

LEPC

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR SAFETY

**CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI / NUECES COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

**PROVIDED BY: JOANNE SALGE, SR. MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT
ERIN HAWKINS, MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT**

OVERVIEW

LEPC Committee Members

- *Chairperson: Chief Robert Rocha, Corpus Christi Fire Department*
- *Vice-Chairperson: David Cave, CITGO Refining*
- *Secretary/Treasurer: Rosie Rodriguez, Corpus Christi Fire Department*
- *Local Emergency Planning Committee Coordinator: Joanne Salge*
- *Local Emergency Planning Committee Management Assistant: Erin Hawkins*

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 Interlocal Agreement, which was renewed in 2019.



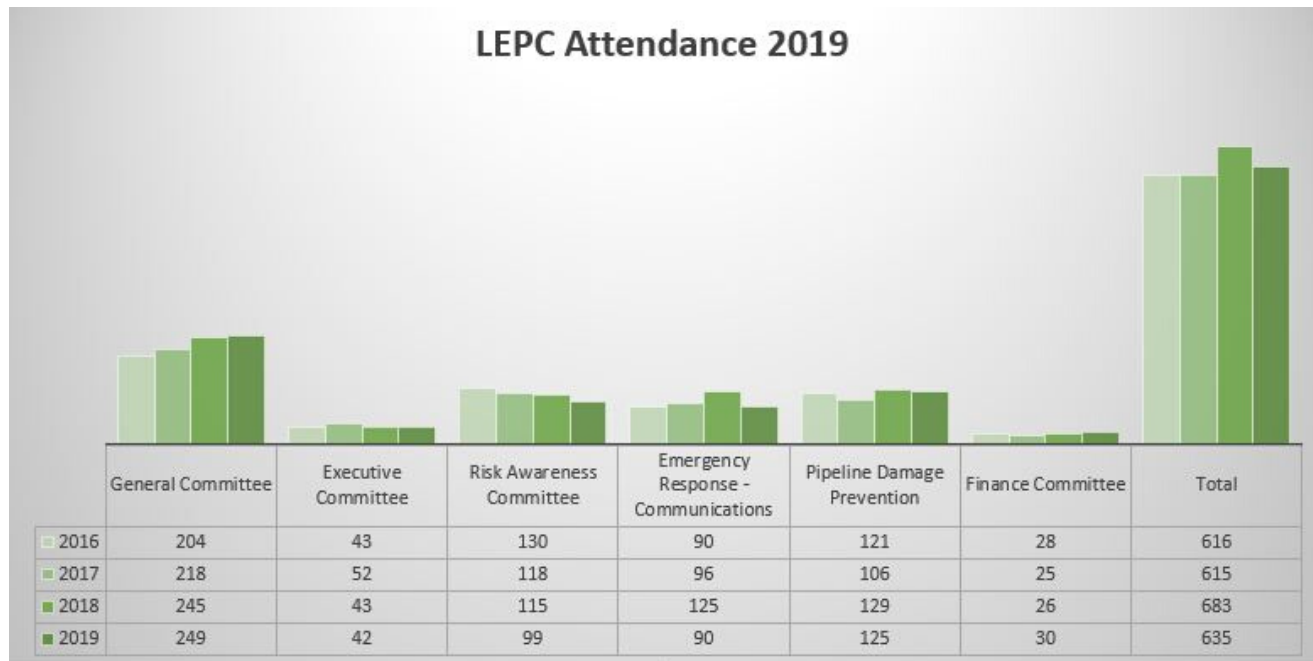
During the 2019 calendar year, the City of Corpus Christi-Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) carried out its goal of educating the citizens of Nueces County regarding potentially hazardous chemicals in the community. Specifically, by informing citizens on what actions to take during a chemical emergency to protect themselves and their families, concepts such as Shelter-in-Place and/or evacuation and knowing where to find and how to receive information during a chemical emergency.

The LEPC conducted presentations and provided materials to various community organizations, including the Corpus Christi Community Advisory Council, Long Term Health Group, the Carol High School PTA, seven different elementary schools, Earth Day Bay Day, PRIDE Parade, City Hall in the Mall and at various City Hall events. The LEPC also participated in safety days at Flint Hills Resources and Horton Automatics.

OVERVIEW

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 (EPCRA) 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 responds to public requests, as well as first responders, by providing Tier II information when appropriate.

Through scheduled meetings, the LEPC provides information to the public on topics regarding chemical safety. In 2019, the average meeting attendance for LEPC General Meetings was 41.



