

# U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Raj Sharma, USEPA R3  
Email: [sharma.raj@epa.gov](mailto:sharma.raj@epa.gov)

Jack Downie, USEPA R3  
Email: [downie.jack@epa.gov](mailto:downie.jack@epa.gov)

Dennis Matlock, USEPA R3  
Email: [matlock.dennis@epa.gov](mailto:matlock.dennis@epa.gov)

## North Central WV LEPC Newsletter

Local Emergency Planning Committee

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Dear North Central WV Counties:

In the past few months, I have been fortunate to be able to visit LEPCs in Tucker, Harrison, and Lewis/Upshur Counties.

During my visits, I have been very impressed by the hard work and dedication LEPC members put forth in doing what is, for many members, a largely volunteer effort. Also evident is the camaraderie all the members seem to have with each other. It's this combination of dedication, preparation, and cooperation which gave me, and should give you, great confidence that our counties will be able to respond effectively should there be a real emergency.

I will soon be attending meetings in Monongalia and Randolph Counties, and anticipate seeing the same level of enthusiasm and cooperation. I know I haven't made it to all the counties, so please let me know if you have an LEPC meeting coming up, and I'll try to make an appearance.

In this issue, I write about the River Road Emergency Response in Morgantown (perhaps some of you participated), and information from the WV SERC on grants available to LEPCs.

I hope you find the newsletter interesting and informative. I welcome your feedback.

Thanks!

Sincerely,

*Raj Sharma*



Serving the North Central WV Counties of Barbour, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, and Upshur.

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## **West Virginia State Emergency Response Commission**

The mission of the **State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)** and **Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs)** is to implement the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and to mitigate the effects of a release or spill of natural or man-made hazardous materials through developing response plans, including Preparedness, Notification and Warning, and Public Protective Measures. On October 17, 1986, in response to concerns for safety around chemical facilities, Congress enacted the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). The Act has had a far-reaching influence on issues relating to hazardous materials.

The job of the **LEPC** is to develop and implements comprehensive emergency response plans, review plans and standard operating procedures, process information requests from the public, conduct exercises and drills, and conduct public awareness campaigns in their communities.

## **GRANTS**

### **Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness**

Effective June 1995, the West Virginia SERC began making Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grants available to active LEPCs within the state. LEPCs are required to maintain an active LEPC (meet a minimum of once a quarter), produce by-laws and conduct one exercise (table top, functional or actual event) per year. Counties are eligible for HMEP grants beginning October 1st yearly. Applications are mailed to LEPCs March 15th. Applications are due back to the West Virginia Office of Emergency Services by June 15th yearly.

HMEP Grants are designed to develop and provide education and training to public sector employees for the purpose of responding to chemical accidents/incidents in accordance with OSHA 1910.120.

## **SERC Grants**

SERC Grants are provided to LEPCs to assist in the operation of LEPCs and their activities. Grant packages are sent to LEPCs January 1st yearly and must be returned no later than July first yearly.

### 2011 LEPC Grant

- The WV State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) established the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) grant program utilizing Tier Two fees beginning in 1995.
- LEPC grants will be **\$1000.00** and must be applied for by **30 June annually**. LEPCs may request additional funds after 1 July if funds remain and, if approved, funds will be allocated based upon the merit of the request and availability of funds.
- LEPCs that do not expend their grants by 1 March of the following year of award, and report expenditures appropriately, will not receive their final grant reimbursement.
- LEPC grants will be expended in the following manner:
  - ✓ Initial payment of \$1000 by June 30th of the grant year
  - ✓ Second payment after 1 July of the grant year based on
  - ✓ Grant close-out including reimbursement requests and certification of expenses must be received by 1 March of the following grant year
- Reports of expenditures must meet appropriate fiduciary requirements. Local accounting and auditing procedures must be followed where specifically required. A progress report must accompany the Mid-year and a final close-out report should be sent to the SERC and must indicate expenditures and contain copies of receipts. Grants must be submitted in appropriate format and must be stated in terms of measurable progress, discussing expected objectives and expected accomplishments.
- The SERC may suspend disbursement of grants or require reimbursement of funds if the grantee fails to meet eligibility requirements or to meet stated grant goals and objectives.

