

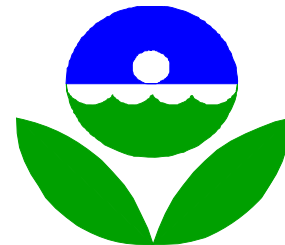
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4

# EPCRA NEWSLETTER

Vol 1, No. 1 July August September 2007

[www.epa.gov/region4/air/epcra](http://www.epa.gov/region4/air/epcra)



## Inaugural Chemical Emergency Conference

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**The Inaugural EPA Region 4 Chemical Emergency Conference** will be presented at the **Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Florida, on November 14-16, 2007**, by EPA Region 4.

This conference will provide a forum for federal agencies, SERCs, Tribes, LEPCs, and associates to discuss hazmat topics, emergency planning, chemical emergencies, and community right-to-know.

The EPA Region 4 Chemical Emergency Conference is intended to become a major forum for information sharing, networking, and the examination of current issues and events among federal, state, and local emergency agencies, as well as private entities engaged in the chemical emergency field. This includes the state and federal member agencies of the Federal Region IV Regional Response Team, the Region IV SERCs, Tribes, and LEPCs.

This event will be collocated with the

**Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition.** Registering for one of these two conferences will allow you to attend your choice of any sessions of either of the conferences.

Registration is on-line at : [www.cleangulf.org](http://www.cleangulf.org).

Please note that **Early-Bird Registration (before August 31, 2007)** is at a **reduced rate**, plus there is a **25% discount** for government organization, exhibitors, and full-time students!

**So register early and SAVE MONEY!!!**

Join Us At The  
**EPA Region 4  
Inaugural  
Chemical Emergency  
Conference**  
To be Held At The  
**Tampa Convention  
Center  
Tampa, Florida**  
On  
**November 11-16,  
2007**

### Special Points of Interest

Visit <http://www.nasttpo.org/> for information on the upcoming The National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) Mid-Year Conference to be held in Las Vegas in November 2007.

Visit <http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html> for more information on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and how it provides new information on industries.

Envirofacts (<http://www.epa.gov/enviro/index.html>) allows you to search for environmental information in your neighborhood.

### Headquarters EPA Local Emergency Planning Committee 2007 Survey

EPA will be conducting the 2007 National Survey for LEPCs within the next three (3) months. The survey will be web-based and will include all LEPCs who have submitted email addresses to EPA. **(PLEASE NOTE THAT EMAIL ADDRESSES SUBMITTED TO EPA WILL BE THE ONLY WAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SURVEY)** If you are not sure if we have your current email address please send it to either Andrew Porter at [porter.andrew@epa.gov](mailto:porter.andrew@epa.gov) or Charles Combs at [combs.charles@epa.gov](mailto:combs.charles@epa.gov).

The information collected will be used to build capacity between EPA and the LEPCs with capacity being defined as the ability to respond to

chemical emergencies.

The survey will include questions in the following areas of concern: Emergency Plans, Data Management, Communications, Funding, Interaction with Federal Agencies, Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, and Strengths and Additional Needs. Region 4 plans to develop targeted outreach to the Region 4 LEPCs based on the survey results. In order to do so, we ask that each LEPC provide an email address and respond fully and completely so as to provide EPA with an accurate picture of both existing conditions and needed improvements. Your support and participation in the survey is criti-

cal for future improvements in your emergency response capabilities.

Your participation in the survey is vital to its success and we thank you very much for your cooperation.

We will update you on the actual date for the survey as this information becomes available. For more information, please contact Andrew Porter or Charles Combs at Region 4.

# Happenings around the Region

## ALABAMA

Alabama facilities have continued to increase reporting Tier II data electronically for the 2005 reporting year and as reports have just been submitted for the March 1 deadline, an increase appears likely for the 2006 reporting year. In the second year these data have been accepted electronically by the state, more than 1,500 facilities reported by electronic means, which is an approximately 50 percent increase from the first year. Over two-thirds of the state's LEPCs also accept these annual reports electronically. This technologically efficient reporting process seems to be increasing in popularity among facilities and lessening the burden of this EP-CRA requirement.

## GEORGIA

### September is National Preparedness Month: GEMA Urges Counties to Start Planning Now

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage citizens to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and schools. The goal is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action.

