

Region 6 LEPC Update

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This month we are announcing LEPC workshops for 2016, requesting feedback from LEPCs across Region 6 to help improve our preparedness, and announcing updates from PHMSA Grants and EPA.

-Steve and Hilary

LEPC Workshops 2016

EPA Region 6 will host 32 LEPC workshops throughout New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana.



Workshops Will Be:

- *May-September of 2016*
- *Open to the public*
- *Free of charge*

LEPC members, local and regional emergency responders and planners, and industry will benefit from the newly updated series of presentations.

Presenters will include state EPCRA/SERC representatives, EPA, OSHA, and DHS.

We will announce the workshop agenda, exact dates and locations, and instructions for registration in the next month or so.



LEPC SURVEY by NASTTPO

The National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials
Needs Your Feedback!

A Message from Tonya Ngotel, NASTTPO President:

“It is with honor and pride that I tell you that NASTTPO created a LEPC Forum committee in Houston this last October.

This group was developed to identify and enhance NASTTPO’s mission in information sharing and LEPC support. At the direction of John Wisner, PIMA AZ County OEM & LEPC, the committee developed a survey to assist NASTTPO in moving our mission forward and generating new ideas for future projects and conferences.

The more LEPC members that complete it, the better picture we will have.

For those who are not NASTTPO members, please visit our web site for more information and consider joining us”: www.nasttpo.com



Please take some time to visit the website and participate in the survey.

LEPC Survey Closes 17 April 2016

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VV7N6QY>.

Thanks to the Oklahoma DEQ and SERC for hosting the survey – we couldn’t have made this possible without the endless hours you’ve contributed.

Disaster Planning in Texas

NDOW Call for Coastal Staging Areas



The Natural Disaster Operation Workgroup in Texas (NDOW-Texas) is a group of state and federal stakeholders, committed to the optimal engagement of response resources, and to effective planning for natural disaster response in the State of Texas.



For more information about NDOW-Texas and training opportunities, visit <http://ndow.net>.



LEPCs and Emergency Managers Along the Texas Gulf Coast:

In preparation for the upcoming Hurricane Season, NDOW-Texas is currently looking for areas to stage post-hurricane response field operations in support of ESF-3 and ESF-10.

Sites Needed: Field Operational Camps

NDOW seeks to establish a planned location in each county for Field Operational Camps. The camps will be used to stage command posts, heavy equipment, and living quarters (travel trailers) for government and contractor personnel. These areas should be located outside of any major surge areas (minimum of 1.5-2 miles inland from beachfront). Unified Command will set up the camps after the water recedes. Airports, and city/county/state parks are examples of locations which have served well in the past.

Sites Needed: Hazardous Waste Staging

NDOW is also looking for suitable areas to stage household hazardous waste (HHW), orphaned containers, and commercial hazardous waste (ASTs, cylinders, etc.) collected during post-hurricane operations. Hazardous waste staging areas are separate from the Field Operational Camps.

Site Criteria, Each Coastal County:

1. One 5-6 acre area for Field Operational Camp
2. One 5-6 acre area for Hazardous Waste Staging
3. Located outside of major surge areas / flood zones
4. Easy access to major roadways/highways
5. Electricity/water hookups if possible
6. Paved Areas

To Advise on Potential Sites, Please Contact:

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FAST ACT CHANGES – Local Effects

Changes to PHMSA Hazmat Grants within the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act

Courtesy of the HMEP Grants Team at U.S. DOT / PHMSA



On December 4, 2015, President Obama signed the [Fixing America's Surface Transportation \(FAST\) Act](#).

FAST Act is five-year legislation to improve the Nation's surface transportation infrastructure, including our roads, bridges, transit systems, and rail transportation network. The bill reforms and strengthens transportation programs, refocuses on national priorities, provides long-term certainty and more flexibility for states and local governments, streamlines project approval processes, and maintains a strong commitment to safety.

The FAST Act affects the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant program in several ways, establishes new grant opportunities, and promulgates new SERC requirements.



HMEP Grant Program Changes:

- Planning and training grants are combined into one grant.
- The reference to “in a fiscal year” has been removed.
- Removal of the 75% pass through requirements for planning and training.
- Addition of a requirement that the recipient agrees to have an auditable accounting system.
- Addition of a requirement that the Secretary consider “the past record of the State or Indian tribe in effectively managing planning and training grants.”

New Community Safety Grants:

This is a competitive program for making grants to non-profit organizations for:

- Conducting national outreach and training programs to assist communities in preparing for and responding to accidents and incidents involving the transportation of hazardous materials, including Class 3 flammable liquids by rail.
- Training State and local personnel responsible for enforcing the safe transportation of hazardous materials, including Class 3 flammable liquids.
- This grant is to be up to \$1M, but will not be derived from registration fees.

FAST ACT CHANGES – Local Effects *continued*

New SERC Requirements – Reporting High Hazard Flammable Rail Shipments

New SERC reporting requirements to locals include:

- Each Class I railroad must provide advanced notification and information on high-hazard flammable trains to each State emergency response commission, consistent with the notification content requirements in Emergency Order Docket No. 9 DOT–OST–2014–0067
- Each applicable State emergency response commission must provide to a political subdivision of a State, or public agency responsible for emergency response or law enforcement, upon request of the political subdivision or public agency, the information the commission receives from a Class I railroad pursuant to paragraph (3), including, for any such political subdivision or public agency responsible for emergency response or law enforcement that makes an initial request for such information, any updates received by the State emergency response commission.

For Questions on PHMSA Grants, Contact

The HMEP Grants Team
The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Program
US Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Office of Hazardous Materials Safety
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(202) 366-1109 phone
(202) 366-3753 fax

EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management

~~OSWER~~
OLEM

EPA has retired the name **OSWER (Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response)**, and the program has been given the new title of **Office of Land and Emergency Management, or OLEM**.



This action is being taken to more accurately reflect the nature of the work that this office does to protect human health and the environment, and the name change will not affect any of the programs which fall under the office.

For more information on the name change, and to read about what the EPA OLEM programs, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-land-and-emergency-management-olem>

State EPCRA / LEPC Coordinators and SERC Contacts

Arkansas	Kenny Harmon	501-683-6700	kenny.harmon@adem.arkansas.gov
Louisiana	Gene Dunegan	225-925-6113	gene.dunegan@dps.la.gov
New Mexico	Henry Jolly	505-476-6240	henry.jolly@state.nm.us
Oklahoma	Tom Bergman	405-702-1013	tom.bergman@deq.ok.gov
	Bonnie McKelvey	405-521-2481	bonnie.mckelvey@oem.ok.gov
Texas	Bernardine Zimmerman	800-452-2791	Bernardine.zimmerman@tceq.texas.gov

Emergency Response Numbers

Arkansas Dept. of Emergency Management	800-322-4012
Louisiana State Police	877-925-6595
New Mexico State Police	505-827-9126
Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality	800-522-0206
Texas Environmental Hotline	800-832-8224
National Response Center	800-424-8802
EPA Region 6	866-372-7745
CHEMTREC	800-424-9300



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