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# Region 6 LEPC Update

Steve Mason, EPA Region 6  
[mason.steve@epa.gov](mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov)  
Hilary Gafford, Weston Solutions  
[hilary.gafford@westonsolutions.com](mailto:hilary.gafford@westonsolutions.com)



This month we bring you Tier II grant opportunities in Texas, an overview of the Texas Natural Disaster Operational Workgroup, and from OSHA – an important safety tip and an update on the OSHA GHS Standard.

-Steve and Hilary

## New Tier II Grants in Texas

The Texas Tier II reporting program moved to TCEQ in 2015. With this move, TCEQ will begin offering an annual grant available to Texas LEPCs.



*The purpose of the grant is to allow LEPCs to establish, maintain, or improve their implementation of EPCRA.*

*For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the grant pool offers **\$4,420,000** available to qualified LEPCs. The grant pool in subsequent years will be less, approximately \$210,000 each year.*

TCEQ encourages Texas LEPCs to use the 2016-2017 fiscal year grant to establish large projects or plans that can be used in multiple years or shared with other LEPCs.

For more information on the Texas LEPC Grant Program please visit:

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/LEPCGrants>

or Contact



**Deanna Sivek, Grant Coordinator, TCEQ**  
**512-239-5074; [Deanna.Sivek@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Deanna.Sivek@tceq.texas.gov)**



**Grant History:** *The total amount to be awarded under this grant program will depend upon the amount of revenue received in the Tier II Chemical Reporting General Revenue Workplace Chemicals List account, and the amount of money appropriated to the program from the account. Up to 20% of chemical reporting fees may be awarded to Texas LEPCs to fulfill their responsibilities under The Emergency Planning and Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).*

# Texas Tier II Grant Ideas

## from EPA Region 6

Because of unusually large pool of grant money available to Texas LEPCs in 2016-2017, now is a great time to ask for that big ticket item to help the LEPC implement EPCRA. The entire 2016-2017 fiscal year pool of approximately \$4,420,000 will be granted to applicants, so think big!

### What can LEPCs use the grant money for? Anything that helps implement EPCRA!

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consulting services</li><li>• Workspace improvements</li><li>• Computer hardware and software</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equipment</li><li>• Outreach Materials</li><li>• Trade show booth materials</li></ul> |
|---|---|

### Don't Apply for:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Items that require unaffordable continued maintenance beyond the annual LEPC budget.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Items already covered by HMEP grants.</li></ul> |
|--|---|

## Successfully Monitoring Oxygen Level for Safety

*Courtesy of Travis Clark, OSHA / DOL Corpus Christi Area Office*

OSHA defines oxygen deficient atmospheres at those below 19.5% oxygen, and oxygen rich atmospheres as those at or above 22% oxygen. So does that mean an atmosphere is safe, as long as the oxygen level is between 19.5% and 22%?

**NOT NECESSARILY. . .**



Let's say we are monitoring to go inside of a tank, and warehouse, a shed – any kind of space. What does OSHA say the acceptable level of oxygen in the ambient air should be? Most people would say between 19.5% and 21.9%.

**HERE'S A QUESTION:** Let's say your meter reads 20.9% oxygen inside a space.

*Is it safe for others to enter the space without respiratory protection?*

**ANSWER – IT DEPENDS:**

*You should compare the level of oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) in the outside ambient air, and make sure it's the same as the O<sub>2</sub> level inside the space. **HERE'S WHY:***

If the oxygen readings outside are the same as they are inside, your atmosphere is pretty consistent.

But let's say the ambient air outside measures 20.9% O<sub>2</sub>, and the O<sub>2</sub> level inside measures 19.9%. This means that 1% of the oxygen inside the space is being displaced.

**There is 1% of something other than oxygen in that space.**

*Do you know what the 1% of "something else" is?*

Now, how many parts per million are in 1%?

1% of a substance equals 10,000 parts per million (ppm).

**So, what if the 1% of "something else" inside that space is H<sub>2</sub>S?**

**It means there is 10,000 ppm of H<sub>2</sub>S in that space. The IDLH of H<sub>2</sub>S is 100 ppm!**

Now imagine your meter shows that the outside ambient air is 20.9% oxygen, but the oxygen level inside the space is 20.7%? Would you have taken precautions with only a 0.2% difference in the oxygen level?

