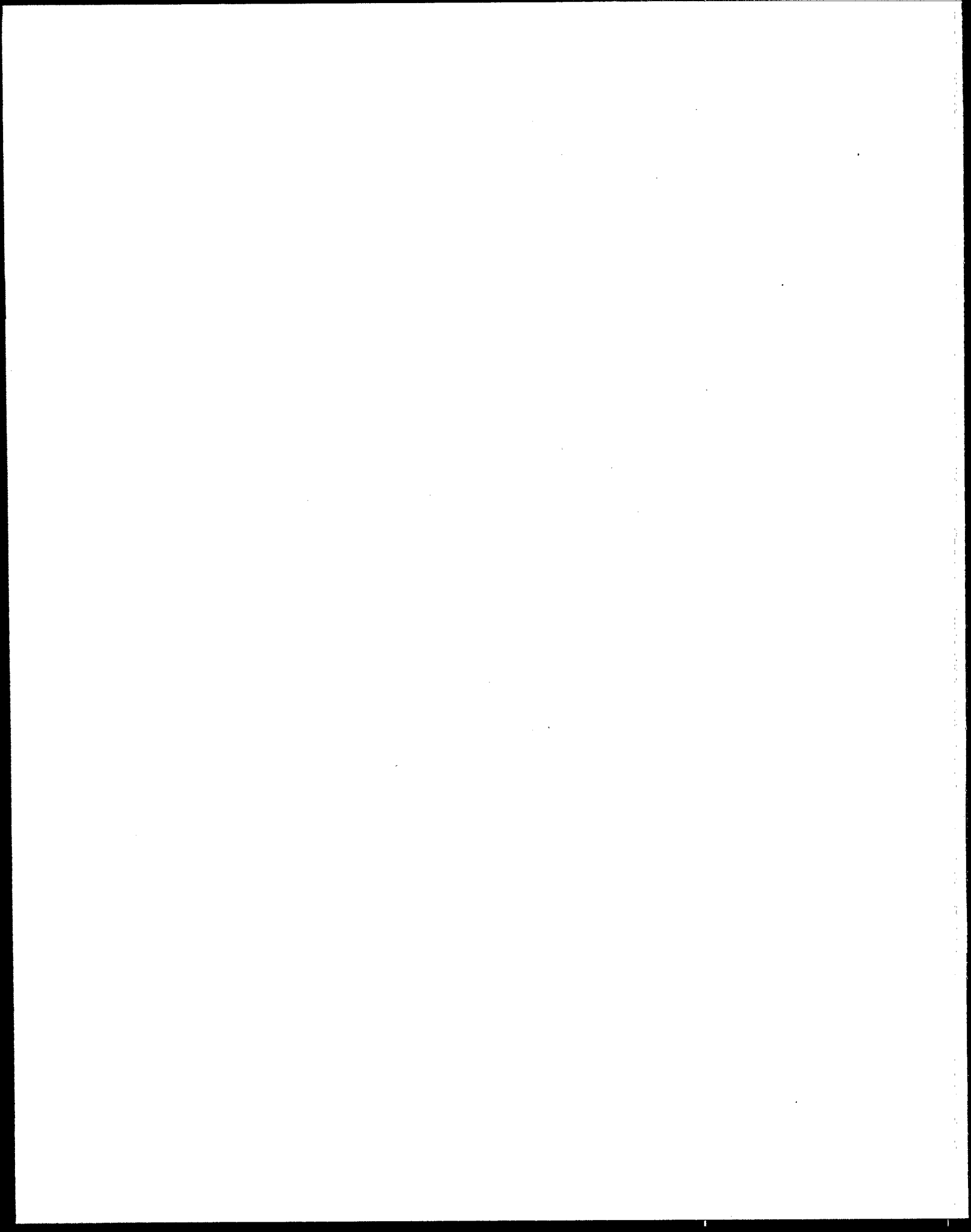




# **Successful Practices in Title III Implementation**

**Chemical Emergency  
Preparedness and Prevention  
Technical Assistance Bulletin**

**Calhoun County, Alabama  
Pampa, Texas  
State of Wisconsin  
Cuyahoga County, Ohio  
Racine County, Wisconsin  
State of Idaho**



