

LEPC

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR SAFETY

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

2020 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: Joseph Cantu, Valero Refining Texas LP, Bill Greehey Refineries*
- *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 supported by the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County and the Port of Corpus Christi Authority through a five (5) year Interlocal Agreement, which will be in effect through 2024.



The year 2020 proved to be an extremely challenging one, with the arrival of COVID-19 and the ensuing global pandemic. The normal operations of the LEPC were paused in March, but its goal remained the same: educating the residents of Corpus Christi and Nueces County about potentially hazardous chemicals in the community, teaching citizens what actions to take during a chemical emergency, how to shelter-in-place and/or evacuate and where to find information during a chemical emergency.

Prior to COVID-19 gathering restrictions, the LEPC was able to present information and provide materials to several organizations including 125 people at the Education Service Center Region 2, the annual Xeriscape Symposium and the TCEQ Regional Water Resiliency Workshop. The LEPC attended two in-person meetings of the Coastal Plains LEPC, and a meeting of the Damage Prevention Council in Alice in January. Once COVID-19 gathering restrictions were in place, public service announcements on television and radio, a new wrap on the LEPC van, a more active Facebook page, a redesigned website and numerous online meetings allowed the LEPC to safely and remotely distribute information.



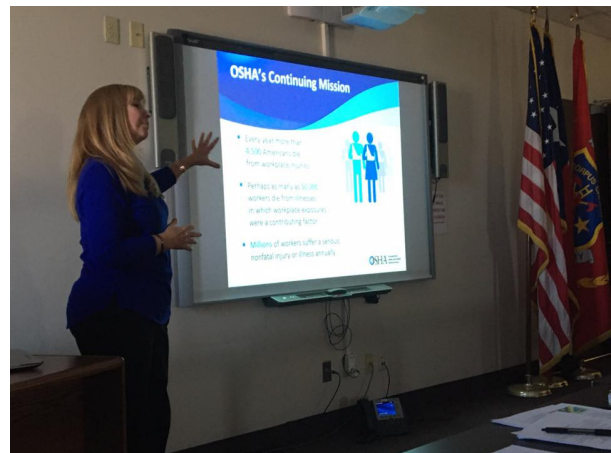
Tychem suit donation from Valero

A secondary goal emerged for LEPC: providing materials and information to various groups operating in the time of COVID-19. The LEPC assisted in coordinating with Port of Corpus Christi Authority the distribution of hand sanitizer to Meals on Wheels volunteers and recipients, coordinating a donation of personal protective equipment from Valero for local fire departments and recording an audio presentation for the Corpus Christi Community Advisory Council's drive-by meetings.

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 Corpus Christi and 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.

The LEPC's scheduled meetings were limited in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Meetings that did occur either in person or online included: Executive Subcommittee meetings in January and October, Risk Awareness Subcommittee meetings in February and October, Emergency Response and Communications Subcommittee meetings in January and October, Pipeline Subcommittee and General Meetings in January, March and November. Attendance was good at all meetings.



LEPC General Meetings from early 2020

During LEPC General Meetings, presentations were given by:

- Marianne McGee - OSHA
- Lynn Allison - Public Information Manager, Flatiron/Dragados LLC, Harbor Bridge Project

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 \$122,153.00 for fiscal year 2019-2020 was approved by the Corpus Christi City Council. These funds were provided through donations from entities within Corpus Christi and Nueces County. A request to Corpus Christi City Council was approved to transfer \$33,926.39 from LEPC reserve fund balance to the 2019-2020 operating budget, creating an amended budget of \$156,079.39. These funds were received and facilitated: the purchase of a new podium for the Corpus Christi Fire Department training room, reprinting of the LEPC activity book, the purchase of local media spots, the purchase of items for 600 shelter-in-place kits and painting/wrapping the LEPC van.



LEPC van with new paint and wrap

A revised LEPC contribution schedule, created by an Ad Hoc Finance Committee in 2019 and implemented the same year, was again followed in 2020. Donations are now being requested from Tier II reporting facilities, as well as facilities not subject to Tier II reporting requirements but subject to federal contingency planning requirements. Since the new contribution schedule was adopted, donations to the LEPC have been maintained and/or increased.



Thanks to the LEPC's industrial partner, Plains All American Pipeline, the Corpus Christi Fire Department received a donation of \$4,063.31 through the Plains First Responder Grant Program. The funds will be used to purchase equipment for CCFD's Hazmat Team.