**NOTE: Grantees may modify and amend grant requests in writing as necessary to meet the stated goals and objectives of their projects.**

Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), LEPCs are required to: appoint a chairperson and establish rules by which the committee will function; establish procedures for receiving and processing requests for information from the public, including Tier II information; complete an emergency response plan and review such plan once a year, or more frequently as circumstance change in the community or at any facility; and evaluate the need for resources necessary to develop, implement, and exercise the emergency plan.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Melyssa H. Savage at 304 558-5380 or [Melyssa.H.Savage@wv.gov](mailto:Melyssa.H.Savage@wv.gov) .

### **SERC GRANTS**

SERC Grant Application Deadline

★1 March - 30 June 2011

SERC progress report due

★1 July 2011

2nd (supplemental) SERC Grant Application Deadline

★1 July - 31 December 2011(based on merit)

Grant Close out narrative and expenditure report

★1 March 2012



### **HMEP GRANTS**

HMEP Grant Application mailed to counties

★30 March 2011

HMEP Grant Application return Deadline

★30 July 2011

HMEP Grant sub-committee meets to determine grant funding (2012 grant period)

★August 2011

HMEP notification to counties on grant awards

★September 2011

HMEP Initial request for payment,

★After 1 October 2010

HMEP request for payments

★Anytime after 1 October 2010 but not more than monthly thereafter

HMEP progress reports

★Jan 2011, April 2011, July 2011, October 2011 (final)


HMEP Grant Close-out and product

★Due December 2011

## West Virginia State Emergency Response Commission Grant

### Authorization

WV Code §15-5A-5 and §55-1-10, Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know, authorizes grants to be made available to Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) for the following purposes: planning, operation of the LEPC, exercises, personnel costs, plans and training. Package can be found online at [www.dhsem.wv.gov](http://www.dhsem.wv.gov)

<b>Grant Funding Intent</b>	<b>Grants may <u>not</u> be used by LEPCs to:</b>
<p>Grant awards may be used by LEPCs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) develop, prepare, revise, exercise, review, implement, and to administer their chemical emergency response and preparedness plan(s)</li><li>(b) LEPC administration</li><li>(c) Exercises</li><li>(d) Personnel costs, including salary &amp; benefits</li><li>(e) travel reimbursement for developing, reviewing and updating emergency response plans</li><li>(f) Copying, printing, postage costs associated with developing, reviewing, updating and publishing of emergency response plans and associated LEPC operations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) acquire first response equipment</li><li>(b) Reimburse any person or department for expenditures incurred for emergency response and cleanup of a release of a hazardous substance, an extremely hazardous substance, and/or oil.</li><li>(c) Perform any assessment of damages to natural resources resulting from a release of oil, a hazardous substance or an extremely hazardous substance</li></ul> <div data-bbox="922 1249 1117 1444"></div>

# In the Spotlight

*In this section, we will be highlighting different events, activities or other news that may be happening in the counties. We're looking for stories that reflect what's going on, like drills/exercises, recent hazmat responses, or any new ideas that are working in your county towards achieving our shared goals and missions of environmental protection and safety.*

## River Road Drum Emergency Response Morgantown, Monongalia County, WV

On Monday, October 11, 2010, at approximately 1716 hrs, neighbors on River Road heard an explosion, and called 911 to report a fire. The **River Road Volunteer Fire Department** responded along with several mutual aid fire departments to put out a structure fire.

Upon arriving at the scene, it was discovered that the building contained numerous drums of oil products, tanks and cylinders. The fire had caused the drums to rupture and the waste was leaking and threatened to reach a local stream, approximately 250 feet down gradient. Additional assistance was provided by the **Monongalia County's Hazardous Incidents Response Team (HIRT)** in responding to the fire and overseeing the installation of diversion ditches and the construction of underflow dams by the property owner and his neighbors.

At 1845 hrs, the WVDEP was notified and responded to the scene. WVDEP notified the National Response Center (NRC) at 2107 hrs and requested EPA's assistance in the assessment and cleanup of the spill.

On Tuesday, October 12, 2010, EPA's On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Debbie Lindsey met WVDEP Joyce Moore and EPA's contractor to assess the situation. WVDEP provided additional information on the background and current status of the Site. The 40 x 52 ft sheet metal building destroyed in the

fire was once used as a maintenance garage for the property owner's former trucking company.



**Figure 1** Scene following explosion.

EPA's OSC conducted an assessment of the current conditions while waiting for the arrival of the Fire Marshall. According to the owner, the building contained parts washer solvents, diesel fuel tanks, waste oil, and oil products. The OSC and WVDEP observed multiple high pressure cylinders, approximately 17 steel drums, 4 intact poly drums, approximately 15 melted poly drums, and saturated soil around the drum areas.