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## ABOUT THIS BULLETIN

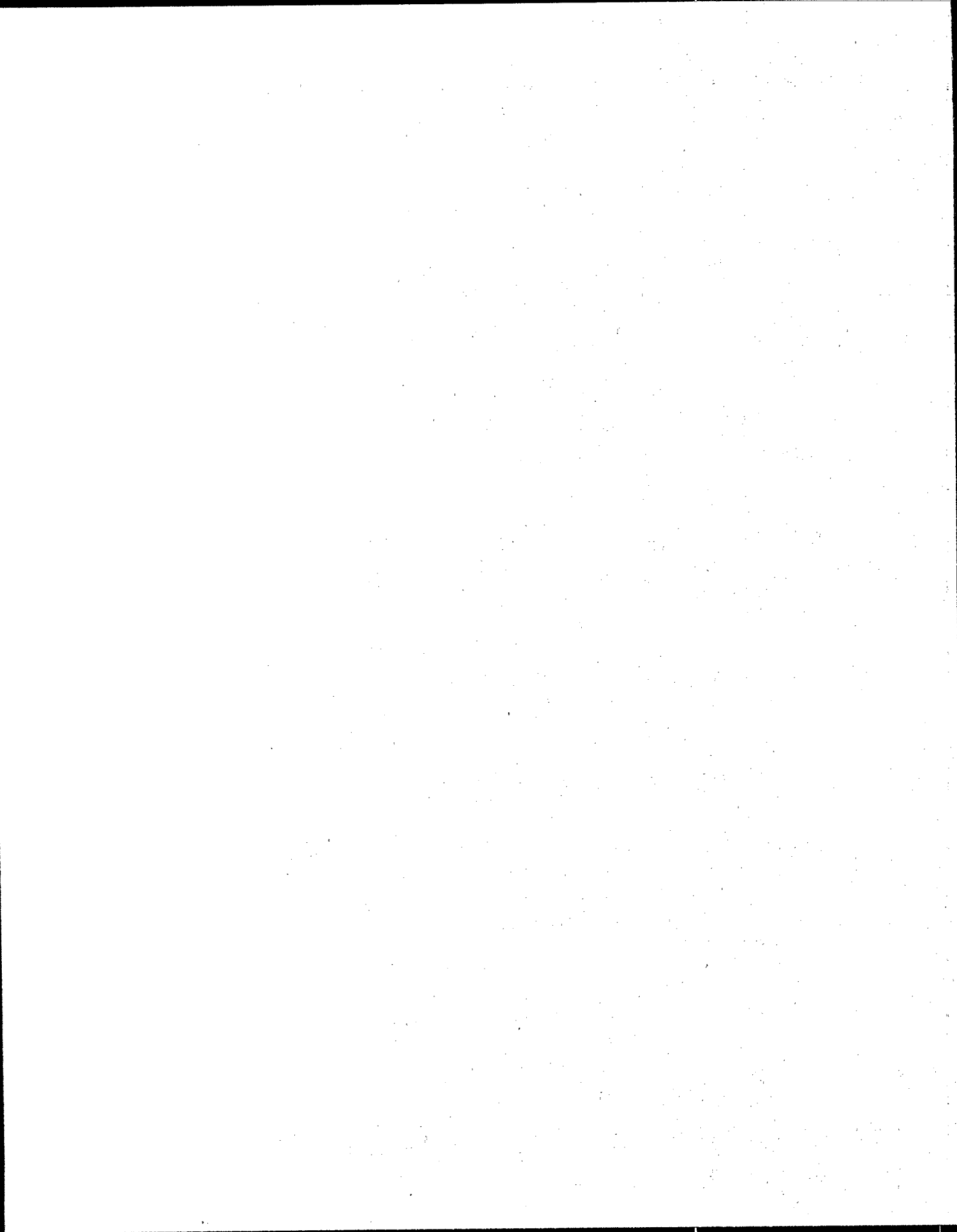
This is another in a series of bulletins EPA is issuing to provide examples of implementation programs and strategies of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986, known as Title III, that are innovative or have proven effective. The purpose of these bulletins is to share information on successful practices with Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs), fire departments, and other Title III implementing agencies throughout the country in the hope that such information will prove useful to other SERCs and LEPCs as their programs develop and evolve.

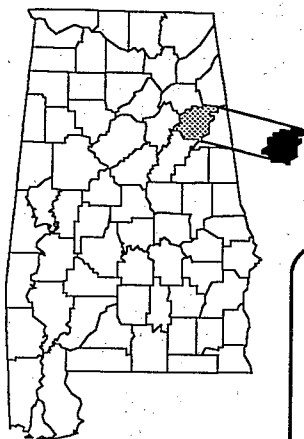
Elements from the programs featured here may be transferable to other programs in similar communities or with similar situations. The bulletins provide information on a variety of practices — for example, planning, compliance, information management, hazard analysis, and outreach. The particular topics covered in each LEPC or SERC profile are listed at the upper right hand corner of the first page of the profile for easy reference.

The descriptions of the innovative and effective implementation programs and strategies are not exhaustive. They are meant to provide readers with enough information to determine if a particular approach is applicable to their own situation. Each profile includes a contact person who can provide more detailed information.

If you know of Title III implementation efforts that you feel would be of interest to others, please contact your EPA Regional Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention coordinator (see list on the last page) or the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Information Hotline at 1-800-535-0202, or, in Washington, DC, 479-2449.