**The 0.2% of H<sub>2</sub>S in the space equates to 2,000 ppm - still way above the IDLH.**

**What if that 0.2% of "something else" was carbon monoxide (CO)? The IDLH of CO is 1200 ppm. That would mean that there are 2,000 ppm of carbon monoxide in the space – also above the IDLH.**



# TEXAS Natural Disaster Operational Workgroup TX NDOW

In our March newsletter, the Texas Natural Disaster Operational Workgroup (TXNDOW) reached out to Texas gulf for support in identifying staging areas. But what exactly is TXNDOW? What does the group do?



TXNDOW live exercise in Corpus Christi, TX

## What is TX NDOW?

The Texas Natural Disaster Operational Workgroup (TX NDOW) was formed in 2009 after Hurricane Ike to create a standardized operational approach for large-scale, multi-agency disaster response. The TX NDOW is an *operational* level group under the Incident Command System, and is made up of nine state and federal agencies including: USEPA Region 6, USCG District 8, NOAA, USFWS, TCEQ, TGLO, TPWD, TRRC and TXDPS.

Public works assessment, recovery of hazmat, spill response, and data collection all present unique challenges during disaster response. This workgroup focuses to streamline interagency coordination within the ICS Operations Section for agencies supporting ESF-3 and ESF-10.

## What Has TX NDOW Accomplished?

Over the past seven years, the workgroup has created seven standard operating procedures covering:

- Rapid needs assessment
- Orphan container hazard evaluation and recovery
- Oil spill assessment and removal
- Water infrastructure assessment and reporting
- Waste staging area set-up

*Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) provide the structure for coordinating federal interagency support for response to incidents:*

**ESF-3: Public Works and Engineering**

**ESF-10: Oil and Hazardous Materials Response**

The TX NDOW group has also created a list of approximately 30 potential staging area locations along the Texas Gulf Coast, available for use as Unified Command quarters, ICPs, branch operating camps, and waste staging areas.



TX NDOW partners have also collaborated to standardize and improve how the Operations Section collects data. The TXNDOW partners utilize Response Manager, an EPA-owned software program that was created to help provide a standard structure for data collection and reporting for use in response and removal. TX NDOW utilizes Response Manager in all data collection for oil spill assessment, water infrastructure assessment, and orphan container collection. The Response Manager data management system allows Operations to efficiently assess items and spills, track the status of items/spills/facilities, recover items, and conduct removals in the field that fall under ESF-3 and ESF-10.

# TEXAS Natural Disaster Operational Workgroup

## TX NDOW



### *How Does TX NDOW Continue to Prepare?*

The TX NDOW group meets three times a year for planning purposes, and utilizes each agency's expertise for large scale responses.

The group is also involved in providing ESF-10 support during USCG annual Hurrex field exercises.

TX NDOW conducts tabletop exercises three times a year, and annually hosts one full field exercise.

TX NDOW has conducted field training on SOPs and on the Response Manager data collection system, and has conducted tabletop exercises at approximately 22 locations to nearly 1,000 field response personnel within the TX NDOW agencies.

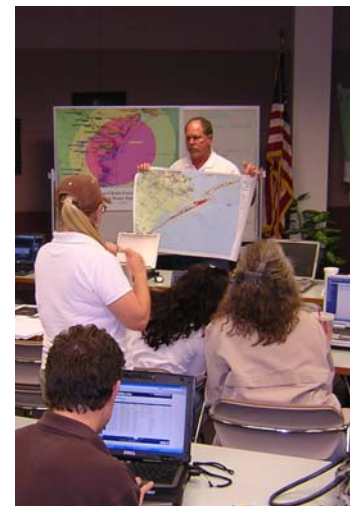
### *Continuing Commitment to Success*

TX NDOW has created four subgroups between the agencies including the following: IT/Data Management Group, Health and Safety Group, Communications Group, and a Logistics Group. The subgroups work under TX NDOW to create standardization between the agencies for operations including data management support, unified health and safety plans, communication plans, and logistics support. The TX NDOW group meets three times a year for planning purposes, and utilizes each agency's expertise for large scale responses.

The State of Texas has adopted the TX NDOW process, and has placed the process under Annex Q in the State Disaster Operation Plan.

To Find Out More about TX NDOW and view products created by the workgroup, visit:

<http://ndow.net/>



# UPDATE

# From EPA OLEM

## Final Rule (Technical Amendment) to Hazardous Chemical Reporting



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is amending its hazard categories in the regulations (40 CFR part 370) for reporting under Sections 311 and 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) due to the changes in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard (HCS).

**OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard was revised in 2012 to conform to the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).**

- Under the revised HCS, chemical manufacturers and importers are required to evaluate their chemicals according to the new criteria adopted from GHS to ensure that they are classified and labeled appropriately.
- Manufacturers and importers are also required to develop standardized Safety Data Sheets (formerly known as "Material Safety Data Sheets/MSDS") and distribute them to downstream users of their chemicals.

**These changes to OSHA's HCS affect the reporting requirements under sections 311 and 312 of EPCRA.**

**Based on the new classification criteria adopted by OSHA, EPA is revising the existing hazard categories for hazardous chemical inventory form reporting under EPCRA Section 312 and for list reporting under section 311.**

Many states have developed their own software for hazardous chemical inventory reporting. Other states use Tier2 Submit, electronic software developed by EPA. To provide enough time for states (as well as EPA) to modify the software to incorporate the new hazard classes, this final rule will be effective on January 1st, 2018.

**This means that, by March 1st, 2018, facilities are required to provide information on their hazardous chemicals during 2017 calendar year.**

In this action, EPA is also making a few minor corrections in the hazardous chemical reporting regulations.

For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/epcra-non-section-313-amendments-and-guidance>





In our fast-paced world, the road to efficiency is paved with acronyms. Each agency and organization has its own unique set, and organizations often share identical-looking acronyms that have completely different meanings! Some acronyms have become so ingrained in our everyday language, we don't even know what they actually mean. Do you know what the following common acronyms represent?

- |          |         |        |        |        |         |
|----------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| • AT&T   | • GEICO | • AWOL | • AP   | • LED  | • USO   |
| • C-SPAN | • UPC   | • TNT  | • HTTP | • LCD  | • ISBN  |
| • SKU    | • AAA   | • SWAT | • HTML | • ACME | • LASER |

## ACRONYM ANSWERS

**AT&T – American Telephone and Telegraph**

**C-SPAN – Cable-Satellite Public Network**

**SKU – Stock Keeping Unit (barcode technology)**

**GEICO – Government Employees Insurance Company**

**UPC – Universal Product Code**

**AAA – American Automobile Association**

**AWOL – Absent Without Leave (military)**

**TNT – 2, 4,6 – Trinitrotoluene (explosive)**

**SWAT – Special Weapons And Tactics**

**AP – Associated Press**

**HTTP – Hypertext Transfer Protocol**

**HTML – Hypertext Markup Language**

**LED – Light Emitting Diode**

**LCD – Liquid Crystal Display**

**ACME – A Company the Makes Everything (slang)**

**USO – United Services Organization**

**ISBN – International Standard Book Number**

**LASER – Light Amplified by Stimulated Emission Radiation**

*Looking for the meaning of a particular acronym? Try this website for the answer:*

<http://www.acronymsearch.com/>

# State EPCRA / LEPC Coordinators and SERC Contacts

Arkansas	Kenny Harmon	501-683-6700	<a href="mailto:kenny.harmon@adem.arkansas.gov">kenny.harmon@adem.arkansas.gov</a>
Louisiana	Gene Dunegan	225-925-6113	<a href="mailto:gene.dunegan@dps.la.gov">gene.dunegan@dps.la.gov</a>
New Mexico	Henry Jolly	505-476-6240	<a href="mailto:henry.jolly@state.nm.us">henry.jolly@state.nm.us</a>
Oklahoma	Tom Bergman	405-702-1013	<a href="mailto:tom.bergman@deq.ok.gov">tom.bergman@deq.ok.gov</a>
	Bonnie McKelvey	405-521-2481	<a href="mailto:bonnie.mckelvey@oem.ok.gov">bonnie.mckelvey@oem.ok.gov</a>
Texas	Bernardine Zimmerman	800-452-2791	<a href="mailto:Bernardine.zimmerman@tceq.texas.gov">Bernardine.zimmerman@tceq.texas.gov</a>
	Joshua Bryant	512-424-5989	<a href="mailto:Joshua.Bryant@dps.texas.gov">Joshua.Bryant@dps.texas.gov</a>

## Emergency Response Numbers

Arkansas Dept. of Emergency Management	800-322-4012
Louisiana State Police	877-925-6595
New Mexico State Police	505-827-9126
Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality	800-522-0206
Texas Environmental Hotline	800-832-8224
National Response Center	800-424-8802
EPA Region 6	866-372-7745
CHEMTREC	800-424-9300



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