

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Background & Member Expectations

Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) were created as a result of the federal government passing the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). The law stipulated that communities should have a committee develop an emergency response plan, review the plan at least annually, monitor and develop procedures for the public to request information about reportable chemicals in the community.

Local LEPC's also act as a receiving point for a Tier II report. Tier II reports, officially known as Emergency & Hazardous Chemical Inventory Forms, are submitted annually to the LEPC, as well as to local Fire Departments and the State Emergency Response Commission. The form identifies all chemicals that a business stores that are above the reporting thresholds (as set by the Federal Government) and identifies what hazards they pose, how much they maintain, and lists emergency contact information for the business.

By legislation, the State commission, not our board, appoints the LEPC members.

By practice and by-laws the “Director of Buncombe County Emergency Services shall submit the list of official nominees or replacements to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), requesting official appointment.”

Members serve a 2 year term.

The Buncombe County LEPC will meet bi-monthly. The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2021, at 9:00am. Meetings are currently being held virtually via Microsoft Teams.