

Wisconsin LEPC Newsletter

March 2025 Vol. 8

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.

Agrochemicals On the Farm

Agricultural chemicals are commonly found on farms and in rural communities. These can include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, diesel fuel, or disinfectant products. Follow these guidelines to stay safe:

- Always read packaging labels
- Obtain Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all chemicals you use
- Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when mixing, handling and applying chemicals
- Mix and prepare products in a well-ventilated area
- Do NOT pour chemicals down any drain, toilet, sink or storm drain
- Do NOT dispose of empty containers or extra chemicals where they may be a hazard to fish, wildlife, domestic animals or water sources



More resources on how to help rural communities prepare for hazards:

[Iowa State University – Center for Food Security & Public Health](#)

[WI DATCP – Agrichemical Cleanup, Storage, and Spills](#)

Featured Chemical: Paraquat Dichloride

CAS # 1910-42-5

Uses: one of the most widely used herbicides in the United States; used to control weeds in many agricultural settings; it is a Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP), which can only be sold to and used by certified applicators

Key Factors: highly poisonous liquid

Route of Exposure: accidental ingestion

Signs/Symptoms: vomiting, difficulty breathing

[One Sip Can Kill](#) – U.S. EPA

More info from [U.S. EPA](#)

Planning Considerations: As a solid, Paraquat Dichloride has a low TPQ of 10 pounds for EPCRA 302. However, in a solution this EHS is considered non-reactive. EPA revisions in 2011 allows facilities subject to 302 that have a non-reactive solid EHS in solution, to multiply the amount of the solid chemical in solution by 0.2 to determine if the quantity equals or exceeds the lower published TPQ. This change was based on data that shows less potential for non-reactive solid chemicals in solution to remain airborne and dispersed beyond a facility's fence line in the event of an accidental release.



Grant Deadlines & Upcoming Funding

- HRER WHMRS Equipment Grant – performance period ends March 31, 2025

Training/Conference

- New Director's Series Module B: Hazmat Overview for LEPCs – please contact Steve Fenske directly to schedule at Steve.Fenske@widma.gov
- [2025 Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security](#), Oneida Hotel, Green Bay, WI – March 10-12, 2025
- [2025 National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials](#) (NASTTPO) Annual Conference, HYATT Regency Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI – April 21-25, 2025
- [WAHMR Conference](#), Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI – March 5-6, 2025
- [Access and Functional Needs Conference](#), Great Wolf Lodge, Colorado Springs, CO – April 8-10, 2025
- [NEMA 2025 Mid-Year Forum](#), Washington, DC – March 21-25, 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](#)

Creating “Buy-In” for Your LEPC

Engaging and retaining active participation from LEPC members can be a challenge due to frequent turnover, limited funding, and competing job responsibilities. However, there are strategies to foster “buy-in” and keep members engaged:

- **Understand What Matters to Your Members**
 - Identify the specific priorities and concerns of each member group to ensure relevance and engagement
 - For first responders and facility representatives – facility tours can offer valuable information and insights
 - For environmental groups, volunteer organizations, and health partners: incident debriefs, lessons learned, and recover discussions are key touchpoints. Consider guest speakers and presentations during a meeting
 - For local officials: keep them informed about funding opportunities and updates that directly affect them
- **Empower Through Knowledge**
 - Educate your members about EPCRA requirements, historical incidents, and the *why* we do it
 - Share insights into local hazards, the preparedness plans in place, and how their organizations can improve readiness
 - Share information about relevant trainings, webinars, conferences, etc.
- **Make it Engaging and Enjoyable**
 - Set up fun and creative outreach events to build excitement
 - Invite members to trainings, exercises, and hands-on experiences
 - Foster strong communication and build lasting relationships with your members to create a sense of community and shared purpose

In the News

Following CA wildfires, the governor issued an executive order, which allows specialized hazmat teams to respond to remove explosive and highly toxic materials. In particular, debris removal teams are cleaning up household hazardous waste, including pesticides, propane tanks, and batteries in both conventional and electric vehicles. See more: [Hazmat Crews Tackle Toxic Waste Left Behind by LA’s Fires - NPR](#)

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 June 2025. If you have ideas that you would like to share, please reach out to [Darlene Pintarro](#). Let’s work together here in Wisconsin!

Did You Know?

EPCRA Section 311 and s. 323.60, Wis. Stats., requires that an owner/operator of a facility have a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) available for each hazardous chemical on site that exceeds 10,000 lbs., and for an extremely hazardous substance that exceeds 500 lbs. or the Threshold Planning Quantity, whichever is less.

The SDS must be submitted to Wisconsin Emergency Management, the Local Emergency Planning Committee and the local fire department. Uploading the SDS to WHOPRS satisfies this requirement.

More info on EPCRA Requirements:
[Wisconsin Emergency Management](#)
[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)
