



# Region 8 Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

Volume IX No. 4 October 2019 Quarterly Newsletter

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# Yellowstone River Exercise

On August 20th through the 22nd, Phillips 66 held a full-scale exercise with the EPA Region 8 Emergency Management Branch, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MT DEQ) and Yellowstone County Fire and Emergency Management. The no-fault exercise was designed to respond to a simulated 'worst-case' discharge of oil into the Yellowstone River.

Highlights included:

- Over 160 Phillips 66, local, state and federal emergency responders participated in the mock scenario where 150,000 barrels of heavy sour crude oil was hypothetically released from the refinery's largest tank.
- The exercise tested several objectives, including Phillips 66's internal notifications, response and coordination.
- A release of 150,000 barrels of oil would be Phillips 66 Billings Refinery's worst-case discharge indicating runoff into the nearby Yegen Drainage System and into the Yellowstone River. Trajectories indicated that oil would travel several miles downstream of the Yellowstone River within 14 hours of the spill, under normal conditions.
- A Joint Information Center (JIC) was activated and coordinated with participating agencies, creating faux media events and press releases 'approved' by the Unified Command.
- An After Action Report (AAR) will be developed by Phillips 66 based on feedback from the hotwash and evaluations given by the players, controllers and evaluators.
- EPA supports exercises as resources allow. If you are interested in having EPA participate in an upcoming exercise, please contact Luke Chavez, Training and Exercise Coordinator at Chavez.Luke@epa.gov.



Unified Command with Phillips 66, EPA, MTDEQ and County Fire coordinating the response — Billings, MT



Incident Command Post with over 160 responders addressing the mock oil spill incident — Billings, MT

# Popo Agie Gasoline Discharge, Lander Wyoming

On April 2nd, 2019 the Lander Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) responded to a report of gas fumes coming from the Middle Popo Agie River upstream of the Main Street Bridge in Lander, Wyoming. The response team confirmed a sheen existed on the surface of the river and tracked it to a location in the river bed just south of Main Street, adjacent to a local gas station.

Many parties responded to the discharge including the Lander Mayor, LVFD, Police Department, City Works, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ), Fish and Wildlife, EPA, and EPA and state contractors. The LVFD placed a boom in the river at the point of the discharge and, as a precaution, placed an additional boom at a location several miles downstream.



Upon arrival at the scene, EPA and the State Contractors upgraded the boom and constructed a cofferdam made from large sandbags to help capture and recover gasoline in the river. Tank testing occurred at the

nearby gas station and other facilities near the spill location were inspected. The gas station's initial pressure tests showed no leaks. However, over the course of the response, WDEQ determined that fuel delivery processes were being done improperly and the Underground Storage Tank (UST) system that equalizes fuel levels had suffered a leak, losing approximately 2,800 gallons of fuel over the preceding three months. WDEQ ultimately placed the station under a Red Tag order, ceasing all fuel operations until WDEQ is satisfied that this will not recur. While the UST investigation and enforcement process played out, EPA focused its efforts on controlling the discharge on the bank of the river.

On April 6th, EPA began construction of a reinforced containment structure on the bank of Popo Agie by excavating an area where product seeps had occurred. On April 7th, the bank ignited during the excavation operations.



The LVFD responded and suppressed the fire quickly. Excavation operations then continued until completed on April 9th. The LVFD maintained continuous on-site fire suppression support during bank excavation operations as a precaution.

The concrete containment wall was poured on April 12th, well casings were placed and the area behind the containment wall was back-filled with cobble and fill to reestablish the natural grade. The containment structure was then armored with natural rock secured with wire mesh.



At this time, WDEQ has taken over operation and maintenance of the containment structure as well as oversight of the Responsible Party. Once

the State's remediation system is fully functional, the OSC will work with WDEQ and the Responsible Party to restore the river bank. For further information, please visit the OSC Response [website](#).

## Regional Response Team Meeting Autumn 2019



The Regional Response Team 8 (RRT-8) meeting was held in Denver, Colorado, on October 16th and 17th. Speakers included On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) covering the Popo Agie Oil Spill, the Black Swan Good Samaritan Project and the State Painting hot sites. Also, the U.S. Geological Survey's Energy Project, a study of pathways and potential effects of oil and gas

activities on ecological receptors, was presented by Aida Farag. In addition, everyone participated in a tabletop exercise with various scenarios in South Dakota and Utah. The next Region 8 RRT meeting will be held on April 1st and 2nd, 2020. More information is available [here](#).

