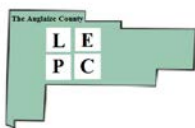


PRESS RELEASE



The LEPC meets bi-monthly and all meetings are open to the public. For further information regarding the LEPC please contact LEPC Chairman, Kendall Krites at :
kkrites@wapakoneta.net

LEPC – Who are We?

The History, Purpose and Composition of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (“LEPC”)

The origin of the LEPC dates back nearly thirty years and spans over 8,000 miles but the present impact is all locally driven and locally focused.

In December of 1984 a gas leak at a pesticide plant in Bhopal, India exposed nearly 500,000 people to hazardous chemicals, killing thousands. While estimates on the exact death toll vary, the consensus is that the Bhopal gas tragedy is one of the world’s worst industrial disasters. The response to this disaster was far-reaching. The Local Emergency Planning Committee is a product of federal legislation passed in the wake of the Bhopal gas tragedy. To prevent similar occurrences in our communities, Congress passed the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (“EPCRA”), also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (“SARA”), in 1986. The goal of the laws is to better protect public health and the environment.

Generally, the role of the LEPC is to help accomplish the goal of better protecting the public health and environment by serving as a resource for enhancing hazardous chemical awareness, education and overall preparedness. The Ohio Revised Code provides that the LEPC shall design and maintain a hazardous materials plan for Auglaize County. In conjunction with the hazardous materials plan, the LEPC is vested with the power to provide additional services to the public, other government agencies and regulated facilities. Such services include: 1) data processing for annual chemical inventories for facilities, 2) planning for emergency response to emergency release of hazardous substance, and 3) coordination of training and exercises for emergency response. In summary, the LEPC is responsible for local emergency planning, exercising the chemical emergency plan, information management in regards to chemicals within the County, compliance monitoring, training and outreach activities to both the regulated industry and to the community.

The Auglaize County LEPC is a voluntary group of about 25 professionals and interested parties from throughout Auglaize County representing various organizations. The LEPC is required to have representation from twelve categories; the categories include: elected state or local official, law enforcement, emergency management agency, fire, first aid/red cross, health, local environment, hospital, transportation, broadcast and print media, community groups, owners and operators of facilities. Members of the LEPC are nominated by the Board of Auglaize County Commissioners and appointed to a two year term by the State of Ohio Emergency Response Commission. Currently, the Auglaize County LEPC is made up of representatives from the following agencies and industries within

Auglaize County:

- City of Wapakoneta Fire Department
- Auglaize County EMS
- Auglaize County EMA
- St. Marys City Schools
- Auglaize County Health Department
- City of St. Marys Fire Department
- Bayliff & Son Funeral Home
- Public at Large
- AAP St. Marys Corp.
- USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Services
- City of Wapakoneta Police Department
- Environmental Industry
- Auglaize County Highway Department
- Auglaize County Commissioners' Office
- Schlosser Funeral Home
- Auglaize County Sheriff's Office
- American Red Cross
- Auglaize County Council on Aging
- Wapakoneta City Schools
- Midwest Electric

All persons who accept a position on the LEPC are expected to commit to becoming familiar with the various laws, rules and other documents used in connection with the LEPC's role within the community.