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**Compliance  
Funding  
LEPC Organization**

## **CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**LEPC:** 125 members (elected officials and representatives of all county law enforcement agencies, fire departments, medical, and emergency response units, military installations, facilities, and media; ex-officio chairman: county commission chairperson; working chairman: county emergency management agency director)

**Population:** 123,800

**Facilities:** 41, primarily textiles and apparel and primary and fabricated metals

A Hazmat Task Force was in existence in Alabama prior to the passage of SARA Title III, although no state right-to-know legislation existed. The Task Force was expanded by the Governor to form the Alabama SERC and each of the sixty-seven counties was declared an LEPC. The Calhoun County Emergency Management Agency (CC EMA) in Anniston serves as the operations center for the Calhoun County LEPC, which has requested Tier II information from facilities.

### **LEPC ACTIVITIES**

**Compliance.** To improve compliance with Title III requirements, CC EMA, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency conducted a pilot project with the assistance of US EPA Region IV during the winter of 1988-89 in Anniston, the seat of Calhoun County, Alabama. The county was selected as a result of its economic diversity, which provided a wide variety of facilities, and the extensive experience of the CC EMA director.

The first phase of the project began in September, and the principal objectives were to identify and notify those facilities likely to be subject to sections 302, 311, and 312 of Title III which had not reported. Regular meetings with the news media were arranged to intensify the outreach program through county newspapers, radio, and television. A comprehensive database was developed, combining the information provided in the Dun and Bradstreet listings; the current CC EMA list of Title III reporting facilities; EPA Region IV's list of water and RCRA permit-holders, and filers of the Toxic Release Inventory; county industry and business listings; the Anniston telephone directory; and local contacts and interviews.

Initially, the database contained approximately 250 entries, but it was reduced to 100 candidates for compliance following a series of

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interviews. Arranged and coordinated by CC EMA, these conversations with civic officials and representatives of select industries sought to identify which county entities would be covered by Title III as a result of their use or storage of hazardous chemicals. These interviews produced mixed results — the fire departments, despite limited training in chemical hazards response activity, proved to be a major source of information, but some industry representatives indicated they had little information to contribute about their competitors.

After review, 47 of these 100 entities were determined to be likely compliance candidates for the LEPC. These facilities were mailed a comprehensive package of Title III materials, including an explanatory cover letter, an EPA Title III Fact Sheet, a list of extremely hazardous substances, a flow chart on reporting hazardous material spills, and a list of Title III filing addresses. The limited CC EMA budget prevented a certified mailing to insure the receipt of these materials, however, and only seventeen responses to this inquiry were received. One month later, non-respondents were sent a follow-up letter, asking them to review the Title III materials and indicate in writing whether they were subject to reporting requirements. Although a few more responses were received in the following weeks, all of these were negative.

Phase two of the project was implemented in mid-February of 1989 with the assistance of EPA Region IV. Teams of government officials visited unresponsive facilities suspected of being covered by Title III. These visits initiated a "get tough" program which produced the most significant results of the project — twelve entities with extremely hazardous substances and seventeen subject to sections 311-312 of Title III were identified and informed of their reporting obligations. Within several weeks, almost all of these had filed the appropriate reports. The LEPC is currently working to determine which identified facilities have failed to respond.

**Funding.** Funding for the Calhoun County LEPC and for the pilot outreach project is drawn from the budget of CC EMA. During the formation of the LEPC, CC EMA received donations from the Monsanto Corporation and the City of Anniston to purchase an IBM computer system; Monsanto also donated the time of an employee to provide word processing assistance. Aware of the financial burden of current regulations on county industry, the LEPC has not requested the establishment of a fee structure to provide for its funding. At the present time, however, the LEPC has only two employees, and the workload has prompted consideration of a fee system by the state legislature.

**LEPC Organization.** The Calhoun County LEPC is composed of approximately 125 individuals. An executive group of the chief elected officials, a business and industry subcommittee composed of all facility representatives, and seven task groups were established to perform LEPC functions. More effective and manageable than the entire LEPC, the smaller task groups are assigned responsibility for specific activities directly related to the knowledge and expertise of their members. Presided over by the acting LEPC chairperson, they have developed guidance documents, directed outreach efforts, and evaluated existing response resources for the LEPC.

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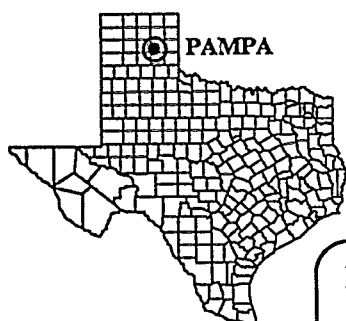
## LESSONS LEARNED

**More Outreach Needed for Smaller Facilities.** Prior to the Anniston project, a number of Calhoun County firms had filed submissions under sections 302, 311, and 312 with the LEPC. As expected, these facilities were the largest in the county; the smaller firms appeared to lack comparable awareness and capacity to respond to Title III, and thus require special attention in any compliance effort. Because of the dramatic increase in the number of reporting facilities described above, especially among smaller entities, the pilot project has been judged a success. For example, an ice manufacturer who used 2300 lbs of ammonia in refrigeration had no knowledge of his obligations under Title III, but promptly filed under section 302 when informed by members of the project.