Plains All American Pipeline 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:

- Many events and meetings were cancelled in 2020, limiting the opportunity for outreach. The LEPC did present to the Corpus Christi Community Advisory Council (CCCAC) in February, as well as provided an audio presentation and informational materials to the CCCAC for goody bags in October. The LEPC was one of the sponsors of the virtual Coastal Bend Hurricane Conference in July.
- The Subcommittee purchased television commercial airtime for the "Chemicals are Everywhere" campaign, which focused on the use, storage and disposal of chemicals in the home, kitchen and garage. The commercials aired 1,132 times during the months of June and August 2020.



Screen grab from "Chemicals are Everywhere" television commercial

RISK AWARENESS SUBCOMMITTEE

- The LEPC web page, www.cclepc.org, was updated with new graphics and information tabs.



The screenshot shows the LEPC website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation menu with the following items: Home, ReverseAlert, Emergency Preparation, Kids & Educators, Resources, and Committees & Meetings. A cartoon bee character with the LEPC logo is positioned in the top right corner. Below the navigation menu, a welcome message reads: "Welcome to the website for the City of Corpus Christi/Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee! The Primary Mission of the LEPC: To reduce risk and provide emergency response planning for chemical and hazardous material releases. The LEPC is dedicated to public education and awareness, especially in local schools." The central part of the page features the LEPC logo, which consists of the letters "LEPC" in a bold, red, sans-serif font, with the tagline "WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR SAFETY" underneath. Below the tagline, it says "CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI / NUECES COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE". The main content area contains two paragraphs of text. The first paragraph defines a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) as a partnership between citizens, local government, and industry to enhance hazardous materials preparedness. The second paragraph explains that LEPCs were established to carry out the requirements of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and related regulations. The bottom of the page has a yellow background with contact information on the left, logos for the City of Corpus Christi and the State of Texas in the center, and the LEPC mission statement on the right.

Home | ReverseAlert | Emergency Preparation | Kids & Educators | Resources | Committees & Meetings

Welcome to the website for the City of Corpus Christi/Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee!
The Primary Mission of the LEPC: To reduce risk and provide emergency response planning for chemical and hazardous material releases.
The LEPC is dedicated to public education and awareness, especially in local schools.

LEPC
WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR SAFETY
CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI / NUECES COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

A Local Emergency Planning Committee or LEPC, is a partnership between citizens, local government and industry to enhance hazardous materials preparedness. LEPCs are mandated organizations that consist of emergency responders, industry, government, education, media and community groups.

LEPCs were established to carry out the requirements of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (or EPCRA, also known as the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), Title III) and related regulations for emergency response planning. EPCRA helps to provide notification and access to information on chemicals at individual facilities, their uses and releases into the environment.

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Local Emergency Planning Committees provide for joint emergency planning, training and public outreach within the City of Corpus Christi and Nueces County, Texas. As a result, communities working with industry are better able to protect public health and the environment.

Explore this website for information on preparing an emergency kit, sheltering-in-place, evacuation and signing up for ReverseAlert, along with tools for educators, industry tools and useful links.

Get In Touch!
Phone: (361) 826-3960
Fax: (361) 826-4417
2406 Leopard Street, Suite 200
Corpus Christi, Texas, 78408
Joannes@cctexas.com

Our Mission
The primary mission of the LEPC is to reduce risk and provide emergency response planning for chemical and hazardous material releases. LEPC is dedicated to public education and awareness, especially in local schools.

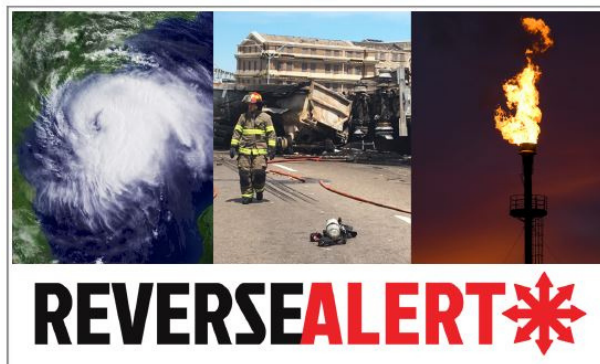
RISK AWARENESS SUBCOMMITTEE

- The LEPC Facebook page - LEPC of Corpus Christi and Nueces County - continued to grow. In 2020, the page doubled the number of likes since being relaunched in 2019.
<https://www.facebook.com/LEPCCCNC>



Photo from the Port of Corpus Christi Authority Avery Dock drill, posted to the LEPC Facebook page - The LEPC participated as a drill observer

- Participation in ReverseAlert, an emergency notification system, went from 20,017 opt-in participants in 2019 to 25,694 opt-in participants in 2020, an increase of 28.4% . During the year, 57 industry alerts were sent out through the ReverseAlert system. The LEPC supported the City of Corpus Christi's and Nueces County's rip current initiative, which added potential rip current danger information to ReverseAlert messaging. The LEPC provided more than 21,500 ReverseAlert cards for distribution to the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau, Nueces County, hotels and tourist destinations.