During LEPC General Meetings, presentations were given by:

- Miriam Press, EHS Manager, Elementis Chromium
- Vince Deekard, Emergency Response Coordinator, Flint Hills Resources
- Trent Thigpen, Pollution Prevention Program, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi
- Battalion Chief Johnnie Johnson, Battalion Chief Tony Perez and Joanne Salge, International Association of Fire Chiefs Technical Advisory Group and International Hazardous Materials Conference
- Buck Russel, Public Safety Supervisor, Union Pacific Railroad
- John Metz, Meteorologist in Charge, National Weather Service, Corpus Christi

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

- *Chairperson: Rosie Rodriguez, City of Corpus Christi Fire Department*
- *Vice-Chairperson: Danielle Hale, Port of Corpus Christi Authority*

The Finance Subcommittee oversees the annual operating budget and grant programs. The annual LEPC budget of \$119,508.23 for fiscal year 2018-2019 was approved by City Council. These funds were provided through donations from entities within Nueces County. A request to City Council was made and approved to transfer \$33,926.39 from LEPC reserve fund balance to the 2019-2020 operating budget. These funds will be used to purchase a podium, reprinting of the LEPC Shelter-in-Place activity books, buy local media spots, items for Shelter-in-Place kits and to paint and apply new decals on the LEPC van.

An Ad Hoc Finance Committee, led by Danielle Hale, completed a review of Tier II reporting facilities, associated risks based on hazardous chemical supplies and their level of support to the LEPC. In addition, facilities not required to submit Tier II reports, but are subject to Federal contingency planning requirements, were included in the review. A new contribution schedule was established. Donation requests were mailed to each facility, along with an explanation of the revised contribution schedule.

The LEPC completed a grant program sponsored by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The City of Corpus Christi-Nueces County LEPC was awarded \$5,000 to produce commercial messages for the "Chemicals are Everywhere" campaign and to purchase software for the Corpus Christi Fire Department Hazmat Team.

In addition, the Flint Hills Resources Helping Heroes Grant Fund awarded the LEPC \$3,000 to purchase multi-functional flashlight/radios to place in Shelter-in-Place kits. Since 2000, the LEPC has received over \$583,000 in grant funds and awards.



Flint Hills Resources Helping Heroes Grant Fund Check Presentation

RISK AWARENESS SUBCOMMITTEE

- *Chairperson: Sharon Bailey Murphy, City of Corpus Christi*
- *Vice-Chairperson: Theresa Finch, Coastal Bend Council of Governments*

The Subcommittee continues to work in cooperation with local business and industry to improve awareness regarding chemical emergencies and safety, as follows:

- Members have attended and participated in community events, including safety presentations to City Hall employees, presenting information on Reverse Alert Notification System for 100 Nueces County Public Works employees, participating in the Oak Park Elementary Early Learning Fair, participating in the Corpus Christi Community Advisory Council Health and Safety Fair, participating in the Flint Hills Resources Health, Safety and Environmental Fair and being a sponsor of the annual Coastal Bend Hurricane Conference.
- The Subcommittee coordinated a television message focusing on Household Hazardous Waste. The "Chemicals are Everywhere" campaign featured two commercials. One message focused on use and storage of chemicals in the kitchen and home, with the other message focused on use and storage of chemicals in the garage. The commercials aired 1,313 of times on cable networks during the months of June and July 2019.



RISK AWARENESS SUBCOMMITTEE

- Work began on updating the LEPC web page, www.cclepc.org.
- The LEPC Facebook page was revived with a new name: LEPC of Corpus Christi and Nueces County. The page had 49 likes at the end of 2019. <https://www.facebook.com/LEPCCCNC/>



Cover Photo



Pinned Post - Mission Statement



City Hall Selfie Day

RISK AWARENESS SUBCOMMITTEE

- Participation in Reverse Alert, an emergency notification system, increased from 20,017 to 20,739 opt-in participants in 2019. One hundred twenty-seven (127) industry alerts were sent out through the Reverse Alert Notification System in 2019. Everbridge provides the Reverse Alert Notification System. The contract with Everbridge has been renewed for another five years, and will include new features.



Reverse Alert Information Card

- Approximately 359 Shelter-in-Place kits were provided to area school districts. Each kit includes duct tape, masking tape, a bottle of water, towel, first aid kit, combination radio/flashlight and emergency contact information in a large poly bag. All-hazard radios were provided to schools and public facilities for early warning of chemical incidents or hazardous weather conditions.



Preparing Shelter-in-Place kits



Completed Shelter-in-Place kit

RISK AWARENESS SUBCOMMITTEE

Other activities completed in 2019 were:

- The LEPC and members of the Corpus Christi Fire Department attended the International Hazardous Materials Conference and the International Fire Chiefs Association Technical Advisory Group Conference in Baltimore, Maryland in June 2019.