**Developing a Facility Database is Important.** Central to the success of this pilot project was the development of the database of organizations and firms likely to be subject to the provisions of Title III. Although holders of municipal and county licenses (a potentially more comprehensive listing) were not organized by SIC code in Alabama, the databases acquired proved to be a sufficient source of information. It should be noted that this project benefitted from the small, closely-knit nature of Calhoun County, where local officials and industry representatives know each other; the need for a comprehensive database is likely to be even greater in a larger, more industrialized area.

**Coordinated Efforts at the Start.** The success of the Calhoun County project illustrates the effectiveness of a combined effort by state and local Title III agencies. While Region IV staff did provide significant assistance in this project, these were exceptional circumstances because the project was designed to serve as a pilot for Alabama and potentially, for other states. It is likely, however, that the success of this project can be duplicated in other LEPCs, with SERCs or regional government agencies providing the database listings not available to local agencies and the enforcement clout necessary to reach recalcitrant facilities. At the present time, LEPCs across Alabama are taking part in a similar compliance program modeled on the Anniston outreach project. The Alabama SERC is providing local officials with guidance materials and lists of candidate facilities arranged by SIC code for their outreach efforts.

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## PAMPA, TEXAS

- LEPC:** Over 15 members including the city manager, police chief, health officer, Gray County Judge and Sheriff, and representatives from the city fire department, Texas Highway Patrol, Texas National Guard, American Red Cross, Santa Fe Railroad, industry, media, and citizens.
- Population:** 21,000
- Facilities:** 125 reporting facilities, including petrochemical refineries, and a carbon black production plant

Pampa, Texas, first realized the need for planning for hazardous materials incidents and complying with other aspects of Title III as a result of participation in the Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER) program, which was organized by local industry. The CAER program served as a foundation for the development of the Title III program, coordinated jointly by the Pampa/Gray County Office of Emergency Management and the City of Pampa Fire Department. The city is relatively small in area, and the fire department cooperates with adjacent Gray and Roberts counties.

The LEPC meets with members of industry reporting under Title III on a quarterly basis; these meetings are open to the public and the media; 40 to 50 people have attended on average. The LEPC has appointed an oversight committee which meets on a monthly basis to discuss current issues. This oversight committee designs the agenda for the quarterly LEPC meeting. The inclusion of the media in the process has resulted in a close working relationship between the media and the LEPC.

### LEPC ACTIVITIES

**Compliance.** The Pampa Fire Department inspects all businesses within the city limits for fire hazards at least once per year. A hazardous materials specialist now accompanies the fire inspection officer on these inspections to assist with implementing Title III. During the course of an inspection, the specialist will survey the business to determine if any hazardous materials are on-site. If hazardous materials are found, the specialist will inform the owner or manager of the requirements of the Title III program. The manager is then offered assistance with meeting these requirements, including help with procedures, forms, and other paper work required of the facility; in addition, the representative will attempt to answer any questions that arise and may act as liaison between the facility and the Texas Department of Health. Other assistance may include identifying where to obtain needed MSDSs and advice on storage



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and transportation of hazardous materials.

The surveys have resulted in increased awareness by the fire department and businesses of all hazardous materials that may be involved during fire fighting operations, including materials that are not listed under Title III. The cooperative nature of the program has enhanced relations between industry and the fire department.

**Training.** Pampa doesn't have enough manpower to maintain a full-time hazardous materials response team, so the city relies on hazardous materials specialists who are matched to incidents as the need arises. In an emergency, the hazardous materials specialist works to identify the chemical, contain the spill, and notify the public. The fire department relies on the facility or state to handle the incident itself. A local facility has a hazmat team that responds to incidents throughout the Texas panhandle. To prepare for such an emergency, Pampa, Gray County and local industry, through the LEPC training subcommittee, conduct annual full-scale emergency exercises.

The LEPC training subcommittee agrees on a location for the exercise, as well as a scenario for an emergency or disaster. The subcommittee develops that scenario, coordinating with the appropriate agencies and industries. Then, a table-top exercise is conducted and evaluated. Following the table-top exercise, a full-scale exercise is held. This allows industry and local responders to work together, not only through the planning process, but through the response process as well.

To train the hazardous materials specialists, the city took advantage of free training, including courses hosted by EPA, DOE, and the State of Texas. In addition, Pampa sought out other training opportunities. Knowing that Houston has an experienced hazmat team that sometimes responds to as many as three incidents per day, Pampa called the Houston Fire Department and asked if they could send someone to Houston on detail. Houston agreed, and, as a result, the Pampa hazmat specialists gained valuable hands-on experience for little cost. Pampa has also worked with the Santa Fe railroad, which brought in tank cars and personnel to talk about what to do and what not to do during railroad incidents.

**Information Management.** Pampa has acquired several computer software packages, which it has combined to create a menu-driven system to assist with management of information obtained under Title III. Most of the software was free.

