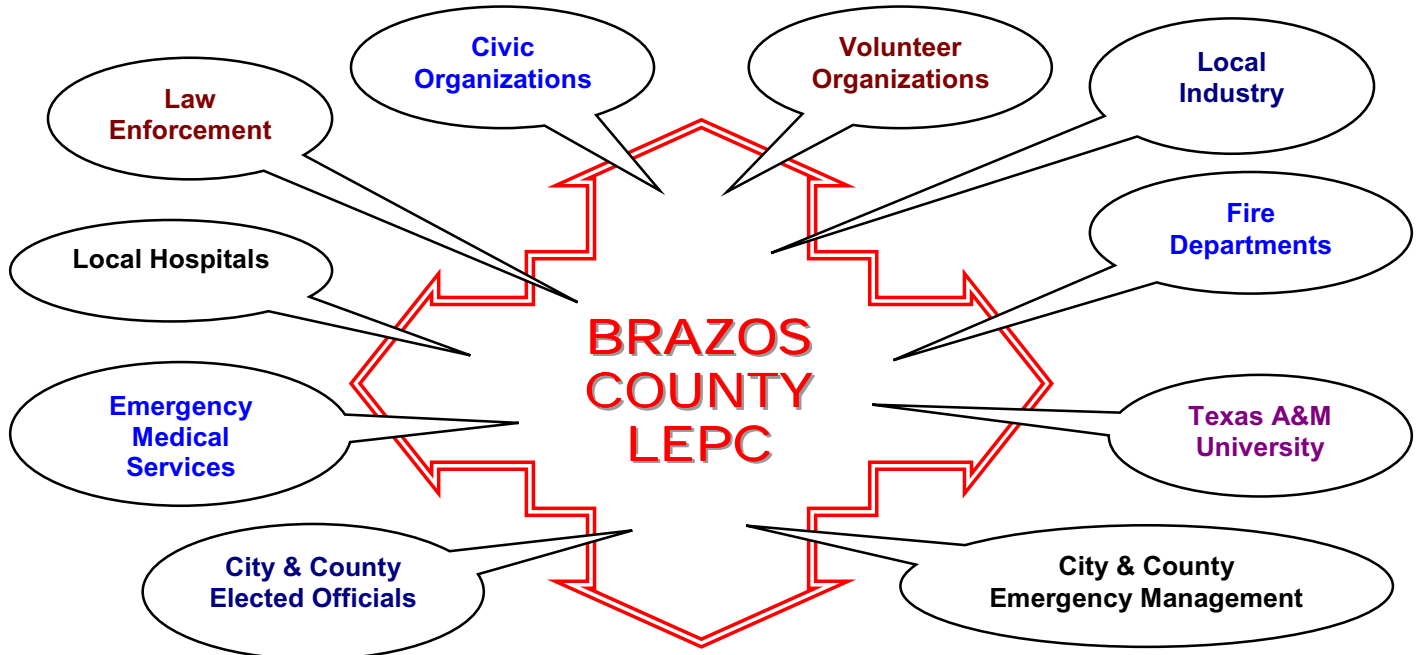




# Working Together for a Safer Community

Dear Community Member,

In 1986, the U.S. Congress passed a law called the *Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act* requiring every county in the nation to form and maintain a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). This group supports emergency planning for chemical hazards, and provides local government and the public with information about possible chemical hazards and proper emergency response. **The Brazos County LEPC** is made up of Officials and Representatives from:



In short, LEPC members are your co-workers, friends and neighbors who prepare for, and/or respond to, emergencies that might pose health and safety hazards to Brazos County residents. Emergencies such as an accidental hazardous chemical release from one of the many industrial sites in the Brazos Valley area or from one of the thousands of trucks and railcars that carry hazardous materials across the county throughout the year, or natural disasters like the tornadoes and wildfires. The best defense is **PREPAREDNESS**.

For further information concerning the LEPC, or the **Evacuation Procedures** outlined on the reverse side of this page, please call Brazos County Emergency Management at (979) 361-4140 or visit with your local emergency management official.

Sincerely,

Greg Petrey  
LEPC Chairman

<b>FOUR PHASES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</b>			
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MITIGATION	--	PREPAREDNESS	--
RESPONSE	--	RECOVERY	--



# EVACUATION



In most emergency situations, there are two emergency response actions used to protect your family:

- 1) Evacuation, or
- 2) Shelter in Place

## WHAT IS EVACUATION?

Evacuation for emergency response purposes is “an organized withdrawal from a place or area”, with the emphasis on *organized*. An **un**-organized evacuation will hamper the ability of emergency responders to assist the community in reaching a safe area and/or to address the cause of the evacuation. The need to evacuate from your home or office might result from a local condition like a transportation accident releasing hazardous vapors. Or, it might result from a more widespread event such as massive flooding from excessive rainfall, or a wildfire.

## WHEN DO YOU EVACUATE?

The decision to evacuate (vs. shelter in place) will be made by public officials, such as the fire chief and the police chief. Their decision will be based upon the type of emergency and the safest method to protect individuals from danger. The notice to evacuate will come via radio and television stations using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), police/fire/sheriff vehicles using their public address loudspeakers, or from door-to-door notifications.

## HOW DO YOU EVACUATE?

The types of disasters with a higher likelihood of occurring in the Brazos Valley include a hazardous material release, flash flood and fire. Unfortunately, these disasters may allow only minutes for evacuation. Do not waste valuable time. Gather and pack only the essentials, such as:

- ✓ Eyeglasses, dentures, prescription drugs or other important medicines, and a first aid kit
- ✓ Baby supplies (food, diapers, etc.)
- ✓ Checkbook and credit card
- ✓ Portable radio and flashlight
- ✓ Drivers’ license or other identification
- ✓ Family pets and animals

(Public shelters are not allowed to take in pets or animals, but other arrangements will be made)

If you don’t have a vehicle, or if you have special transportation needs, PLAN AHEAD. Make prior arrangements with relatives, neighbors and friends. Emergency transportation will be arranged during an evacuation, but could be delayed for many reasons.

## WHERE DO YOU GO?

The evacuation message broadcast will tell you the reason for the evacuation, and will tell you where to go. Generally speaking, you will travel upwind if a hazardous material release has occurred, to higher ground if there is a flash flood, and/or out of the path of a fire. Before you leave, turn off the lights, appliances and heating/cooling systems. Leave your refrigerator/freezer on. LOCK YOUR HOME. Use as few vehicles for your family as possible. If you have room, see if your neighbors need a ride. Fewer vehicles on the road, *with safe/defensive drivers*, will ease congestion and speed up the evacuation process. DO NOT go to your children’s school to pick them up. This will cause severe congestion and hamper the schools’ ability to move children to a safe, designated location. You will be informed by radio or television where to pick them up. If a hazardous material has been released, keep your car windows closed and the heater/AC off until you’re sure you are in a safe area. Tune in to your favorite Bryan/College Station radio station and/or KBTX-TV for further information and guidance. Leave the telephone lines free for emergency responders. This includes cellular phones.

**For additional information regarding Evacuation, or for information on Shelter in Place, please call (979) 361-4140, or contact your local Emergency Management Official.**