



LOUISIANA EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Louisiana Emergency Response Commission (LERC) is to coordinate the state's planning and preparedness activities for hazardous materials compliance with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). The LERC is to develop and support programs of state and local governments and local university sponsored programs that are designed to improve emergency planning, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery capabilities, with special emphasis associated with hazardous chemicals. The purpose of the SERC is to:

- Enhance public safety and environmental protection through efficient implementation of hazardous material emergency planning and community right-to-know laws;
- Designate local emergency planning districts and appoint a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and members for each district;
- Supervise and coordinate the activities of the LEPCs;
- Coordinate other state agency activities in the area of hazardous materials emergency planning and community right-to-know laws to ensure legal and jurisdictional autonomy of each of these agencies is preserved;
- Promote, assist, and guide local, regional, and state government activities to integrate hazardous materials emergency planning and accident prevention programs in order to prevent unnecessary overlaps;
- Establish procedures for receiving, processing and providing information to the public on hazardous materials;
- Review LEPC regional emergency plans and make recommendations to the LEPC on revisions of the plan that may be necessary to ensure coordination of such plan with regional emergency plans of other LEPCs;
- Receive verbal and written follow-up emergency notifications of the release of extremely hazardous substances or hazardous chemicals;
- Provide a forum for the consideration of ideas and concerns of public and private interest in the implementation of hazardous material emergency planning and accident prevention programs;
- Provide a mechanism for timely review and processing of requests for hazardous material information legally available to the public.