ReverseAlert Information Card

RISK AWARENESS SUBCOMMITTEE

- Reserve funds were used to reprint LEPC materials, including ReverseAlert cards, the LEPC activity book, Pipeline Safety flyers and Shelter-in-place flyers.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE

BEE PREPARED



for Chemical Emergencies

QUICK GUIDE: PIPELINE LEAKS

WARNING SIGNS OF A PIPELINE LEAK



If you suspect a pipeline leak, call 911 immediately!

Detecting Leaks

Although pipeline leaks don't happen often, it's important to recognize the signs of a leak and know what to do if a leak is suspected. The more you know, the safer you are!

- **Sights:** Seeing a white cloud, mist, fog, blowing dust, bubbles on standing water, dry spots in moist areas, or dead vegetation surrounded by live, green plants may indicate a leak.
- **Sounds:** Hearing an unusual sound like roaring, hissing, or whistling is an indication of a natural gas leak.
- **Smells:** In its raw state, natural gas is colorless and odorless. Utility companies use a substance called Mercaptan to create a "rotten egg" smell. Take action even if you only detect a slight odor of natural gas.

What TO DO if You Suspect or Detect a Leak

- **Leave** the area immediately in an upwind direction. Do not try to find or stop the leak. Warn bystanders away from the leak.
- **Call** from a safe location away from the leak. Immediately call 911 or the owner of the pipeline. Do not go back to where you smelled, saw or heard a possible leak.

What NOT TO DO if You Suspect or Detect a Leak:

- **Do not use** an open flame or ignition source. Do not smoke, start motors, ring doorbells, light matches, turn lights on or off or operate any vehicle or equipment that could cause a spark.
- **Do not touch** or come in direct contact with gases or liquids.
- **Do not drive** into a vapor cloud or leak.
- **Do not attempt** to close any valves yourself or extinguish a fire.

City of Corpus Christi-Nueces County
Local Emergency Planning Committee
2406 Leopold, Corpus Christi, TX 78408
361-828-3960 • www.cclepc.org



DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IN A CHEMICAL EMERGENCY?

In a chemical emergency it is usually safer to stay and shelter in place. In some cases you may be told by officials to evacuate. Plan ahead - know how to shelter in place and how to evacuate.

Here are some tips from the City of
Corpus Christi-Nueces County Local
Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).



PREPAREDNESS IS A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Chemical accidents do happen and can involve toxicity. In a chemical emergency you are on your own while emergency responders evaluate the incident. Be prepared with your own Personal Safety Plan.

USE YOUR SENSES

STAY ALIVE WITH ALL FIVE
Part of your Safety Plan is figuring out what to do if you:
SEE a cloud hugging the ground
SMELL a sharp odor
HEAR an explosion
TASTE some bitter gas
FEEL or sense chemical danger

INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Only Call 911 for Emergencies
- Do Call the LEPC Hotline - (361) 828-4639
- Listen to KLLX Radio - 89.5 FM
- NOAA Alert Radios
- Local Television and Radio Stations

SHELTER IN PLACE

- Go inside your home, your place of business, or car.
- Close doors and windows, designate one room as shelter.
- Turn off the air conditioning/heating.
- Secure your door by placing duct tape along the edges.
- Minimize a towel and place it along the bottom edge.
- Use masking tape to place on your window panes to prevent flying glass.

EVACUATE

- Plan ahead.
- Know several ways to leave your home or business.
- Follow your planned route and go directly to your destination.

EMERGENCY SAFETY KIT

- Have a small box ready to go and filled with these items:
- Towel
 - First Aid Kit
 - Water
 - Duct Tape
 - Flashlight
 - Radio
 - Masking Tape



REVERSE ALERT

Sign up to receive emergency alerts via phone call, text message or email
www.reversealert.org

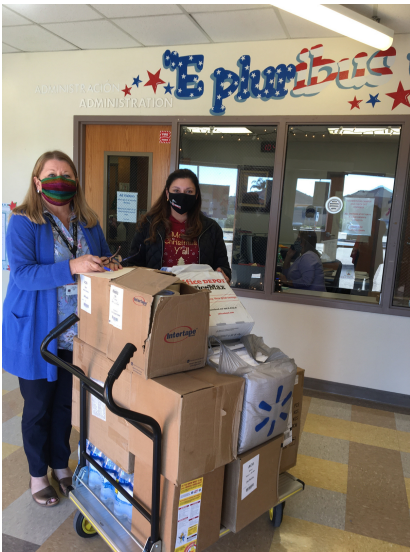
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LEPC printed materials

RISK AWARENESS SUBCOMMITTEE

- In 2020, the LEPC received funding for approximately 600 shelter-in-place kits. The LEPC delivered 105 shelter-in-place kits to London ISD in November and 47 kits to Joseph T. Dawson Elementary in December. 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.