To raise awareness for National Preparedness Month, GEMA arranged for a series of approximately 1,500 spots to air on radio stations across the state during the week of August 27-31. The 30-second spots were developed by GEMA in collaboration with the Georgia Citizens Corps Council and emphasize planning and personal preparedness. They were purchased at a deeply discounted rate through GEMA's long-time partnership with the Georgia Association of Broadcasters (GAB). A minimum of four spots will be broadcast on every station that is a member of GAB, which represent 95 percent of the 300 stations located in Georgia, including Spanish-language broadcasters. For more information on National Preparedness Month, visit <http://www.ready.gov/america/npm07/>.

## NORTH CAROLINA

The Guilford County LEPC Conference is scheduled for October and will be held at the Greensboro Coliseum. On October 8th, we will offer 8 Hr. Hazwoper Refresher training for \$99.00 to local industries. The class is taught by the Guilford County EMS and Hazmat Team (very hands on training). On October 9th, we offer our full conference, safety and environmental training (and a lunch) to all attendees (this year we're expanding to offer classes for emergency responders). The cost of admission is FREE. We will have safety and environmental vendors on site. On October 10th, we offer a golf tournament. For more information please contact Debbie Meurs at 336-373-2167 or [Debbie.Meurs@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:Debbie.Meurs@greensboro-nc.gov).

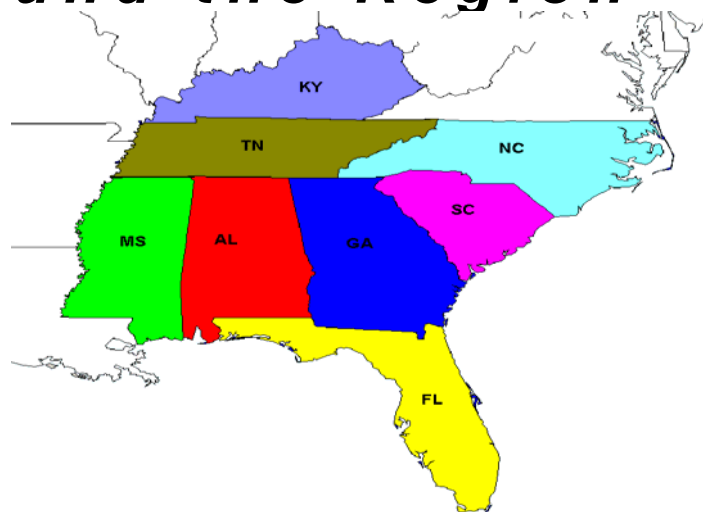
## KENTUCKY

The 2007 Kentucky Emergency Services Conference is scheduled for September 4-6 at the Executive Inn in Owensboro. Last year's KESC was deemed a great success with 450 attendees. This year should be even better with topics like E9-1-1NG, VoIP and proposed state legislation in addition to workshops and networking opportunities. For more information or to register for the conference visit their web site ([www.kyema.org](http://www.kyema.org)) or contact Charlie Frazee at 502-647-9001 or email at [Frazee@ka.net](mailto:Frazee@ka.net).

## FLORIDA

District 8 Regional Planning Council will host the first Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Mobile Training Module in Pinellas Park (Tampa Bay) on August 21-24, 2007. The training will update those desiring HSEEP Exercise Planning and Evaluator Training and the Train-the-Trainer course.

District 4 Regional Planning Council chose "Commodity Flow Study" as the 2006-2007 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant planning project. The study will be submitted to the Division of Emergency Management at the end of July 2007. The update of the LEPC Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan is underway and will be submitted to the Division of Emergency Management at the end of June 2007.



## MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems along with the Mississippi Association of Supervisors recently presented 50 counties with up-to-date aerial photography. Officials expect all 82 counties to have the information soon. The counties will be able to use this data for tax mapping, land use planning, emergency response, and economic development activities. The new imagery is up-to-date, high resolution, and in a digital format – allowing the counties to easily move the data from computer to computer. Digital aerial photography also allows the county to use the latest computer-based mapping software. Training for use of the data is available from the GeoResources Institute at Mississippi State University. The data is available to citizens on the Council's website: [www.giscouncil.ms.gov](http://www.giscouncil.ms.gov)

Contact Brad Mayo at (601) 961-5316  
July 16, 2007

## TENNESSEE

The flooding threat posed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Wolf Creek Dam in Somerset, KY has resulted in media scrutiny and public concern for people living in Tennessee. The TN Emergency Management Agency, local emergency management officials and the Corp of Engineers met with citizens at public forums held throughout the affected areas in TN to address concerns of the public and news media. For more info visit <http://www.tnema.org/newsletterwork/preptenn.ppt>

Do you have a story to tell?  
We'd like to know about it.  
Please send information about activities that you have been involved in, training, good practices, etc. . We appreciate what you do and want to let others know.