## National Tribal Emergency Managers Conference

This annual conference, held during the week of August 19th in Green Bay, Wisconsin, was hosted by the National Tribal Emergency Management Council and the Oneida Tribe. The week covered emergency planning topics ranging from Ham Radio licensing to a field trip to the National Weather Service. EPA Region 8 SEE Lori Reed presented information on creating and managing a Tribal Emergency Response Commission (TERC). Check the National Tribal Emergency Management Council [website](#) for more information.



The Oneida Nation entertained the attendees with traditional dancing during a dinner to celebrate the culture of the Tribe.

## 2020 Western Regions SERC/TERCs Meeting

The Fifth Annual Western State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs) and TERCs conference will be held in Denver, Colorado next January 28th and 29th. Registration is through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-western-regions-serc-terc-conference-tickets-75066163917>. This is an opportunity for SERC and TERC members to share ideas and problem solve with their peers and federal partners.

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# Chemical and Oil Industry Safety and Compliance Workshops

This past summer, South Dakota's Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) held workshops led by representatives from the DENR, U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Department of Agriculture, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The workshops were held in several cities across the state: Mitchell, Aberdeen, Pierre, and Rapid City.



Kelsey Newling, SD DENR

The workshop topics included tank regulations, air quality permits, and industrial stormwater permits. Federal programs noted and clarified changes to regulations for Risk Management Program, Toxic Release Inventory (TRI), Spill/Release reporting, Tier II reporting and OSHA worker safety topics. Both businesses and LEPC members attended the sessions.



Mitchell, South Dakota, Chemical and Oil Industry Safety & Compliance Workshop

Joe Foss Building, Pierre, South Dakota  
Location for Chemical and Oil Workshops



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# Colorado LEPC Conference, September 4-6, 2019

The annual conference, held in Breckenridge and hosted by the Colorado Emergency Planning Committee, included LEPC members, first responders, and local, state and federal partners. The first afternoon featured an LEPC **101** presentation, designed for new LEPC members, and an LEPC **201** presentation focused on more advanced topics and legal liabilities. Presentations during the following two days included representatives from Burlington Northern Santa Fe, the Chemical Safety Board, the EPA Drinking Water Security Group, and Colorado's Oil & Gas Conservation Commission. In addition, 15-minute "Ignite" sessions covered the EPA's The Emergency Response Application (TERA) mapping tool, Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) software, Chemical Safety Workshops and a discussion of the National Response Framework versus the National Contingency Plan.

## Training Opportunities

### Design and Construction Issues at Hazardous Waste Site

Registration is open for the **Symposium for Design and Construction Issues at Hazardous Waste Sites** (DCHWS) for November 4-6, 2019 in Denver. This Symposium received excellent reviews in past years. EPA's Superfund Program cosponsors a series of events with the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) in order to share experiences on information related to design and construction issues at hazardous waste sites.

There is no charge for public agency employees to attend this symposium which will be held at the Hyatt Grand Denver, 650 15th Street, Pinnacle Club (38th Floor), in Denver from Monday, November 4th at 3:00 PM - Wednesday, November 6th at 1:00 PM (MST). The DCHWS provides a great forum to network and get up to speed on design and construction project management challenges and lessons learned in our industry. [Register here.](#)

For more training opportunities, check out Trainex at

<https://www.trainex.org/>

# EPCRA Frequently Asked Questions

## ***What is the purpose of the list of extremely hazardous substances (EHS) in regards to the emergency planning requirements of EPCRA?***

The extremely hazardous substances (EHS) list and threshold planning quantities are intended to help communities focus on the substances and facilities of most immediate concern for emergency planning and response. However, while the EHS list includes many of the chemicals which may pose an immediate hazard to a community upon release, it does not include *all* substances which are hazardous enough to require community emergency response planning. There are tens of thousands of compounds and mixtures in commerce in the United States, and in specific circumstances many of them could be considered toxic or otherwise dangerous. The EHS list represents only a first step in developing effective emergency response planning efforts at the community level. Without a preliminary list of this kind, most communities would find it very difficult to identify potential chemical hazards among the many chemicals present in any community.

