Region 6 LEPC Update

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In this issue, we bring you information on the 2014 HOTZONE Conference, the third installment from Bob Campbell on Risk Management, updates from the Region 6 LEPC workshops,EPA's Risk Management Program, and TRANSCAER; and 12 Myths of Disasters.

– Steve and Hilary
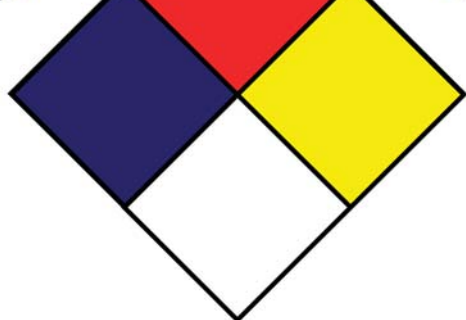
Training for Responders by Responders

15th Annual HOTZONE Conference
in Houston, TX

Dates: October 16-19, 2014

Registration Fee: $200 for all 4 days

**Location: Crown Plaza Hotel Reliant Park
Houston, TX**

Website: http://hotzone.mobi/

The HOTZONE Conference continues to bring the best of the best instructors in HazMat and emergency response to Houston each year. This is a great opportunity for local first responders throughout Region 6 to receive hands-on and classroom training from some of the most knowledgeable instructors from across the nation.

New in 2014: Industrial Track ～ Returning in 2014: LEPC Track

The conference features an LEPC track, specifically addressing issues related to local emergency planning committees. A new industrial track in 2014 will address issues common to private industry and facilities.

A full listing of workshop descriptions is now available on the conference website. For further information on registration, and FAQs, please visit the HOTZONE Conference website at http://hotzone.mobi/

# EPA Continues LEPC Workshops Throughout Region 6 through September 2014.

EPA Region 6 Preparedness and Prevention continues to present a series of LEPC workshops throughout New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas through September 2014. Hilary and Steve are traveling across Region 6 to bring the following agenda to you:

LEPC Workshop Agenda

08:30-08:45 - Introductions / Workshop Purpose	12:45-13:30 - Does Your Emergency Plan Harmonize with EPCRA?
08:45-09:45 - Requirements for LEPCs and Industry by Statute	13:30-14:00 - Keeping an LEPC Active /Reactivating a Dormant LEPC
09:45-10:00 - Break	14:00-14:15 – Break
10:00-11:00 - Software for Preparedness/Planning	14:15-15:15 - State Issues Discussions
11:00-11:30 - Local Government Reimbursement Program (LGR)	15:15-15:45 - What Can the State or EPA Do to Help Your LEPC?
11:30-12:45 – Lunch	15:45 – Closeout

June and July 2014 LEPC Workshops

The Summer 2014 LEPC Workshop Tour has continued to pick up steam in June and July, stopping at 15 locations throughout Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, and Arkansas. Feedback has continued to be positive, and the workshops have fostered lots of constructive dialogue between federal, state, and local planners on how to improve LEPC functions and support. Attendees at the workshops throughout the region have included LEPC officers, emergency managers, county judges, local first responders, state emergency coordinators, industry and Tier II reporting facility representatives, and pipeline company representatives. Individual

workshops continue to include a special session focusing on host state issues, as well as state-specific Tier II reporting topics. These workshops have provided EPA with a wonderful opportunity to talk directly all of you LEPC-supporters out in the region. The discussions, suggestions, and creative ideas we receive from all of you at our workshops will go to EPA headquarters.
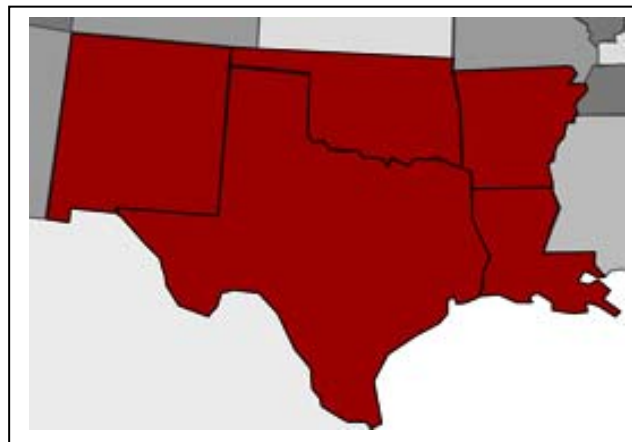
Upcoming LEPC Workshops in Region 6

