

Wisconsin LEPC Newsletter

September 2025 Vol. 10

This newsletter is a joint venture between a workgroup of Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) and statewide county emergency management representatives. This workgroup was formed to provide guidance and training to Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC), as they work to reenergize and improve participation in emergency planning in their communities.

Flooding – Hazardous Material Exposures

Flooding is the most common and costly disaster in Wisconsin. Aside from the risks of drowning, injury, and property damage, exposure to hazardous materials is also present. These may include:

- Household hazardous wastes – bleach, antifreeze, weed killers, drain cleaners, cleaning solutions
- Medical waste – body parts, bodily fluids, pharmaceuticals
- Industrial waste – acids, bases, radioactive materials, wastewater
- Pollutants – pesticides, automobile fluids, fertilizers



[WI DHS – Flood Hazards and Recovery](#)

[Johns Hopkins – The Visible and Unseen Dangers Lurking in Floodwater](#)

[CDC – Safety Guidelines: Floodwater](#)

[MN Pollution Control Agency – Floods: Minimizing pollution and health risks](#)

In the News

[Chemical Plant Explosion in China – 5 dead and 19 injured](#)

[Pennsylvania Steel Plant Explosion – 2 dead and 10 injured](#)

Featured Chemical: Chlorine

CAS # 7782-50-5

Uses: Widely used as bleach in the manufacture of paper and cloth and in manufacturing solvents, pesticides, synthetic rubber and refrigerants.

Key Factors: Chlorine gas is greenish-yellow and can be pressurized and cooled to change it to a liquid. Chlorine gas weighs about 2.5 times more than air and can settle in low-lying areas. Chlorine gas can be generated accidentally by mixing household bleach with acids.

Route of Exposure: Inhalation is the main route of chlorine gas exposure. Contact with the escaping gas may cause frost bite.

Signs/Symptoms: Eye, skin, nose, throat irritation or burning.

[NIOSH Chlorine](#)

[First Response to Chlorine Exposures Video](#)

[Brazoria, TX Chlorine Gas Release Video](#)

Grant Deadlines & Upcoming Funding

- 2025 Computer & HazMat Equipment Grant (CHREG) – NOFO is on Egrants. Applications are due September 5, 2025. Grant Period ends December 31, 2025
- Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) Grants – expected Fall 2025
- EPMG & EPCRA Planning Grant – all future updates will come from Kristina Page

Training/Conference

- New Director's Series Module B: Hazmat Overview for LEPCs – please contact Steve Fenske directly to schedule at Steve.Fenske@widma.gov
- [Wisconsin Emergency Management Association \(WEMA\) Conference](#) – September 24-25, 2025 – Stevens Point, WI
- [MABAS Wisconsin Conference](#) – September 25-27, 2025 – Stevens Point, WI
- [National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials \(NASTTPO\) Mid-year Conference](#) – November 3-6, 2025 – Rogers, AR.
- [WAHMR Annual Training Conference](#) – March 4-5, 2026

Resources

- [WEM EPCRA info](#)
- [EPA homepage](#)
- [WebEOC](#)
- [Consolidated List of Lists](#)
- [CAMEO Suite software](#)
- [CAMEO Data Manager](#)
- [LEPC EPA Handbook](#)
- [DNR Spill report BRRTS](#)

2025 National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) Annual Workshop

In April, Wisconsin hosted the National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) Annual Workshop in Downtown Milwaukee. Attendees included state, federal, tribal and local government employees with Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCRA) program responsibilities. They gained valuable insights, received updates from partner organizations and made new connections with fellow attendees and vendors. Special shout-out to WEM's EPCRA Compliance Specialist, and NASTTPO's Region 5 Board Member, Melissa Johnson and her efforts to bring this national workshop to Wisconsin!

This conference featured presentations from both the federal side as well as the state and local side, ranging from PHMSA funding updates to learning about GIS tools used for EPCRA planning. Attendees also gained insight from a panel discussion on how to keep LEPCs active and engaged put on by Wisconsin's local County Emergency Management staff, Phil Rentmeester (Marathon County), Darlene Pintarro (Dane County) and Chrissi Lowery (Outagamie County).



Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator Greg Engle, welcoming attendees



*“Leveraging GIS for Smarter EPCRA Planning”
Valerie Desio, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin*



“Overcoming Challenges of Starting LEPC’s and Keeping Them Active” Panel Discussion

This Newsletter is issued quarterly to bring ideas and information for helping your LEPC and energizing them in your county.

The next issue will be released in December 2025. If you have ideas that you would like to share, please reach out to [Darlene Pintarro](#). Let's work together here in Wisconsin!

Did You Know?

Batch Plant - a Batch Plant means an operating installation of equipment including batchers and mixers as required by batching and mixing concrete or asphalt materials.

The owner/operator of a batch plant that has reportable amounts of hazardous chemicals present during operations is required to submit DMA Form 1125B in WHOPRS to WEM.

Owner/operators do have the option to submit a Tier II Inventory Report and Inventory Fee Statement instead of Form 1125B.

[DMA Form 1125B & Guidance](#)