Similarly, threshold planning quantities (TPQs) are not absolute levels above which the extremely hazardous substances are dangerous and below which they pose no threat at all. Rather, the TPQs are intended to provide a "first cut" for emergency response planners in communities where EHSs are present. Identifying facilities where EHSs are present in quantities greater than the TPQ will enable the community to assess the potential danger posed by these facilities.

Communities also are able to identify other facilities posing potential chemical risks and to develop contingency plans to protect the public from releases of hazardous chemicals. Sections 311 and 312 of Title III provide a mechanism through which a community will receive safety data sheets and other information on extremely hazardous substances, as well as many other chemicals, from many facilities which handle them. A community can then assess and initiate planning activities for EHSs below the threshold planning quantity and for other hazardous substances of concern to them

## ***What is the relationship between reportable quantities (RQs) and threshold planning quantities (TPQs)?***

The reportable quantity (RQ) that triggers emergency release notification (Section 304) was developed as a quantity that when released, poses potential threat to human health and the environment. The RQs were developed using several criteria, including aquatic toxicity, mammalian toxicity, ignitability, reactivity, chronic toxicity, potential carcinogenicity, biodegradation, hydrolysis, and photolysis (50 FR 13468, April 4, 1985).

The threshold planning quantities (TPQs) for emergency planning provisions (Section 302) were designed to help states and local communities focus their planning efforts. The TPQs are based on acute mammalian toxicity and potential for airborne dispersion and represent those quantities of substances that can cause significant harm should an accidental release occur.

## **Transportation exemption and EPCRA emergency planning**

### ***To what extent is a state required to plan if there are only a few (or no) facilities having extremely hazardous substances (EHSs) present in excess of threshold planning quantities (TPQs), but there is significant interstate transportation of these and other hazardous substances?***

While Section 327 of Title III generally exempts the transportation of hazardous materials from coverage under most Title III reporting requirements, the law does require comprehensive emergency plans that address all hazardous materials and the potential for both fixed facility *and transportation incidents* (Section 303). The list of EHSs should provide a focus and a starting point for planning. Therefore, the transportation routes and facilities with significant inventories of hazardous substances should be considered in any plan. Finally, Section 301 includes transportation officials among those representatives who must participate in local planning committees.

# Carbon County, Montana LEPC

Nestled between the Beartooth Mountains to the southwest and the Big Horn River to the east, Carbon County is named after the abundant amounts of coal in its 2,000 square mile area; it also produced the state's first oil well. Due to its awe-inspiring beauty, Carbon County transformed into a vacation spot. Visitors experience spectacular vistas visible from the Beartooth Highway running from the county seat of Red Lodge to the northeast entrance of Yellowstone National Park. Residents and tourists take advantage of the opportunities for hiking, camping, skiing, golfing, hunting, and wildlife viewing.



Tom Kohley, Emergency Manager for the county and the appointed LEPC chair, shared details of this successful LEPC. The Carbon County LEPC has a diverse membership consisting of emergency management, law enforcement, EMS, school officials, hospital staff, fire, pipeline and mining industries, and elected officials. They even have a participant who runs a local radio station. While pleased with the diversity of the committee, the LEPC would like to see more public involvement. The LEPC moves the monthly meetings to four different communities around the County, staggering the times between day and evening to accommodate both professional and volunteer participants. Tom typically sets the agenda and manages the meetings.



Tom Kohley, Carbon County  
Emergency Manager

“Emergency management is all about personal connections and knowing what resources and capabilities exist within and outside the County. As funding and resources become increasingly limited, we must rely on mutual aid in almost every incident. However, mutual aid is best accomplished when you know who is responding and what resources and capabilities they are bringing to the incident. As someone once told me, you don't want to hand out business cards during an incident,” Kohley stated. He added he considers the LEPC as the forum to bring everyone together prior to the emergency.

Because communications are a possible weak link during an incident, the County just completed a major enhancement to its VHF radio communication system. The LEPC has worked to ensure all agencies are on board with the new communication plan.