Gray denotes workshops completed

	Location	Date		Location	Date
AR	Springdale / Rogers Area Bentonville Main Fire Station 800 S.W. A Street Bentonville, AR	07/29	OK	McAlester Area Eastern OK State College 1802 East College Drive, McAlester, OK	09/16
AR	Jonesboro Area Craighead County Courthouse annex 511 Union Street Jonesboro, AR	07/31	OK	Ardmore Area Area Southern Oklahoma Technology Center 2610 Sam Noble Parkway, Ardmore, OK	09/17
AR	Little Rock / Jacksonville Area Jacksonville FD Training Center 1400 Marshall Road Jacksonville, AR	08/01	OK	Lawton Area Lawton City Hall Ballroom 212 SW 9th Street, Lawton, OK	9/18
AR	El Dorado Area Southark Community College 311 South West Avenue El Dorado, AR	08/12	TX	El Paso Area Freeport-McMoran Pavillion 850 Hawkins Blvd., El Paso	06/25
LA	Lake Charles Area Calcasieu Parish EOC 901 Lake Shore Drive, Lake Charles	05/20	TX	Del Rio Area Del Rio Civic Center 1915 Veterans Blvd., Del Rio	06/26
LA	Alexandria Area Area Camp Beauregard, Post Theater 720 East Street, Pineville	05/21	TX	Harlingen/McAllen/Brownsville Area Weslaco Legislative Chamber 255 South Kansas Avenue, Weslaco	07/22
LA	Baton Rouge/NOLA Area Regala Park Gym 194 Regala Park, Reserve	05/22	TX	Corpus Christi Area San Patricio County Civic Center 219 W 5th Street, Sinton, TX	07/23
LA	Monroe Area Area Ouachita Parish Fire Training Academy 1000 New Natchitoches, West Monroe, LA	08/13	TX	Amarillo Area Amarillo Civic Center, Regency Room 401 S Buchanan Street, Amarillo, TX	08/26
NM	Las Cruces Area Dona Ana County Government Center 845 North Motel Blvd., Las Cruces	06/24	TX	Midland/Odessa Area Central Fire Station 1100 West 2nd, Odessa, TX	08/27
NM	Farmington Red Lion Hotel 700 Scott Avenue, Farmington	07/08	TX	Abilene Area Emergency Operations Center, City Hall 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, TX	08/28
NM	Albuquerque Area NM Department of Health, 3rd Floor Training Room 2400 Wellesley Avenue NE, Albuquerque	07/09	TX	Texarkana Area Ark-La-Tex Council of Governments 4808 Elizabeth Street, Texarkana, TX	09/09
NM	Clovis Area Clovis Community College 417 Schepps Blvd, Clovis	07/10	TX	Tyler Area R.B. Hubbard Building 304 East Ferguson, Tyler, TX	09/10
OK	Woodward Area Woodward Conference Center 3401 Centennial Lane, Woodward	06/17	TX	Waco Area MMC ESEC Auditorium 7601 Steinbeck Bend Rd., Waco, TX	09/11
OK	Oklahoma City Area Oklahoma City Public Works Training Center 3738 SW 15th Street, Oklahoma City	06/18	TX	Beaumont Area Ford Park Event Center 5115 IH-10 South, Beaumont, TX	09/23
OK	Tulsa Area Case Community Center 1050 West Wekiwa Road, Sand Springs	06/19	TX	Houston Area Jimmy Burke Activity Center 500W. 13th Street., Deer Park, TX	09/24
TX	Dallas / Fort Worth Area Atmos Energy, C.K. Vaughan Center, 3697 Mapleshade Lane, Plano TX	07/25	TX	Austin Area Austin Emergency Operations Center 5010 Old Manor Road., Austin, TX	09/25

Preparing Communities through All-hazards Planning and Analysis: Phase III – Risk Management

Bob Campbell, PE
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About the Author: Bob Campbell has been preparing communities as a responder and consultant for the last 18 years. After founding ASG in 2005, he has overseen the development of all-hazards plans with emphasis on hazardous materials in over 60 communities. ASG has conducted over 2,000 hazardous material response exercises while supporting 760 locations world-wide. Bob leads ASG with a focus on capturing and sharing lessons learned, best practices and case studies to improve community preparedness. He is a contributing author in the recently released book "Handbook of Emergency Response: A Human Factors and Systems Engineering Approach."
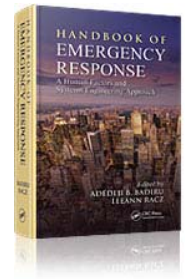
In my October 2013 article, I outlined a proven model for how communities can conduct all-hazards planning using a comprehensive, risk-based method. This has been used in over 60 communities around the US ranging from small, rural areas to large metropolitan areas. The model is based on four key steps: (1) identifying the hazards; (2) assessing the risks; (3) risk management and (4) developing emergency response procedures. My last article tackled the second step in the method – *assessing the risks*. This article provided a quantitative model for determining probability, severity and risk for stationary and mobile hazards in the community. Applying a standard risk-based assessment enables comparison and prioritization of risks. Because risk control measures are difficult to analyze quantitatively, the risk assessment method presented last quarter did not account for control measures. This article will focus on how to manage and control the risks to the community.

Risk Management

Risk management is the process of identifying and implementing control measures to prevent, prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from the risks identified during the risk assessment. With a prioritized list of risks, community planners can assess their communities' capabilities which address the top technological hazards. Planners should take a multi-pronged approach to controlling risks.