Mitigation efforts during the initial response included the construction of an underflow dam approximately 25-30 feet south and down gradient



of the burned building with a series of three sorbent booms lined with oil dry extending approximately 60 feet down gradient toward Indian Creek. The underflow dam contained a black oily product; however, no discharge of oil was noted from the underflow pipes at the time of the assessment.



Figure 2 Melted poly drums.

Beyond these discharge pipes the ground surface was covered inside all three boomed areas. It appeared that some the spilled material had migrated down the hillside before the underflow dam was completed.



Figure 3 Migration pathway down hillside.

An acetylene cylinder had exploded during the fire and hit the side of a metal shed approximately 50 feet away landing within the third boomed area. Further down gradient of the third boom area, the hillside gradient increased sharply. Oily material

had traveled beyond the third boom and had soaked into the rocky hillside and sporadically exited near the bottom. An underflow dam had been constructed at the bottom of this gradient in the drainage ditch alongside the entrance drive to the property. At the time of the assessment, this dam was dry and no evidence of spilled material had appeared to migrate to this point. The drainage from this area was near the apex of road's drainage system running east and west alongside River Road, County Route 45. Across River Road, the hillside dropped off approximately 30 feet into Indian Creek which discharges into the Monongahela River. Weather reports were calling for heavy rain over the next 48 hour period.



Figure 4 Exploded acetylene cylinder.

The West Virginia Fire Marshall, Mark Lambert, arrived on site and interviewed the property owner. He observed the building condition, contents, and extent of damage. Due to the extensive damage and collapsed roof, he determined that identifying the exact cause of the fire would not be feasible and sampling would be of little benefit due to the amount of petroleum products involved. He notified EPA and WVDEP, that they were free to proceed in the cleanup of the spilled materials and contaminated soil.

EPA and WVDEP met with the owner to discuss the cleanup actions required. The OSC notified the owner of his responsibility for the spill and gave the owner the opportunity to initiate his own cleanup of the site. With the property owner not able to conduct the cleanup, EPA explained the scope of work that would take place. This scope of work would include: consolidating/disposal of the drums, container, and cylinders as necessary, excavation



and disposal of the contaminated soil, and stabilization of the hillside should it become necessary due to excavation activities. EPA informed the owner that the scope of work did not include the building structure.

After conducting the assessment and providing the property owner the option to conduct the cleanup on his own, EPA's OSC considered funding mechanisms for the mitigation activities. Based on the potential of having contaminated waste oil due to the unknown practices of the source of all the oil, other solvents and cylinders, the threat of the forecasted rain, the proximity of the spilled materials to the Indian Creek, an unknown source of a labeled Hazardous Waste drum, and the lack of additional responsible party and state resources to perform the cleanup, the OSC decided to activate the site under her redelegation of Authority, 14-2 under CERCLA in the amount of \$250,000. The OSC proceeded to contact EPA's Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor for this emergency response.

WVDEP's Emergency Response team arrived on site to assist in limited mitigation activities. After discussions with WVDEP Moore and the OSC, they proceeded to overpack and pump out fire damaged drums that posed an immediate threat of release. The WVDEP's Emergency Response team overpacked six drums and generated three additional 55 gallon steel drums of waste materials from the partially melted poly and fire damaged steel drums. In addition, WVDEP placed some sorbent material on and around the heavily saturated contaminated soil areas where oil was seeping.

On Wednesday, October 13, 2010, EPA's ERRS cleanup technicians and operators arrived on site. They began to install silt fencing and construction fencing around the spilled material to limit access to the work areas and prepared staging areas with plastic sheeting. EPA's ERRS contractor first began excavating on the east side of the building and continued excavation in the boomed areas at the top of the hillside. The ERRS contractor also set up a drum staging area and began consolidating the overpacked drums, empty drums and containers. Any containers and cylinders near the access doorways inside of the building were also collected and staged.



Figure 5 Contaminated soil excavation.

With the threat of rain, a trench was dug from the building to the underflow dam to reduce the size and isolate the saturated contaminated soil area. The soil berm, staged soil, fire damaged drums, and debris were all covered in plastic to prevent migration during the forecasted rain.

When arriving on Thursday, October 14, 2010, the area had received a light rain overnight but did not cause further migration of any contamination. EPA continued with the excavation of the contaminated soil on the east side of the building. Contaminated soil extended approximately 40 feet from the building encompassing a gravel access road and graveled storage area outside of the building. The



Figure 6 Contaminated soil adjacent to building.

contaminated soil migrated south of the building into a low lying area and settled around a mature tree approximately 50 feet from the building. By close of business, the contractor had completed the excavation of the hillside and low lying area off the



southwest corner of the building. The excavation in this area extended to a depth of 2 – 2.5 feet. On the hillside, the depth of the excavation averaged a foot.