Tom feels that one of the key elements to any successful LEPC is keeping members engaged. Given that the county hasn't had many major incidents in the past couple years, being prepared to respond to the next incident is somewhat of a challenge. He suggests a mini-tabletop exercise, simulating potential emergencies, allows the LEPC to discuss roles and responsibilities for the low-frequency, high-impact disasters that may occur.

Tom also schedules field visits to various locations around the County to help educate members to the assets that exist in the area. In the past, they visited a pipeline, a natural gas storage facility, a limestone quarry and the 911 Dispatch Center.



Red Lodge, Carbon County, Montana



# Carbon County LEPC Continued

From a preparedness perspective, in addition to ensuring the emergency plans are kept up-to-date, Tom would like to regularly exercise elements of the plans and train or procure resources where deficiencies are identified. “Plans are great, but if they’re not continually exercised, they are not nearly as effective.”

Using Homeland Security funding, the LEPC created a disaster preparedness display to encourage enrollment in the County’s emergency notification system and to assemble emergency kits for home and auto. They displayed the booth at a health fair, a volunteer fire fund raiser and a community open house and hope to participate in more events this coming year.

“Preparing for LEPC meetings every month is time consuming but worth the effort. I attempt to have a full agenda at every meeting engaging members using visual aids such as pictures, maps and graphs. I like when we engage in honest discussions about past or future incidents and how we might prepare, respond and recover more effectively. When this happens, I feel that we are succeeding as an LEPC.”



Quinnebaugh Meadows Trail



Beartooth Highway

# Chemical Facility Workshops - Local Focus



Boulder, Colorado



Alamosa for the San Luis Valley LEPC

Chemical Safety Workshops for Regulated Facilities were held in Colorado this summer. They were sponsored by the LEPCs, the Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership (CEPP) and the Colorado Emergency Planning Committee (CEPC). The workshops addressed how an area responds to a Hazardous Material Incident. They reviewed the hazardous materials profile in each community as well as what first responders and emergency managers assess as part of planning, training and preparing for a response to local hazardous material emergencies.

An important part of the workshops are a panel of representatives, including dispatch, fire, sheriff, and emergency operations centers, discussing how they individually respond to a spill or release. Carol Way presented an overview of chemical properties and led the discussion with the panel.



Carol Way, Hazardous Materials Consultant, presenting during the Boulder workshop

We will increase EPA Region 8 preparedness through:

- Planning, training, and developing outreach relations with federal agencies, states, tribes, local organizations, and the regulated community.
- Assisting in the development of EPA Region 8 preparedness planning and response capabilities through the RSC, IMT, RRT, OPA, and RMP.
- Working with facilities to reduce accidents and spills through education, inspections, and enforcement.



## Region 8 SERC Contact Information

### Colorado

Mr. Greg Stasinis, Co-Chair  
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**RMP Region 8 Reading Room:** (303) 312-6345

**RMP Reporting Center:** The Reporting Center can answer questions about software or installation problems. The RMP Reporting Center is available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday - Friday:(703) 227-7650 or email [RMPRC@epacdx.net](mailto:RMPRC@epacdx.net).

**RMP:** <https://www.epa.gov/rmp> **EPCRA:** <https://www.epa.gov/epcra>

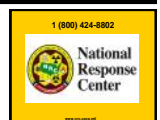
**Emergency Response:** <https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response>

**SPCC/FRP:** <https://www.epa.gov/oil-spills-prevention-and-preparedness-regulations>

**[Lists of Lists](#)** (Updated June 2019)

**Questions?** Call the Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP, and Oil Information Center at (800) 424-9346 (Monday-Thursday).

**To report an oil or chemical spill, call the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802.**



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*This newsletter provides information on the EPA Risk Management Program, EPCRA, SPCC/FRP (Facility Response Plan) and other issues relating to Accidental Release Prevention Requirements. The information should be used as a reference tool, not as a definitive source of compliance information. Compliance regulations are published in 40 CFR Part 68 for CAA section 112(r) Risk Management Program, 40 CFR Part 355/370 for EPCRA, and 40 CFR Part 112.2 for SPCC/FRP.*

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