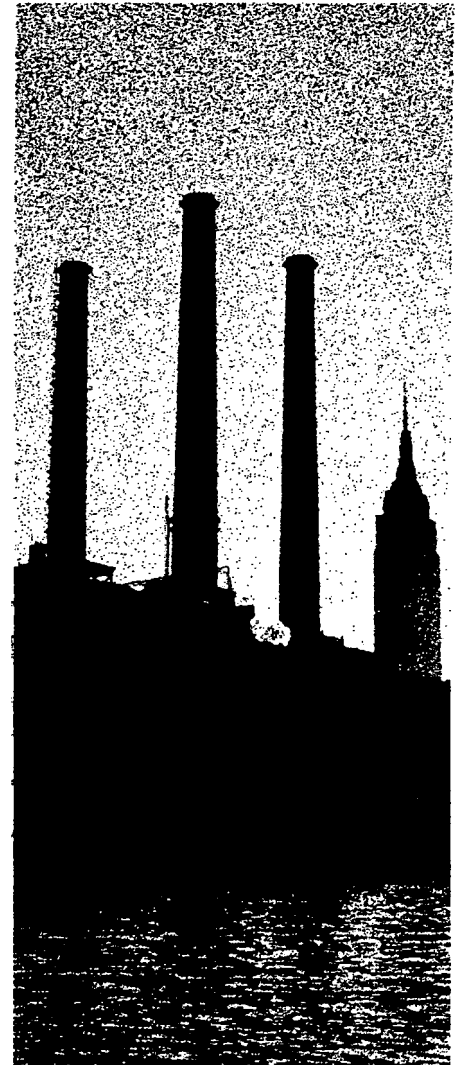




Title III What it Means to You

Citizens' Fact Sheet - Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Law



- Issue emergency telephone numbers and notification procedures, and identify emergency assistance locations.
- Establish ways to determine the occurrence of a hazardous chemical release and the probable affected area and population.
- Describe local and industrial emergency equipment and facilities available for use during a chemical emergency and identify the persons and agencies responsible for taking emergency action.
- Develop evacuation plans for your community.
- Provide a training program for your local emergency response personnel.
- Organize emergency response plan exercises in your community to practice emergency response procedures.

3. How Can You be Involved?

You can contribute to the emergency planning process by making sure your community group is participating on the local committee or by being active yourself. These are some ways to participate:

- Be certain your local emergency planning committee has been formed.
- Call the community coordinator at your local emergency administration.
- Attend and provide input to meetings of your emergency planning committee.
- Examine your community emergency response plan to be certain it meets your needs.
- Review and comment on your community's annual emergency response plan.
- Request information that you need about local regulated facilities from your local planning committee.
- If your requests are denied, you may bring civil action to obtain information to which you are legally entitled.

The more involved you and your neighbors are, the better you can respond, and the safer you and your family will be if an emergency happens. Knowing what to do will help you and your family avoid panic in the event of an emergency.

Contacts

U.S. EPA Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington)

Attention: Title III/HW-113
1200 Sixth Ave.
Seattle, Washington 98101
(206) 442-4349

EPA Headquarters

General Information Numbers and Address:
Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know
401 M Street, S. W. (OS-120)
Washington, D. C. 20460
Toll Free 1-800-535-0202 or (202) 479-2449
- General Inquiries
- Title III Fact Sheet
- Title III related Federal Registers
- Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Guide

Alaska

Amy Kyle, Coordinator
Alaska Emergency Response Commission
Department of Environmental Conservation
Pouch O
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-2600

Idaho

Jennie Records
Idaho State Emergency Response Commission
Division of Environment
Statehouse
Boise, Idaho 83720
(208) 334-5849

Oregon

Dennis Walthall
State Fire Marshal
Emergency Response Commission
3000 N. E. Market
Salem, Oregon 97310
(503) 378-2885

Washington

Bill Bennett
Division of Emergency Management/CDC
4220 E. Martin Way (MS PT-11)
Olympia, Washington 98504
(206) 753-5255

What is Title III?

Easy as 1, 2, 3

On October 17, 1986, the "Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986" (SARA) was enacted into law. One of the new SARA provisions is Title III: the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986. Title III establishes requirements for Federal, State, and local governments and industry regarding emergency planning and 'community right-to-know' reporting on hazardous and toxic chemicals. This legislation builds upon EPA's Chemical Emergency Preparedness Program (CEPP) and numerous State and local programs aimed at helping communities to better meet their responsibilities in regard to potential chemical emergencies. The community right-to-know provisions of Title III will help to increase the public's knowledge of and access to information on the presence of hazardous chemicals in their communities and releases of these chemicals into the environment.

Title III has four major sections: **emergency planning, emergency notification, community right-to-know reporting requirements, and toxic chemical release reporting.**

What Title III Means To You

- It helps you and your family be prepared for chemical emergencies.
- It provides for your participation in your community emergency planning.
- It keeps you informed about chemicals in your community.
- It assists your community in preparing for chemical emergencies.

Title III makes it possible for you to learn what steps your local planning committee should take to be fully prepared for any possible chemical emergency. By learning what should be done, you can better prepare yourself, your family, and your community for chemical emergencies.

As of September 1988, Right-to-Know Laws were in place in the states of Alaska, Oregon, and Washington. These laws address Community and Worker Right-to-Know requirements. Worker Right-to-Know Laws require facilities to inform employees about chemicals in their workplaces. Community Right-to-Know Laws require facilities to provide this chemical information to the communities in which they are located.

1. How Can You Obtain Information?

Local emergency planning committees have been organized as a result of Title III. Your committee is your most immediate source of information. This local committee is receiving information from regulated facilities in your community about the chemicals in use. Title III required that all regulated facilities in your community submit information about chemicals that are being stored at or released from their plants. All of this information - except that protected by Trade Secrets provisions - is required to be made available to you from your local emergency planning committee (LEPC) upon request.

Your LEPC's local community chemical emergency response plan must be published and reviewed annually. It will tell how you can obtain chemical information such as Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) and chemical inventory forms. You will have an opportunity to comment on the plan when a public announcement is published in your local newspapers.

Information on toxic chemical emissions in your community is available through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and through designated State Government offices. (Please refer to the "contacts" portion of this brochure for the contact in your state.)

2. What Part Will Your State and Local Government Play?

The Governor of each State has appointed State Emergency Response Commissions. These Commissions have established procedures for receiving and processing requests for information. The Commission has identified local emergency planning districts and committees have been established and are at work.

Local community groups are among the participants that are represented on these local emergency planning committees. Other participants include State and local agencies such as fire and police departments, emergency medical services, health agencies, civil defense, hospitals, local environmental agencies, the media, and owners of regulated facilities. Owners and operators of regulated facilities must submit information on their use and manufacture of chemicals to their local emergency planning committee and to the State commission. Your local committee will establish its own operating guidelines, give public notice of its activities, and establish procedures for handling requests for information.

The local committee's primary responsibility is to develop and maintain a chemical emergency response plan. Many communities and facilities may already have other emergency plans and procedures. These existing plans will be modified to meet Title III's new requirements. Your community's chemical emergency response plan will:

- Identify facilities in your community where chemicals are used.
- Identify transportation routes for extremely hazardous substances used in or passing through your community.
- Establish emergency response procedures to be followed within regulated facilities and in your community.
- Name a community coordinator and facility coordinator(s) to implement your community's plan.