- The city obtained a copy of the Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) system from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to aid with meeting the requirements of Title III. CAMEO contains a database of chemical information and may be used in response situations. CAMEO is also used by the LEPC to research chemicals for planning purposes.
- Pampa acquired a copy of Management Information of Title III (MITT), a system developed by EPA Region VI, to help individual facilities manage Title III information;

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the system has been adapted for use by the LEPC.

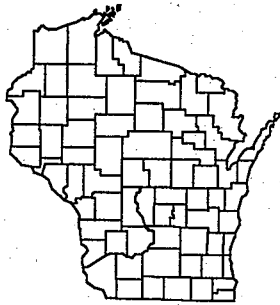
- The city uses Fyre Eyte, a software program that maintains records of fireman training and special skills; it assists with matching specialists to situations.
- The LEPC uses a desktop publishing package to maintain sketches of each facility including locations of all hazardous materials.

The city is attempting to acquire a portable computer and modem for use in the field, but, in the meantime, information is communicated via two-way radio.

### **LESSONS LEARNED**

**Assisting Industry Pays Off.** Lasting and trusting friendships between the fire department and industry have developed. This relationship led to quick joint response during the Hoechst/Celanese explosion of November 1987, and resulted in substantial savings of lives, property, and time.

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Coordinator Pampa/Gray County Emergency Management  
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## **WISCONSIN**

**State Characteristics:** 72 counties are LEPDs

**SERC:** 14 members, representing state agencies, fire fighters, law enforcement, county and municipal governments, labor, environmentalists, and industry; chair: Administrator, State Division of Emergency Government

The State of Wisconsin has taken an active role in helping its LEPCs to implement Title III by providing funding and outreach programs as well as compliance procedures.

### **SERC ACTIVITIES**

**Funding.** In the first year of its Title III implementation, Wisconsin appropriated \$96,000 from general revenues to initiate its program. After estimating that the costs for LEPCs would be ten times that amount, the state legislature adopted a fee system to support both the SERC and LEPCs. Wisconsin has adopted the following schedule of fees to pay for Title III programs:

- A one-time fee of \$800 for filing the notification required under SARA section 302 and state law.
- Annual fees based on the number of chemicals a facility reports on the section 312 hazardous chemical inventory form:
  - \$100 for 1 to 100 chemicals;
  - \$150 for 101 to 500 chemicals; and
  - \$300 for more than 500 chemicals.

Funds are used to administer the state program and are made available to LEPCs for emergency planning grants. The State law requires that plan preparation be the first priority for use of grant funds. The grants, however, may pay for up to 50 percent of the cost of computers or response equipment, up to a maximum \$6,000 for each. State law prohibits local governments from adopting fees of their own to fund the program. The State awarded grants totalling almost \$380,000 to LEPCs for 1988. Initial payments on these grants totalling over \$284,000 were made just before Christmas in 1988.

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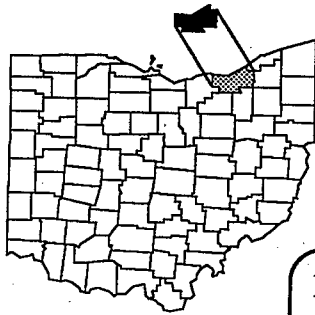
**Compliance.** The SERC is in the process of adopting formal compliance and enforcement procedures. If an LEPC or an individual citizen notifies the SERC that a facility is not complying, a form letter will be sent to the facility notifying it of the complaint and the Title III requirements. The LEPC will receive a copy of the letter and will be asked to contact the facility. If the facility fails to respond within a specific time, the case will be referred to the state for prosecution.

**Outreach.** The SERC sends regular Information and Guidance Memos to all LEPCs to keep them up-to-date on Title III issues. The SERC has established procedures for LEPCs to apply for the planning grants. To help the LEPCs with their planning and outreach, the SERC obtained a printout from the Wisconsin Industry, Labor, and Human Relations Agency that provides the name of every business in the state, organized by county and SIC codes.

## LESSONS LEARNED

**Draft Your Laws Carefully.** The SERC advises other states and local governments to be careful how they draft their Title III-related statutes. The Wisconsin law requires every facility with ten or more full-time equivalent employees to pay the fees. Although the intent was to exempt small facility businesses, the law has allowed some unexpected exemptions. Many large companies keep their extremely hazardous substances in facilities where they have very few employees. As a consequence, because the law says "facilities" not "employers," 30 to 50 percent of the facilities that were expected to be covered by the fee system are now claiming to be exempt.

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Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7865  
(608) 266-1509



## CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

<b>LEPC:</b>	22 members (covers 59 political subdivisions; subcommittees open to all interested parties)
<b>Population:</b>	Approximately 1,500,000 (includes Cleveland)
<b>Facilities:</b>	Approximately 650 total, 250 subject to section 302

The Cuyahoga County LEPC covers 59 political subdivisions, including the City of Cleveland. The LEPC decided that if it was to obtain consistent, high quality information from all facilities subject to section 302 in its planning district, it needed to take an active approach.

