

Wisconsin LEPC Newsletter

June 2025 Vol. 9

This newsletter is a joint venture between a workgroup of Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) and statewide county emergency management representatives. This workgroup was formed to provide guidance and training to Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC), as they work to reenergize and improve participation in emergency planning in their communities.

Utility Safety for First Responders

First responder safety to pipeline incidents involves:

- Knowing how to respond to a pipeline incident and being prepared to work together with the pipeline representative is critical.
- Pipeline Emergency Response Guidelines provide a concise, yet complete, resource for reference prior to and during a pipeline emergency.
- Information sharing and practicing response procedures in advance is essential for successfully dealing with a pipeline incident. Pipeline operators conduct tabletop drills and live “on site” drills with local first responders such as fire departments, law enforcement, and emergency management organizations.

Local pipeline companies are typically good partners and will provide you with response guides, and invite you to tabletop exercises. Take advantage of these resources when offered. Even reach out to see if they will present at your LEPC meeting.

Alliant Energy Online Course are available [here](#)

Featured Chemical: Hydrochloric acid

CAS # 7647-01-0

Hydrochloric acid, also known as muriatic acid or spirits of salt, is an aqueous solution of hydrogen chloride (HCl). It is a colorless solution with a distinctive pungent smell. It is classified as a strong acid. It is a component of the gastric acid in the digestive systems of most animal species, including humans.

Uses: an effective chemical reagent used in the manufacture of polyvinyl chloride for plastics and industrial chemicals. It is used in various industries, such as rubber, fertilizer, textile, and metal production. Hydrochloric acid is also used to adjust the pH of swimming pool water.

Key Factors: dangerous, especially in concentrated forms. It is highly corrosive and can cause severe damage to skin, eyes, and mucous membranes upon contact, leading to chemical burns. Inhalation of its vapors can cause respiratory issues and irritation.

Route of Exposure: contact and accidental ingestion. Chronic exposure can also be dangerous.

Signs/Symptoms: can cause eye damage, even blindness, if splashed in the eyes. Ingestion of concentrated hydrochloric acid can cause severe injury to the mouth, throat, esophagus and stomach.



Grant Deadlines & Upcoming Funding

- The federal EMPG Grant has not been released at the federal level. Keep an eye on your email for possible updates.
- WEM is in the process of updating the NOFO for the Computer and HazMat Equipment Grant for FY2025. The release date is unknown at this time, but the updates should simplify the application process.

Training/Conferences

- New Director's Series Module B: Hazmat Overview for LEPCs – please contact Steve Fenske directly to schedule at Steve.Fenske@widma.gov
- WEMA Conference, Holiday Inn Conference Center, Stevens Point, WI – September 24-25, 2025. Check your email for upcoming registration information.
- [NEMA 2025 Annual Forum](#), Cheyenne, WY – October 9-12, 2025
- NASTTPO Mid-Year, Rodgers, AR – November 3-5, 2025
- [IAEM Annual Conference](#), Louisville, KY – November 14-20, 2025

Resources

- [WEM EPCRA info](#)
- [EPA homepage](#)
- [WebEOC](#)
- [Consolidated List of Lists](#)
- [CAMEO Suite software](#)
- [CAMEO Data Manager](#)
- [LEPC EPA Handbook](#)
- [DNR Spill report BRRTS](#)
- [EPA Chemical & Product Database](#)

Rock County Emergency Management Partners with an EPCRA Planning Facility to conduct a Full-Scale Exercise

Rock County Emergency Management in conjunction with the City of Janesville, Evonik and emergency response agencies held a full-scale exercise to test and validate the operational capability to respond to, support, and recover from a fixed facility hazardous materials release. The exercise was sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security exercise grant administered by WEM and was part of an exercise series that included two tabletop exercises, and a functional exercise completed in 2024. The exercise included over 150 participants from public and private sector agencies. The exercise focused on the release of hazardous substances that resulted in the need to shelter in place and evacuate portions Janesville. The city and county emergency operations centers (EOCs) were activated, and a unified command post was established. Participants were able to validate communication plans and information sharing through liaisons and virtual platforms to support a large-scale incident. A joint information center was set up to coordinate, develop and disseminate public information. Several hospitals also participated in the exercise and received multiple simulated casualties from the incident.

The exercise offered an opportunity to test the communication and coordination of these entities while allowing agencies to practice roles and responsibilities in a simulated yet stressful environment. Exercise participants were successful in identifying and meeting resource needs, defining and providing evacuation support, developing, and disseminating public information, and in examining strengths and areas for improvement within their individual and collective plans and procedures. The EOCs hosted observers from other facilities in the county providing a chance for their planners and preparedness personnel to learn how the EOCs interface and support unified command. Planning the exercise series allowed Evonik, city, and county agencies to work together, enhance relationships, and learn about one another's capabilities. It also highlighted the strong relationship between the public and private sector and provided a platform for continued growth and improvements to enhance readiness, partnerships, and collaboration.



Did You Know?

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) is implementing a project that will compile documents and LEPC resources that will be readily available to County and Tribal Emergency Management. Useful information will be found on WebEOC under the Advanced File Library/EPCRA/LEPC Sample Documents and Presentations.

This Newsletter is issued quarterly to bring ideas and information for helping your LEPC and energizing them in your county.

The next issue will be released in September 2025. If you have ideas that you would like to share, please reach out to [Darlene Pintarro](#). Let's work together here in Wisconsin!

The newest version of the [List of Lists](#) was published in April 2025. Are you using the most up-to-date version? Note that Anhydrous Ammonia threshold planning quantities was reduced from 1,000 pounds to 500 pounds in recent changes.