Provide your input to

[r4epcranewsletter@epa.gov](mailto:r4epcranewsletter@epa.gov)

## SOUTH CAROLINA

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Region 7, which serves Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties, has been recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials for readiness to respond to bioterrorism, new epidemics, natural disasters and other public health emergencies.

DHEC's Region 7 is one of only 138 local public health offices around the country that have been honored with NACCHO's Project Public Health Ready designation. The program, which is supported by the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recognizes local excellence in three areas: planning for emergency preparedness; developing a competent workforce; and conducting exercises that simulate emergencies and give communities a chance to practice and evaluate their response. Each applicant must demonstrate that it has met all of the requirements to receive this recognition. For more information: Linda Pranger – (843) 746-3846 or [prangell@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:prangell@dhec.sc.gov) Thom Berry – (803) 898-3885 or [berrytw@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:berrytw@dhec.sc.gov) July 5, 2007

### Do you know eTools?

eTools is a collection of training modules provided by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that supplies information on occupational safety and health topics. These tools are stand-alone, web-based training units that utilize graphical menus and illustrations.

Some eTools also enable the user to answer questions and

receive advice on OSHA regulations that apply to a work site. Selected eTools can even be downloaded for off-line evaluation. There are so many types of informational modules, the best thing to do is go to the site and take a look around. See what you can find there, and enjoy.

<http://www.osha.gov/dts/osta/oshasoft/index.html#eTools>

### Tennessee Emergency Management Agency participates in SONS 2007

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) in conjunction with other state and federal agencies and local governments conducted a test of the state catastrophic emergency plan in June. This test coincided with the 2007 Spills of National Significance (SONS) exercise conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This exercise was used to gauge the response to a 7.7 magnitude earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone in West Tennessee. Local governments, including fire, police, medical personnel, and emergency management officials participated. Search and rescue teams were organized and triage centers opened. Responses were also organized to handle large chemical and hazardous material release events triggered by the earthquake.

"This type of exercise participation by state and local agencies is critical to the state's preparedness for all hazards that may threaten the safety of our citizens. An earthquake is just one of many potential threats that we face here in Tennessee," said Tennessee Emergency Management Agency Director James Bassham.

Tennessee Governor, Phil Bredesen, directed TEMA to improve emergency preparedness following the devastating Hurricane's Katrina and Rita in 2005. TEMA revised and updated the state's catastrophic emergency plan to better prepare for large scale emergency events such as a large earthquake in West Tennessee.

Source:

<http://www.respondersafetyonline.com/500/News/Article/False/67675/News>

### New Rules for North Carolina HazWaste Facilities

#### Gov. Easley Signs Bill Increasing Regulation of Hazardous Waste Facilities

6/26/2007 -- Raleigh - North Carolina Governor Mike Easley today signed into law House Bill 36, "An act to improve the oversight of hazardous waste facilities, as recommended by the Governor's Hazardous Materials Task Force." The legislation will require companies that store hazardous waste to provide more information to state and local governments and details on these facilities and the waste being stored are easily available.

"This new law makes our permit requirements stricter and improves communication to make sure our citizens are protected in case of a hazardous waste accident," Easley said. "Also, the law adds new provisions to make sure hazardous waste facility operators put the health and safety concerns of our citizens as their top priority. I commend the members of the General Assembly for unanimously passing this comprehensive bill. It provides the further protection North Carolinians need to be secure in their neighborhoods and communities."

Provisions in the new law include requiring those who apply for hazardous waste facility permits to provide information about the facility and its contingency plans to local governments and emergency responders. The law also requires that all information on the waste stored at each facility be available offsite to the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources, local governments and emergency responders. The primary sponsors of the legislation include state Rep. Jennifer Weiss (D-Wake), Rep. Deborah Ross (D-Wake), Rep. Ty Harrell (D-Wake) and Rep. Nelson Dollar (R-Wake). The bill was signed in the Governor's Office at the State Capitol in Raleigh.

"This legislation adds important oversight to make sure citizens are protected, public agencies are fully informed and businesses appropriately regulated," said

state Rep. Weiss. "We will continue to pay close attention to the needs of communities where these facilities are located so citizens are safe in their homes."

The legislation developed out of recommendations from the Governor's Hazardous Materials Task Force. Easley created the 11-member task force last fall following the Oct. 5, 2006 late-night fire at the Environmental Quality Co. (EQ) complex in Apex that forced the evacuation of hundreds of people who lived near the facility. The EQ warehouse was a storage facility for hazardous materials.

