



A Chemical Reminder From the Oklahoma County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

The events of September 11, 2001 have brought forth the need for a heightened interest in security-related issues in chemicals handling at facilities. Interest in chemical industry security is increasing among law enforcement officials, legislators and the media. Whether or not you have a Risk management Plan (RMP), it is a good time for to review your chemical safety and security plans at your facility.

The overriding message the Oklahoma County LEPC is conveying is one of vigilance and cooperation. The American Chemistry Association has been aggressively pursuing risk reduction through their Responsible Care Programs. You are encouraged to look closely at your operations to insure you have a good risk reduction program in place. It is never too soon to insure we have good chemical safety and security practices set up and operating well. This is a particularly important time for vigilance and cooperation.

Site security remains a top concern as it relates to chemical safety and security. Some companies as carefully screening all visitors and materials delivered. Site security assessments are being made on site control. Ways to strengthen site security are being reviewed. Other industries or related industries may be able to work with you to help you better understand the strength and weaknesses of industry security practices so security improvements can be recommended and implemented. Additionally, transportation safety and security of chemical shipments should be reviewed.

Some things you can do to improve your site security are:

- Increased surveillance and number of security guards at the site,
- Limiting access to the site to one entrance,
- Allowing only scheduled visitors or deliveries on site. All visitors and materials should be carefully screened:
 - Only known vehicles allowed on premises
 - Rail cars and materials relocated
 - Centralizing receiving operations
- Advising employees to be more vigilant and to report suspicious behavior or activity,
- Re-issuing security guidelines to employees and contractors,
- Increased frequency of site patrols,
- Increased communication with plant communities
- Verifying that all customers are legitimate,
- Reviewing the potential for copycat activities,
- Working with carriers to strengthen transportation security measures, including driver screening,
- Removing worst-case scenario information from public websites, and
- Permitting cleaning crews to work only during daytime business hours.

As stated before, the main efforts can be described in four words: **Increased vigilance and cooperation.** With the increased vigilance at your facility, you may want to strengthen your communications with law enforcement and security agencies, with emergency response networks and, importantly with other members of your industry.