard Street, Suite 200

Corpus Christi, TX 78408

Tel 361-826-3960

Fax 361-826-4417

www.cclepc.org