Portions of the bill become effective on the governor's signature, others on July 1, 2007 and the remainder on Oct. 1, 2007.

Source: North Carolina Governor

### Tier I or II Reporting of Lead-Acid Batteries

EPA Region 4 is in the process of developing compliance assistance tools to assist in the reporting of lead-acid batteries under EPCRA's Tier I/II requirements.

OSHA has determined that lead-acid batteries require an MSDS which, in turn, triggers reporting under EPCRA. The batteries in question are the large batteries used in forklifts and similar applications. Automotive batteries are not included.

Once developed, information will be available on the R-4's web site (<http://www.epa.gov/region4/air/epcra>). Bryce Covington is the Region 4 contact and can be reached at 404-562-9192 or by email at [Covington.bryce@epa.gov](mailto:Covington.bryce@epa.gov).

## National Emergency Communications Survey

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently presented the results of a nationwide survey of first responders and law enforcement that assesses progress in achieving interoperable communications. The national interoperability baseline survey was issued to 22,400 randomly selected law enforcement, fire response, and emergency medical services (EMS) agencies, and confirms that roughly two-thirds of emergency response agencies across the nation use interoperable communications at varying degrees. Survey findings indicate that agencies tend to be more developed in technology than they are in culturally related areas like standard operating procedures and exercises. It showed that cross-discipline and cross-jurisdiction interoperability at local levels tends to be more advanced than it is between state and local agencies. In addition, law

enforcement, fire response and EMS agencies reported similar levels of development in most areas of interoperability. The national interoperability baseline survey is the first interoperability assessment that uses a comprehensive definition for interoperability. It was designed in partnership with the emergency response community and assessed stages of development in five areas, governance, standard operating procedures, technology, training and exercises, and usage. The survey had a statistically valid response rate of 30 percent, with 6,816 agencies responding. Participation in the survey was evenly split between law enforcement and fire response and EMS. Since 9/11, DHS has provided more than \$2.1 billion to state and local governments for interoperable communications. Through its SAFECOM

program, DHS provides research, development, testing and evaluation, guidance, tools, and templates on communications-related issues that improve emergency response through more effective and efficient interoperable wireless communications. SAFECOM has already achieved interoperable communications at the command level, within one hour of a major event, in the 10 highest threat urban areas, as part of its RapidCom 1 initiative. It has published a step-by-step planning guide for developing a locally-driven statewide strategic plan for interoperable communications, and facilitated regional communications interoperability pilots that assist local officials in the implementation of their statewide plans. For more information about the SAFECOM program, visit

[www.safecomprogram.gov](http://www.safecomprogram.gov) or call 1-866-969-SAFE.

## Hurricane Preparation Website

Although Hurricane Season started June 1 it is not too late to plan and prepare if you have not already done so. Since proper planning can minimize injury and property damage both households and businesses should take this opportunity to review their plans.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides information for people, businesses and state and local governments on preparations to make before hurricane force winds or storm flooding may occur. This information is available at: [www.epa.gov/hurricanes](http://www.epa.gov/hurricanes)

EPA's website includes information for business operators on prevention and reporting chemical releases due to severe weather—which can be required by law. Local governments and community agencies can find suggestions for preparing and protecting water and wastewater facilities. There is also detailed information for debris planning, since storm debris can occur in enormous amounts that overwhelm local landfills and can also present serious dangers to human health and the environment.

## Clean Air Act §112 (r) Chemical Security Update

### 2007 Chemical Security Summit Recap:

Over 300 attendees came out to the Fairview Marriott in Falls Church, Virginia to hear speeches and workshops given by top experts in the government security and chemical industry fields. The Chemical Security Summit, hosted by the Chemical Sector Coordinating Council and supported by the Department of Homeland Security, was a first for the industry. Never before had the Summit hosted such high-ranking officials as the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff as well as two Assistant Secretaries of DHS and a DHS Undersecretary.

Three workshops were offered to attendees on the first day of the meeting, and all three were well attended. These practical meetings covered such areas as Security Awareness Training, SVA Overview-Concepts and Comparisons and Chemistry 101 for Security Professionals.

Tuesday, June 12, 2007 offered a full day

of workshops and speeches packed with vital information on chemical security as well as homeland security. Mid-morning Secretary Chertoff spoke to a packed audience about the necessity of communication and strong partnerships now that the new chemical site security regulations are in effect. Chertoff stressed that the two main goals of the regulation were to protect the homeland and ensure that the flow of commerce was not disrupted in any way.