### LEPC ACTIVITIES

**Hazards Analysis.** The LEPC decided that the best method of ensuring that it received adequate information from the facilities covered by SARA section 302 was to conduct a survey of firms expected to be subject to the requirements of Title III. The LEPC developed an initial list of facilities to survey from those who had submitted a section 302 notification, those who identified facility emergency coordinators, and those who submitted Tier II forms. The survey was mailed in April 1988. At the same time, they sent each fire chief in the county the questionnaire. The fire chiefs were asked to visit each facility and go through the questionnaire with facility staff to gather the needed information.

The questionnaire covered the transportation of extremely hazardous substances (e.g., how they are transported, shipment size, type of carrier, and unloading system), alert systems, training, emergency equipment, and prevention equipment. Each facility's emergency coordinator was also asked to determine zones of vulnerability for each section 302 substance it reported. The fire department was provided with a summary of the "Technical Guidance for Hazards Analysis" and was asked to assist the facility's emergency coordinator with the determination of the vulnerability zones. Facilities were encouraged to use their own methodology if they wished. Finally, the largest zone found from among all chemicals at each facility was drawn on a U.S. Geographical Service map to illustrate the area that might be affected in a worst case release of a section 302 substance.

The interview process benefited both the facility and fire department. The fire department gained more emergency preparedness information than it previously had and established contacts within each facility.

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The facilities benefited because they became acquainted with the people who would have to respond to an emergency. Overall, the LEPC sees this cooperation and information exchange as a major benefit of the process.

**Planning.** The LEPC has used the information gathered from the survey to develop its plan and will continue this interview process as it identifies additional facilities subject to section 302 requirements. It plans to conduct a small number of detailed follow-up interviews with facilities surveyed in 1988 as a first step in developing a more thorough analysis of each facility.

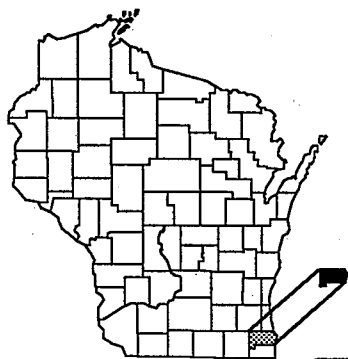
The questionnaire also served as a way to gather information for the county's emergency response resources inventory. Each facility provided information regarding equipment and expertise it would be willing to share with the community in the event of an emergency incident. Fire department equipment and supplies information was also gathered as part of the process. This information has been added to the Cuyahoga Emergency Resources System (CERS) Reference Manual, which includes reference material for all types of emergencies.

**Outreach.** The LEPC distributed a set of guidelines on how to report an emergency release of an extremely hazardous substance or CERCLA hazardous substance in Cuyahoga County. The guidelines, published as a brochure, divide releases into three groups: releases discovered by a transporter; releases discovered by a third party; and releases discovered by a facility. For each, the brochure provides a flow diagram to show who gets contacted by whom and when. The guidelines, which include a list of reportable quantities of SARA section 304 substances, were distributed to each facility's emergency coordinator, to mayors, and to public safety professionals throughout the county. The guidelines were recommended by the LEPC's Emergency Notification Subcommittee and costs for layout and printing were underwritten by a private company, BP America.

## LESSONS LEARNED

**Familiarity Breeds Cooperation.** Cuyahoga County has complex interjurisdictional issues to address with regard to emergency planning efforts. In addition, it has a large number of facilities to consider. From the beginning, the county has focused on interjurisdictional cooperation to encourage improved emergency response capabilities. The LEPC, in addition to managing the administrative requirements of Title III, has made a commitment to providing a service to facilities, to public safety forces, and to the public. This has resulted in significant contributions by most everyone involved in the process.

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Outreach  
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Information Management

## RACINE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

- LEPC:** 15 Members (emergency management, industry, environment, deputy city attorney, health department, EMS, Red Cross, elected official, police, sheriff, fire, business groups, media, civic organizations)
- Population:** 173,000 (including City of Racine)
- Facilities:** 74 facilities subject to section 302; 526 facilities reporting under sections 311 and 312 (expected agricultural facilities: 100+)

Racine County in southeastern Wisconsin is just south of Milwaukee and borders on Lake Michigan. The county followed the development of Title III as the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) was being debated in Congress. The county met with industry during the development of the legislation so that both would be prepared to start working together if the legislation was enacted. As a consequence, the county was familiar with the provisions of Title III and ready to start planning as soon as the legislation was signed.

