



## **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Pacific Southwest Region Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Program Update For the California State Emergency Response Commission Meeting in Mather, CA on Thursday, June 27, 2013**

### **EPA Issues New Handbook for Area Contingency Planning**

In March 2013, the U.S. EPA issued a new, 67-page handbook as a guide and reference for the development of Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) for environmental emergencies. Here is the link to the document on the EPA website [www.epa.gov/emergencies:](http://www.epa.gov/emergencies:) [http://www.epa.gov/oem/docs/oil/frp/EPA\\_ACP\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oem/docs/oil/frp/EPA_ACP_Handbook.pdf) .

While this document is primarily intended for use by EPA emergency response program personnel, area contingency planning is necessarily an inter-agency process, and the use of this handbook to inform other agencies of EPA's planning process is encouraged. Because area plans are focused on specific geographic domains, with many physical and jurisdictional variables, there can be no 'one size fits all' plan format, but maintaining a national consistency in the basic content is important, particularly considering the statutory and regulatory requirements by which EPA and other agencies are bound.

This handbook was developed by EPA's Area Planning Workgroup during 2011 and 2012 and incorporates the accumulated knowledge of years of contingency planning experience. Although ACPs are specifically mandated by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90), EPA's responsibilities under other laws, including CERCLA, make an all-hazards approach to contingency planning desirable. The processes of planning for responses to all types of environmental emergencies (e.g., oil spills, hazardous materials releases, natural disasters) share common elements that have been demonstrably successful in major responses. In the interests of conciseness and accessibility, this handbook does not recapitulate extensive portions of related documents, but lists key references, including laws, regulations and technical resources, in appendices.

### **Associated Press and Reuters Request EPCRA Tier II Data from 50 States**

In the aftermath of the West, Texas fertilizer explosion on April 17, 2013 – when at least 15 people and more than 160 were injured – the Associated Press and Reuters contacted each of the 50 states to receive the entire Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Tier II databases for facility chemical inventories. So far, to the EPA's knowledge, none of the four states in the Pacific Southwest provided that database information electronically to the news reporters. Some of the states are reviewing and revising the procedures for processing requests for EPCRA Tier II information.

### **EPA Issues Fact Sheet Regarding Revisions to the OSHA Hazard Communication Standards**

The EPA issued a fact sheet in August 2012 regarding revisions to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Hazard Communication Standard (OSHA's HCM). In March of 2012, OSHA modified its HCS to conform to the United Nations' Globally

Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. The revisions will improve consistency and quality of information that is provided to both employers and employees concerning chemical hazards and protective measures related to chemical hazards. GHS is a system developed by the UN to strengthen international efforts concerning the environmentally sound management of chemicals.

GHS includes harmonized provisions for classification of chemicals for their health, physical and environmental effects, as well as for labels on containers and safety data data sheets (SDSs, formerly “Material Safety Data Sheets” or MSDSs).

Section 311(d) (2) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) requires an owner or operator to submit a revised MSDS to the SERC, LEPC and local fire department within three months of finding significant new information about the hazardous chemical for which an MSDS was previously submitted.

One of the first effective due dates for employers will be December 1, 2013. That is when employees must be trained on the new label elements and the SDS format.

This EPA three-page fact sheet can be found at [www.epa.gov/emergencies](http://www.epa.gov/emergencies) and has this document number: EPA 550-F-12-001.

### **Annual TRI Reporting Deadline is July 1, 2013**

The deadline for annual reporting to the EPA’s Toxic Release Inventory (TRI), also known as EPCRA Section 313, is Monday, July 1, 2013. If you know a facility is required to report to the TRI, please help spread the word. A facility must report to TRI if it:

- Is in a specific industrial sector (e.g., manufacturing, mining, electric power generation),
- Employs 10 or more full-time equivalent employees, and
- Manufactures, processes, or otherwise uses above threshold amounts of a TRI-listed chemical in a given year.

More information is available at [www.epa.gov/tri](http://www.epa.gov/tri) or contact EPA’s Lily Lee at 415-947-4187 or [lee.lily@epa.gov](mailto:lee.lily@epa.gov) .

### **Localized TRI Data “Snapshots” Now Available**

Automated snapshots of TRI data for a specific zip code, city, state or county are now available for users of TRI data. These snapshots provide a variety of information including:

- Map identifying nearby TRI facilities.
- Graph showing the top five chemicals released to air, water and land.
- Graph showing release trends over time.
- Total number of TRI facilities in the state.
- State ranking based on quantities of chemical releases and transfers.

The automated snapshots can be found at:

[http://laspub.epa.gov/triexplorer/tri\\_factsheet\\_search.searchfactsheet](http://laspub.epa.gov/triexplorer/tri_factsheet_search.searchfactsheet) .

### **Chemical Now Required To Be Reported to the TRI Database**

The current TRI toxic chemical list contains more than 650 toxic chemicals. In July, the EPA will begin receiving data on one of these chemicals, hydrogen sulfide, for the first time in many years. Hydrogen sulfide can cause chronic health effects in humans and aquatic organisms. TRI reporting requirements for hydrogen sulfide have been reinstated and now the EPA can provide the public with additional information about this chemical.

### **TRI and Pollution Prevention (P2) Reporting**

Launched in 2012, the TRI P2 initiative has made great progress in promoting the exchange of information about pollution prevention and other practices that reduce releases of toxic chemicals to the environment. Efforts have focused on improving the quality and usefulness of the P2 data TRI collects and making the data accessible in a user-friendly manner. Recently, the TRI program developed a new P2 search feature in Envirofacts that has enabled thousands of data users to quickly identify effective P2 practices and the facilities that implement them. For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/tri/p2](http://www.epa.gov/tri/p2).

### **Chemical Safety Board Releases Safety DVD**

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) this month announced production and release of a new three-disc, single-box set containing all safety videos produced to date for completed CSB accident investigations. The DVD set is free and may be ordered by filling out the DVD request form at the CSB web site: [www.csb.gov](http://www.csb.gov).

### **National Tank Truck Carriers Produce Rollover Prevention Video**

This month the National Tank Truck Carriers (NTTC) announced it has produced a new version of the “Cargo Tank Rollover Prevention” video it developed with the U.S. Dept. of Transportation to help educate water tanker drivers on the special characteristics of tank truck vehicles and the actions they can take to avoid rollovers. A free copy of the DVD may be obtained for review and reproduction by contacting NTTC at 703-838-1960 or by email to [nttcstaff@tanktruck.org](mailto:nttcstaff@tanktruck.org).

### **EPA Pacific Southwest EPP Program Contact for California**

For more information about the U.S. EPA’s Emergency Prevention and Preparedness program for California, you may contact the liaison, Mike Ardito, at 415-972-3081 or by email at [ardito.michael@epa.gov](mailto:ardito.michael@epa.gov).