- In December, the LEPC hosted Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Tier II Workshop for the region. This training opportunity provided useful information to navigate changes made to the annual reporting process for the 75 attendees.
- The LEPC participated in a water quality grant with the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program. Additional partners included Texas Agri-Life Extension Service, City of Corpus Christi Storm Water Department, City of Corpus Christi Environmental and Special Initiatives, and the City of Corpus Christi's Communications Department. The purpose of the grant was to gather information on the use of fertilizer and pesticides and how they affect water quality through runoff. Citizens were encouraged to collect soil samples for analysis at no cost. Educational flyers were developed for distribution to the public.



RISK AWARENESS SUBCOMMITTEE

- Several LEPC members attended an Oiled Wildlife workshop hosted by the General Land Office in February 2019, and the LEPC participated in a United States Coast Guard workshop in April 2019.



- The LEPC observed training drills at Flint Hills Resources and Exxon Mobile Pipeline Group.
- The LEPC Information Line (361-826-4636 or 826-INFO) continues to be an excellent source of emergency information for the community. Recorded phone messages alert citizens of industry incidents, as well as maintenance activity that may disrupt traffic



EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

- *Chairperson: Joseph Cantu, Valero Refining*
- *Vice-Chairperson: Juan (Tony) Perez, Corpus Christi Fire Department*

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

- To increase communication and build cooperation, site visits were conducted at major facilities for first responders including tours of Cheniere, EPIC, Air Liquide, Flow Service Cooperation, Rangeland, Pin Oak, Bronco Railroad Terminal, Flint Hills Resources and Magellan.
- Emergency Response plans and a listing of assets and equipment was compiled for most of the major facilities. In response to several high-profile chemical incidents in the United States, Chief Robert Rocha convened an Emergency Response Ad Hoc Committee to review and assess response capabilities. David Cave chaired that committee which concluded in August 2019.
- Several joint training exercises and full scale drills were conducted with industrial partners, which included a three day rail car safety training and drill with Union Pacific Railroad, O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant, Corpus Christi Fire Department, Corpus Christi Police Department, City of Corpus Christi Communications Department, City of Corpus Christi Emergency Operations Center and other area fire departments and agencies. One hundred ninety-four (194) attendees participated in the training and drill.



***Rail Car Safety Training with
Union Pacific Railroad at O.N. Stevens
Water Treatment Plant***

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

A strong emphasis on training and cooperative exercises has helped to create more training opportunities. Guest speakers are providing information at quarterly meetings. Those presenting included:

- Patty Molina, American Red Cross, Programs and Services
- Vince Deckard, Flint Hills Resources, RMP Facility Requirements
- Billy Delgado, City of Corpus Christi Office of Emergency Management, 2019 Hurricane Re-Entry Process
- Juan (Tony) Perez, Corpus Christi Fire Department Battalion Chief, Summary of the 2019 Hot Zone Conference

In October, eight (8) members of the Corpus Christi Fire Department attended the annual HOTZONE Conference in Houston, TX. The LEPC sponsored two (2) of the firefighters from CCFD.



Training for Responders by Responders

PIPELINE DAMAGE PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE

- *Chairperson: Roger Smith, Dow Pipeline*
- *Vice-Chairperson: Steve Geary, Celanese*

Several area pipeline companies and organizations are active in the Pipeline Damage Prevention Subcommittee. This Subcommittee oversees the Corpus Christi Pipeline Ordinance, provides educational outreach, safety training and reviews requests by the City's Pipeline Review Panel.

- A safe digging utility insert went out to 98,500 City and County households to support safe digging practices.
- During 2019, the LEPC Pipeline Damage Prevention Subcommittee was recognized with proclamations from the Corpus Christi City Council and Mayor, as well as the Nueces County Judge and Commissioner's Court during "Safe Digging Month" for their efforts to increase safety and awareness in the City and County.



Safe Digging Month Proclamation by the Corpus Christi City Council and Mayor

PIPELINE DAMAGE PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE

- In October 2018, the Subcommittee planned and hosted the Sixth Annual Safe Digging Seminar at the R.M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds for 325 participants, the largest gathering yet. This free event was geared towards excavators, utility workers and safety personnel. Highlights of the event include a shoring demonstration by United Rentals, electrical box strike demo from San Patricio Electric Cooperative, backhoe rodeo provided by TEEKS and an ask-the-experts panel discussion. The event was held in the main arena to include excavating equipment displays and booth space for local companies and agencies promoting pipeline/excavator safety and awareness. The Texas Railroad Commission, OSHA, Texas 811 and the Corpus Christi Fire Department AERO Team provided information and presentations.



Safe Digging Seminar 2019

PIPELINE DAMAGE PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE

- Civil engineering firm Binkley & Barfield hosted a Meet and Greet mixer for pipeline representatives at Executive Surf Club in August. The event saw 40 people in attendance.



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
- Identification of new industrial partners has increased participation and support. Outreach to existing companies has increased participation in the LEPC Subcommittees



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