Shelter-in-place kits delivered to Joseph T. Dawson Elementary and London ISD

Other LEPC activities completed in 2020 include:

- The purchase of a new podium for the Corpus Christi Fire Department training room.
- Attending numerous Zoom/WebEx/Go To Meetings online, including with the Damage Prevention Council.
- Completed CPR training.

***Donating giveaways to the
Port of Corpus Christi Authority Wellness Program***



RISK AWARENESS SUBCOMMITTEE

- Collaborated with the City of Corpus Christi's Storm Water Department and Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries on the creation of flyers outlining the Do's and Don'ts of Pesticide and Fertilizer Use.
- Collaborated with Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries on the completion of a grant that was started in 2019, to distribute and collect soil samples from across Corpus Christi. A total of 244 samples were collected.



- Several LEPC members assisted with KLUX's annual pledge drive in March and September.



LEPC members Roger Smith and Joanne Salge answer phones during KLUX pledge drive

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

- *Chairperson: Juan (Tony) Perez, Corpus Christi Fire Department*
- *Vice-Chairperson: John Perez, Flint Hills Resources*

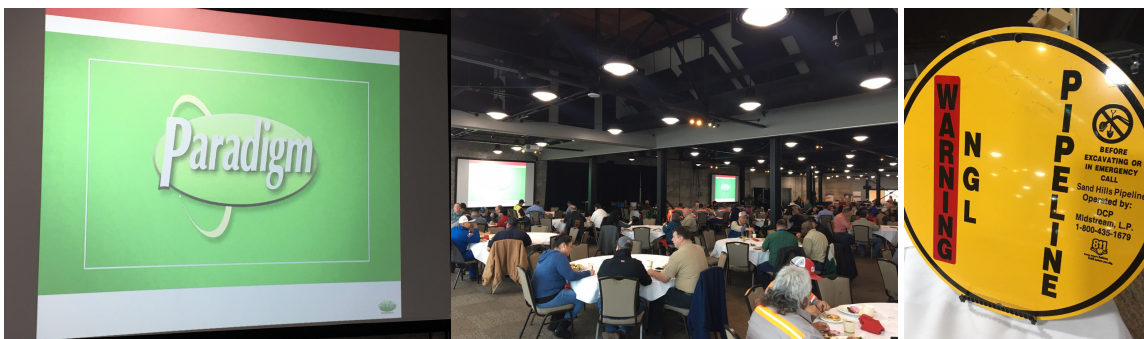
The Emergency Response and Communications Subcommittee (ERC) membership is a combination of first responders, industry representatives and regulatory agencies which promote preparedness for a wide variety of potential hazards.

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, site visits at major facilities were extremely limited for first responders. Corpus Christi Fire Department did complete a tour of EPIC.
- Drills and training exercises were also curtailed because of COVID-19 precautions. The LEPC did observe a fire drill at Flint Hills Resources in January.
- Valero hosted a meeting of the ERC Subcommittee in January, and presented information on the history of the Valero organization.



ERC Subcommittee meeting at Valero

- The LEPC attended the Paradigm Conference in February.



Paradigm Conference

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

- The LEPC and members of the Corpus Christi Fire Department attended the International Hazardous Materials Conference virtually. The LEPC continues to work with the International Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) Technical Advisory Group. A scheduled all-hazards conference with IFCA in Corpus Christi was cancelled, with plans to reschedule in 2021.



- 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 Emergency Operations Center and area fire departments and agencies - scheduled for February 2020 - was cancelled because of COVID-19 concerns. Planning for a rescheduled event began in late 2020, with the new dates of February 9-12, 2021.



- Several LEPC members participated in the Tule Lake Incident Review, held at the Port of Corpus Christi Authority.

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 and safety training.

- A safe digging utility insert was mailed out in April to more than 98,000 Corpus Christi and Nueces County homes, reminding residents to practice safe digging by calling 811 before starting any projects.



**Planting a tree? Digging a trench?
Installing a fence? Lines, pipes and utilities
can be located just **inches** below the surface.**

**PROTECT YOURSELF AND
UNDERGROUND OBJECTS!
CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG!**

It's FREE and it's the LAW!