### LEPC ACTIVITIES

**Outreach.** When the LEPC first received a list of potentially covered facilities from the SERC, the LEPC realized that the list included many facilities that were unlikely to be covered under SARA section 302 requirements. The problem arose because a number of facilities had notified the SERC that they were covered based on a misunderstanding of Title III requirements. In addition, a number of facilities known to have extremely hazardous substances above the TPQ were missing from the SERC list. Only a few agricultural sites had reported yet the indications were that a hundred or so farms would be covered under the reporting requirements of section 302. To begin to handle these problems, the industry members on the LEPC ran a series of programs for businesses to explain Title III and to identify which facilities are covered.

For the agricultural community, the LEPC felt it needed to do more. The section 302 list of chemicals is not readily translated into the kind of information farmers can use because the chemicals are listed by generic names used by chemists, not by the names recognized by farmers

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on product labels. A group of LEPC members looked up every section 302 chemical. They identified 66 chemicals that are used in agricultural products and cross-referenced them to over 1,000 trade name products. This cross reference list was then taken to the agricultural dealers in the county who identified those products used locally by the farm community. From this second list, calculations were made with information supplied by the agricultural distributors on how much of each product a farmer would need on site to fall within the reporting requirements. Posters with this information were printed up and distributed throughout the county as was a "compliance station," which included cards and mailing labels that could be used by the farm community to report to the SERC and name a facility coordinator to the LEPC.

**Compliance.** As part of the City of Racine, Wisconsin, program for ascertaining compliance with Title III, a variety of small businesses were inspected. Besides identifying facilities not in compliance with Title III, the results of these inspections were unexpected. Major safety violations were identified in the inspections and, in fact, one facility had to be immediately evacuated because of the imminent potential for a serious chemical accident. All of these facilities' inadequate safety practices escaped detection despite obtaining building permits, insurance and bank loans, and meeting fire codes. The managers of these small businesses all claimed to be running safe operations. A good number of these facilities have fallen outside of the loop, claiming never to have heard of Title III and OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard. Their facilities have been inspected by the fire department and issued building permits with no mention of their safety practices or lack thereof.

**Training.** The medical subcommittee raised the question of what would happen if members of the hazmat team were hurt or contaminated during an incident. To explore the question, the county held an exercise, the results of which indicated that they were not prepared to deal with this problem. Further, the medical community was not prepared to handle the problems of contamination control with the ambulance fleet and the hospital emergency department.

In cooperation with St. Mary's Medical Center of Racine, the emergency medical services section of the Wisconsin Division of Health, the coordinator of the Emergency Government Office, and others used funds obtained under the section 305 grants to develop two eight-hour courses, one for emergency medical technicians and one for hospital emergency room staff, to teach them how to deal with contaminated victims of a hazmat incident. These programs have been conducted throughout the State with more than 20 offerings scheduled for 1989.

**Planning.** The LEPC has focused on the community consequences of an incident. Areas being investigated include establishing emergency day care centers to care for the children of emergency workers. Many families were found to have both spouses employed in emergency response or care elements within the community. These people could not fully respond to deal with an emergency because of family commitments. The LEPC has also considered the provision of emergency medical care in shelters to the chronically ill who may have left vital medications at home. The LEPC is looking into preservation and retrieval



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of critical records needed in an emergency such as nursing home charts, pharmacy prescription records, and medical charts from areas impacted by a chemical incident.

**Information Management.** The LEPC is using CAMEO to manage all the data for the county and to take the burden off local fire departments. The CAMEO information has been loaded into a MacIntosh II computer set up as a file server and is linked to several fire departments using 9600 baud modems and Timbuckto Remote software, which allows multiple users to view the information being called from the system. The LEPC is exploring the transmission of data over high speed radio systems to provide greater flexibility for field use. The LEPC has used CAMEO to prepare response plans for 58 facilities; the plans have been submitted to the SERC for its approval.

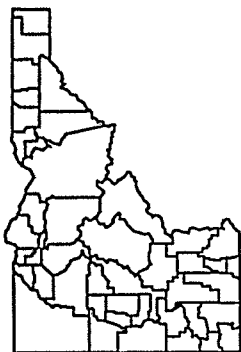
## LESSONS LEARNED

**Everyone Has To Work.** One key to the LEPC's success has been that everyone on the LEPC has a defined function and everyone has worked hard at their assigned tasks. When routine jobs such as stuffing envelopes have to be done, several LEPC members groups can rally civic groups to get the job done in a timely manner. Business and industry members assisted with mailings and handled follow-up information and requests. Civic groups and the media helped with public presentation and gave their time and talents at regular LEPC meetings and functions. This involvement makes everyone feel that they have a role to play and provides a sense of purpose to the process.

**Involve Non-LEPC Experts.** The LEPC's subcommittees have not restricted their membership to LEPC appointees. Instead, they have opened the subcommittees to interested people and have actively sought out people with relevant expertise. For example, they have drafted a retired chemist to work with them on issues such as the chemical list for farmers and used high school students to design posters. By adding non-LEPC members to the subcommittees, the LEPC has been able to expand their knowledge base significantly.

