



# Treasure Coast Local Emergency Planning Committee

## Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA)

### Quick Reference Guide

In 1986, the U.S. Congress amended the Superfund Amendment and passed the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) in response to the Union Carbide industrial accident in Bhopal, India that killed over 3,000 and disabled or injured of half a million people. The accident had generational health repercussions on the affected population. The public was unaware of the hazardous chemicals in use and stored at the facility and not provided safety and response information for potential accidents. In 1988, the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management created regional Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) to implement EPCRA regulations.

The Treasure Coast LEPC (TCLEPC) serves as the regional repository for annual reports submitted by facilities that store, use, manufacture, and transport Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHSs) within the four county region. Efforts in implementation include encouraging and supporting chemical release emergency planning efforts at the State, tribal, regional, and local levels through outreach and education activities, training, and exercises. The TCLEPCs provide first responders, facilities, and the local governments with information concerning potential chemical hazards present in their planning region. In addition, LEPCs provide the community and public organizations with information on chemical hazards and risk and prepare outreach and educational materials that inform the public on prevention, preparedness, and life safety in response to chemical accidents.

### Overview of EPCRA Requirements

Emergency Planning	Hazardous Chemical Inventory Reporting	Emergency Release Notification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPCRA Section 302 requires facilities notify federal and state authorities of the presence of Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHSs) on site(s)</li> <li>Facilities must appoint a facility emergency coordinator to manage Tier II reporting, and response planning;</li> <li>The LEPCs and TEPCs use this information to develop or modify local emergency response plans as required under Section 303; and</li> <li>Section 303 authorizes LEPCs to request any information from EHS facilities subject to Section 302 needed to develop or update the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan and other emergency plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPCRA Sections 311 and 312 require facilities to report EHS chemical inventories to meet with the community’s right to know provision;</li> <li>The Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) requires facilities that handle EHSs and chemicals listed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), above set Threshold Planning Quantities (TPQ) provide information on the chemicals, quantities, locations, and hazards;</li> <li>Section 311 requires facilities to submit a Safety Data Sheet, (SDS) for each EHS or a list of hazardous chemicals, present at or above the reporting TPQs;</li> <li>Section 312 requires that facilities submit an inventory of EHSs using the Tier II form by March 1st annually. The Tier II forms are submitted to the SERC, LEPC and the jurisdictional fire department.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilities are required to notify the State Watch Office (SWO) within fifteen (15) minutes of a release of EHSs or CERLA chemicals for releases above the Release Quantity (RQ);</li> <li>The SERCs and LEPCs are notified of releases via the SWO. Facilities are required to provide a detailed written follow-up report to the SERC;</li> <li>Notification and follow-up reports include chemical and quantity released; the environment the chemical was released; known or anticipated acute or chronic health risks; and precautions (evacuation and/or shelter-in-place); and actions taken to respond and contain the release(s);</li> <li>Follow-up or After-Action Reports (AARs) from real-time incidents are valuable in evaluating and measuring effectiveness of emergency plans.</li> </ul>