811
www.Texas811.org

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- During 2020, the LEPC Pipeline Damage Prevention Subcommittee was recognized with virtual 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 efforts to increase digging safety and awareness in the City of Corpus Christi and Nueces County.
- Radio and television scripts for advertising pipeline safety were developed in 2020, with production of the commercials to begin in 2021.
- Discussions were held with Subcommittee members as well as the Damage Prevention Council and the Corpus Christi Gas Department about the growing number of line strikes in the area. Ideas for meeting with companies and individuals at work sites tail-gate style were discussed but were put on hold because of COVID-19.



The LEPC joined a virtual program with Texas 811 in June

EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

- *Chairperson: Chief Robert Rocha, Corpus Christi Fire Department*
- *Vice-Chairperson: Joseph Cantu, Valero Refining Texas LP, Bill Greehey Refineries*

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 each 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.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR SAFETY

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

WWW.CCLEPC.ORG

2020 DONORS

The LEPC does not receive federal, state or local tax dollars. The LEPC is completely funded through donations, grants, sponsorships and interlocal agreements. The LEPC thanks the following entities for their generous donations and support:

- Admiral Linen Service
- Air Liquide
- Air Products LLC
- Alamo Concrete Products LTD
- Arnold Oil Company
- AT&T
- Atlantic Aviation
- BASF Bishop Plant
- Buckeye Partners LP
- CC Battery
- Celanese
- Christus Spohn
- CITGO Refining and Chemicals
- City of Corpus Christi - Allison Wastewater Plant
- City of Corpus Christi - Animal Care
- City of Corpus Christi - Broadway Wastewater Plant
- City of Corpus Christi - Cefe Valenzuela Landfill
- City of Corpus Christi - Gas Department
- City of Corpus Christi - General Services
- City of Corpus Christi - Greenwood Wastewater Plant
- City of Corpus Christi - International Airport
- City of Corpus Christi - Laguna Madre Wastewater Plant
- City of Corpus Christi - Marina
- City of Corpus Christi - ON Stevens Water Treatment Plant
- City of Corpus Christi - Oso Wastewater Plant
- City of Corpus Christi - Whitecap Wastewater Plant
- Coastal Transport Company, Inc
- Commercial Metals Company
- Corpus Christi Asphalt Terminal - Valero
- Corpus Christi Independent School District
- Corpus Christi State Supported Living Center
- Dawkins On-Site LLC
- Double Play Oil and Gas
- Dow
- DPC Industries Inc
- Elementis Chromium LP
- Enbridge
- Enterprise Products
- Excaliber Minerals Inc
- Flint Hills Resources
- Flour Bluff Independent School District
- Gavilon
- Genesis Energy - Corpus Christi
- Groendyke Transport Inc
- Gulfmark Energy
- H.E. Butt Grocery Company - HEB
- Haas Anderson Construction LTD
- HD Construction Supply
- Helena Chemical Company
- Javalina Gas Processing Plant - MarkWest
- John Bludworth Shipyard
- Kirby Inland Marine LP
- Koch Carbon LLC
- Koch Pipeline Company
- Koch Sulfur Products Company
- Lamar Oil and Gas Inc
- Lyondellbasell - Corpus Christi
- Magellan Terminal Holdings LP
- Magnum Producing LP
- Matheson - Corpus Christi
- Maverick Terminals
- NET Mexico Pipeline
- Nueces Bay LP
- Nueces County
- Nueces County WCID #4 - Port Aransas
- Nueces Electric Cooperative Inc
- NuStar Logistics LP
- Oil Patch Petroleum
- OXEA Bishop LLC
- Plains All American

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- Port of Corpus Christi Authority
- POTAC LLC
- Repcon Inc
- Republic National Distribution Company
- Republic Services
- Schlitterbahn Waterpark and Resort
- Sherwin Williams
- South Texas Water Authority
- Southcross CCNG Transmission
- SPC Distributors
- STX Beef Company
- Sun Coast Resources
- Sunbelt Rentals
- Texas Molecular
- Texas Petroleum
- The Home Depot
- The Maker's Oil Company
- The University of Texas Marine Science Center
- TNT Crane and Rigging - Corpus Christi
- UniFirst Corporation
- Univar USA Inc
- Urban Oil and Gas Group LLC
- US Ecology Texas
- Valero Refining - Corpus Christi
- Valicor Environmental Services
- Valley Solvents and Chemicals
- Vertex Energy Inc
- Vision International
- Waste Connections - Corpus Christi



Henry Gonzalez presents a donation to the LEPC on behalf of NuStar Logistics