**Get to Know the Big Picture.** Critical to the success of the program has been the importance the LEPC has placed on understanding the differing views of SARA held by the players. By working together industries and business have learned the concerns of emergency responders and vice versa. Differences in views and opinions were found to be minimal once discussion and communication lines were opened up to participants on all levels of the program.

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Planning  
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Training  
Information Management

## IDAHO

**State characteristics:** 6 Local Emergency Planning Districts

**SERC:** 10 members (6 State agency directors, 2 local representatives, 1 state-based facility representative, and an Idaho Mining Association representative; chair: Mining Association representative)

One of the first questions Idaho had to face was how to divide the State into planning districts. One option, to set up one LEPC for each of the 44 counties, was eventually rejected because some counties are very sparsely populated — one has only about 600 residents and one paid public official, the sheriff. The State chose instead to piggyback on the districts that the law enforcement and transportation departments use.

### SERC ACTIVITIES

**Planning.** The division of the State into six planning districts led to some identity crises over what exactly was the county versus the LEPC role. The SERC has solved some of those problems by having each county do a plan as an annex to existing emergency plans and using the LEPCs as coordinating bodies. The LEPCs have become forums for training local officials and responders and for information sharing and mutual aid. Counties that were reluctant have been educated about the State's emergency management system and are learning how planning for a hazmat incident enhances their multi-hazard emergency plan.

**Outreach.** The SERC has been going out, county by county when asked, to provide as much face-to-face help (e.g., training) as possible. A temporary research/planning position has been created to provide direct assistance to counties on hazard/vulnerability analysis. EPA and FEMA regional offices have also participated in some of these meetings with the LEPCs and counties. The SERC has prepared a brochure of general information on Title III for the public and did a large scale mailing.

**Compliance.** The SERC mailed an 8-page brochure with State-specific compliance information to pesticide dealers and applicators, extension agencies, all local Chambers of Commerce, all hazardous waste generators, air permit holders, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit holders, local governments, OSHA inspectors, the association of industrial hygienists, and all waste water treatment

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plants. SERC staff have conducted several compliance workshops for trade associations. A series of 12 workshops were held in the summer of 1989. These were open to any business, industry, or individual interested. These outreach efforts reflect the policy of the SERC that the most efficient, effective, and economical compliance strategy is educating the regulated community.

**Training.** The SERC sent three people to FEMA's Emergency Management Institute for the "train the trainer" course in Hazardous Materials Contingency Planning (a joint EPA/FEMA/DOT course). That course was delivered to each LEPC with the help of EPA, FEMA, and an experienced fire chief. A cadre of 60 new trainers have now been certified and have trained over 700 people on recognition and identification of hazards and on hazardous material incident analysis. Another 35 instructors have been trained in "Hazardous Materials: The Pesticide Challenge." These "train the trainer" courses have been extremely successful. The SERC has focused its training efforts on non-fire department personnel — for example, industry and police — because the fire departments already have access to training.

**Information Management.** The SERC has decided to handle all the data submitted. The information from the section 312 Tier II forms is being entered into the Idaho Department of Transportation's mainframe computer because it has terminals at a minimum of two points in each county so the data can be retrieved locally.

## LESSONS LEARNED

**Title III Is Positive.** The SERC believes that the Title III process has done a tremendous amount of good. The industry people who initially participated in LEPCs strictly out of self-interest have dropped out of the LEPCs or expanded their views and those who remained have developed a new rapport with the government officials. The SERC sees a new level of openness and mutual understanding between government and industry that is allowing them to work together to prevent accidents.

**Non-government Chair Can Help.** The SERC chair is the representative of the Idaho Mining Association, the state-level mining trade association. Because the person is outside the State government, he has been able to guide the SERC without being involved in interdepartmental conflicts.

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## STATES BY REGION

4 - Alabama  
10 - Alaska  
9 - Arizona  
6 - Arkansas  
9 - California  
8 - Colorado  
1 - Connecticut  
3 - Delaware  
3 - D.C.  
4 - Florida  
4 - Georgia  
9 - Hawaii  
10 - Idaho  
5 - Illinois  
5 - Indiana  
7 - Iowa  
7 - Kansas  
4 - Kentucky  
6 - Louisiana

1 - Maine  
3 - Maryland  
1 - Massachusetts  
5 - Michigan  
5 - Minnesota  
4 - Mississippi  
7 - Missouri  
8 - Montana  
7 - Nebraska  
9 - Nevada  
1 - New Hampshire  
2 - New Jersey  
6 - New Mexico  
2 - New York  
4 - North Carolina  
4 - North Dakota  
5 - Ohio  
6 - Oklahoma

10 - Oregon  
3 - Pennsylvania  
1 - Rhode Island  
4 - South Carolina  
8 - South Dakota  
4 - Tennessee  
6 - Texas  
8 - Utah  
1 - Vermont  
3 - Virginia  
10 - Washington  
3 - West Virginia  
5 - Wisconsin  
8 - Wyoming  
9 - American Samoa  
9 - Guam  
2 - Puerto Rico  
2 - Virgin Islands

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