On Friday, October 15, 2010, EPA continued the excavation of contaminated soils next to the south side of the building and retrieved drums and cylinders from the west side of the building. Oily metal/debris was segregated from the cylinder staging area. EPA completed the excavation of the underflow dam near the building. This excavation extended to an approximate depth of 5 feet below ground surface. Two roll-offs were delivered to the site and were staged along the access road. Three additional roll-offs arrived the next day.

On Saturday, October 16, 2010, the five roll-offs were loaded with contaminated soil and staged near the access road. Contaminated soils were removed from the NE corner of building and the area was smoothed out with excess gravel from driveway. EPA's ERRS contractor began crushing the empty metal drums and containers and also overpacked a grease drum.

On Monday, 18 October 2010, EPA completed all soil excavation including the removal of soil next to the building's foundation where a small amount of oil had seep out over the weekend. While waiting for fill dirt to be delivered, stones were placed at the bottom of the hillside area to stabilize the edge of the excavation. Existing onsite soil mounds were used to backfill the hillside area. EPA's ERRS contractor continued to consolidate the remaining partial drums/containers into one of the existing 55 gallon steel drums. The empty steel drums were crushed and the empty poly drums were cut into pieces and staged for disposal.

On Tuesday, October 19, 2010, five additional roll-offs arrived on site and EPA filled them with the remaining contaminated soil. EPA collected composite samples from the soil contained in the roll-offs for disposal profiling. Fill dirt was delivered and the excavation areas were backfilled. EPA re-graded the site to the original conditions and placed erosion control jute matting on the hillside.

On Wednesday, October 20, 2010, EPA's contractor seeded all of the excavated area that had been backfilled and then covered the area with hay. One additional dumpster arrived on site and was filled with the crushed steel drums, pieces of poly drums, contaminated metal debris, fire damaged tires, PPE, and plastic sheeting. Any stained soil underneath the plastic sheeting of the staging area was scraped and placed into one of the soil filled roll-offs. A total of 11 roll-offs were staged and would remain on-site until disposal arrangements were finalized. Ten drums (eight drums of waste oil, one drum of grease and one drum of antifreeze) were sampled and also staged on-site while waiting for disposal. In addition, two drums were staged on the west side of the burned garage for sampling and disposal by WVDEP.

The Site was shutdown from October 21, 2010 through December 6, 2010 while waiting for disposal arrangements to be made. During this timeframe, the property owner took down the burned out garage structure and removed all fire debris and scrap metal.

During the week of December 6, 2010, the OSC and EPA ERRS contractor were on-site to oversee pick-up of roll-off boxes and drums. EnviroServe was on-site on December 6<sup>th</sup> and picked up the eight (8) drums of waste oil, one (1) drum of grease and one (1) drum of ethylene glycol. Drums were then transported to the Chemtron Corp facility in Avon, Ohio for disposal.

Also beginning Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, Weavertown Environmental Group (WEG) was on-site to pick-up and transport roll-offs with contaminated soils to the Veolia ES Chestnut Valley Landfill in McClellandtown, PA. A total of 11 roll-offs containing approximately 162 tons of contaminated soil classified as "non-hazardous" were transported to the approved landfill.

The EPA OSC conducted one final walkthrough and photo documented final site conditions. The site cleanup was deemed completed, and the action was closed!

## Region 3 Emergency Notification Numbers

National Response Center (NRC)  
WV DEP 24-hour Hotline

(800) 424-8802  
(800) 642-3074

## North Central Regional Calendar

<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>News / Event</u></b>
Barbour	
Harrison	
Lewis/Upshur	LEPC Meeting, April 20 at 1900 hrs.
Marion	
Monongalia	LEPC Meeting, April 26 at 0730 hrs.
Preston	
Randolph	LEPC Meeting, April 27 at 1200 hrs.
Taylor	
Tucker	TACTICs (Tucker All-Hazards Conference Training in Canaan), for more info: <a href="http://www.tuckertactics.org">www.tuckertactics.org</a> , All are welcome!

*Please E-mail LEPC News / Events / Contact Information to: [sharma.raj@epa.gov](mailto:sharma.raj@epa.gov)*



**That's all for now. Stay safe!**