The second day was capped with a reception sponsored by IEM which allowed attendees to continue the networking and exhibit-viewing of the previous evening.

The final day of the summit offered attendees insight into to best protect their facilities by gaining an understanding of how terrorists think, how they pick their targets and how to develop security programs using local emergency responders.

## Recent Compliance Assistance Activities

### Environmental Compliance Assistance Workshop for Kentucky Hospitals & Healthcare Facilities

EPA Region 4 partnered with the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KY DEP), the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center (KPPC), and the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) to sponsor an Environmental Compliance Assistance Workshop for Kentucky Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities. The workshop was held on June 1, 2007, in Louisville, Kentucky. Speakers from EPA, KY DEP, KPPC, and the KY Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health, presented information about hazardous waste management; biomedical waste; pharmaceutical and chemotherapy waste; water regulations; air quality, asbestos and risk management;

EPA's Audit Policy; Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures; Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act; Hospitals for a Healthy Environment and Sustainability. This was EPA Region 4's fourth workshop for the healthcare sector. Previous workshops have been held in Georgia, Florida and South Carolina. Contact: Delane Anderson, (404) 562-9681.

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/ead/compliance/management.html>

## CAMEO LIBRARY ON-LINE

We're pleased to announce the release of CAMEO Chemicals -- an easier-to-use version of the most popular components of the CAMEO program. Find it online at

<http://cameochemicals.noaa.gov/>.

The website provides access to the same CAMEO database of over 6,000 hazardous materials. The revised search engine is much faster and the new search results ranking makes finding your chemicals more straightforward. The CAMEO Chemicals datasheets

contain most of the same information you are used to seeing in CAMEO, but in an easier-to-read layout. Also, the website makes it simpler to mix chemicals and read reactivity hazard predictions. Best of all, you don't have to download or install anything, and you can bookmark frequently referenced datasheets.

Please help us get the word out by sharing the CAMEO Chemicals URL with your response and planning colleagues.



The Western Branch of NC Emergency Management just completed CAMEO Training in Canton, NC. The course was hosted by Blue Ridge Paper Co. which is the largest employer in the area as well as a Tier II and TRI Facility. The course was attended by Emergency Management and Fire Department personnel from Haywood County. The county Local Emergency Planning Committee plans to utilize this tool in its planning and training exercises. The Local Fire Departments are planning to continue using this tool on emergency exercises and incident response.

## CAMEO of m 2007 TRAINING COURSE

July 31-August 2	Tallahassee, FL
August 14-16	Cumberland Falls, KY
September 5-6	Owensboro, KY
October 10-12	Tunica, MS
October 23-25	Verona, MS
November 27-29	Pearl, MS
December 4-6	Hattiesburg, MS

All classes are tentatively scheduled. Please contact Bryce Covington.

For calendar year 2008, Region 4 plans to aid each state's CAMEO capability by offering Train-the-Trainer courses. We will announce updates on these trainings as they become available on the World Wide Web at: [www.epa.gov/region4/air/epcra](http://www.epa.gov/region4/air/epcra).

## CAMEO LISTSERVE

The CAMEO News Service is a one-way listserv which serves as a communication tool for CAMEO managers and developers to communicate important information to the CAMEO community.

Communications from the CAMEO team will provide users with an up-to-date status on various aspects of the CAMEO/MARPLOT/ALOHA software, such as updates, "bug" notification and quick fixes.

If you would like to subscribe to the CAMEO News Service and stay up to date on what's happening in CAMEO, send an email to [join-cameo@lists.epa.gov](mailto:join-cameo@lists.epa.gov).

Also, be sure and check the CAMEO website often for guided tours of the programs, FAQ and technical support.

[www.epa.gov/ceppo/cameo](http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/cameo)

Need Information? The Region 4 Contact is:

**Bryce Covington**

**404-562-9192**

**[Covington.bryce@epa.gov](mailto:Covington.bryce@epa.gov)**

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Related Info

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Chemical Emergency Preparedness & Prevention Office (CEPPO)

<http://www.epa.gov/ceppo> or <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/content/index.html>

EPCRA Section 313 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Homepage

<http://www.epa.gov/tri>

Compliance and Enforcement

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/index.html>

National Response Center (NRC) - <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil> or 1-800-424-8802

US EPA EPCRA, RCRA, and Superfund Hotline (800) 424-9346

LEPC Information Exchange - <http://www.lepcinfoexchange.com/>

Compliance Assistance Clearinghouse - <http://cfpub.epa.gov/clearinghouse/>

Region 4 EPCRA - <http://www.epa.gov/region4/air/epcra/index.htm>