Prevention

Prevention begins with a commitment to process safety on the part of facility owners and managers. Compliance with EPCRA reporting by responsible facilities and preparedness activities within the community are insufficient in preventing exposure of hazardous materials in the community. On January 9, 2014, Freedom Industries in Charleston, WV, released approximately 7,500 gallons of MCHM from a storage tank and subsequently through a breach in the secondary containment into the Elk River. This release contaminated source water for the community affecting up to 300,000 residents during the 5-day "do-not-use" advisory. Approximately 180 patients were treated at local hospitals for symptoms consistent with exposure, while nearly 700 residents contacted poison control and reported symptoms of

nausea and rashes. It is noteworthy that in February 2013, Freedom filed its Tier II report which was distributed to state and county emergency planners and responders so that they could be prepared for possible releases. This case study underscores both the importance of the facility's role in taking the necessary preventive measures and the emergency management community's role in preparing and responding to incidents which could affect source waters.

Communities, through the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), can engage with facility safety managers by inviting them to LEPC meetings, requesting tours of their facility and communicating the importance of process safety on behalf of the community. Businesses that voluntarily conform to in*dustry* standards and management systems such as ISO 9001 (Quality Management System), ISO 14001 (Environmental Management System) and OHSAS 18001(Occupational Health and Safety Management System) demonstrate a commitment to quality, pollution prevention and hazard risk reduction. Facilities that comply with EPA and state environmental regulations are more likely to have the controls in place to prevent releases to the environment. The national response center maintains a database of facilities that have reported incidents (http://cgmix.uscg.mil/NRC/ - new website). The EPA also maintains a database of enforcement and compliance data (http://echo.epa.gov/facility_search). These databases may be useful tools in assessing facilities that may need more attention and involvement with the LEPC.

Mitigation

Since risks are best controlled at their source, LEPCs can play an active role in developing a working relationship with facility operators to become familiar with their hazards and risk control measures. Some facility risk control measures include: automated early warning leak detection devices, hazardous material shut off valves, secondary spill containment, availability of trained on-site hazardous material response teams, personal protective equipment, and effective plans such as a spill control plans. Coordination of spill control plans with the local fire department will improve preparedness and integration of facility responders with local responders. Engaging facility operators will improve responder awareness, improve reporting accuracy and highlight the importance of protecting the community. ***Best Practice***: Some LEPCs host their meetings at different facilities within their community. The meeting consists of a facility tour and safety briefing.

Preparedness

Risks can be prepared for through local planning, training, analysis, and exercises. Given a list of high risk facilities and hazards, the community planners should account for these risks in their preparedness program by developing resources adequate to respond to and recover from identified high-impact hazards. In many rural communities, this is accomplished by defining the communities' capability and developing procedures to activate mutual aid agreements and requests for assistance from regional and/or state resources. Each risk should be reviewed in light of local and regional capabilities. This gap analysis will inform the communities strategic planning and preparedness program. ***Best Practice***: Intra-state mutual aid agreements have enabled communities to share resources from among surrounding counties and regional response teams by determining which facilities contain hazards that will require these capabilities.

Preparedness Example: if an anhydrous ammonia release is a community's highest risk, then ammonia-specific plans, equipment, training and exercises should be developed and conducted. Local hospitals should ensure that medical personnel can recognize the signs and symptoms associated with this exposure, as well as conduct decontamination and treat patients with these exposures. The fire department should develop a detailed pre-fire plan. Hazmat responders should rates and compatible with the tasks that they may perform. Hazmat responders should also have monitoring equipment that can detect, identify and measure ammonia at concentrations consistent with acceptable public exposure levels and the types of respiratory protection they plan to utilize. The Public Information Officer should have fact sheets and prepared messages ready to notify the community of the hazard and appropriate protective measures. Annual exercises should focus on high risk chemicals and involve the owning facilities. This is an example of how the facility-specific, hazard risk assessment can be used throughout the preparedness cycle to build the required capabilities thereby managing risks.

Pre-fire Plans:
Local planning should involve the development of pre-fire plans for each of the facilities within a fire department's area of responsibility. This may result in further tailoring of resources such as detectors, personal protective equipment and specialized training. Pre-fire plans illustrate the facility's hazards, life safety features, hydrants, electrical features, utilities, and other features that will be needed to execute a successful response operation. ***Best Practice:*** Hazardous material response plans clearly identify the geographic area of responsibility for each fire department and illustrate the specific facilities and hazards located in their area of responsibility.

Evacuation Planning:
Armed with plume models, the ERG and the Real time evacuation Planning Model (RtePM), http://rtepm.vmasc.odu.edu/, planners can conduct analysis to optimize evacuation times and routing around high risk facilities. Additionally, these scenarios can be saved and used in real-time based on actual parameters to support decision making during the response operation. ***Best Practice:*** A New Mexico community utilized this tool as part of their hazardous material response plan to determine the relative risks associated with sheltering versus evacuation. This analysis can save essential time for decision makers after an incident occurs.

Critical Infrastructure:
Using most Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and the plume modeling produced during the risk assessment, communities are able to identify critical infrastructure and sensitive sites within the plume. This affords planners with an opportunity to identify alternate facilities for EOCs, 911 call centers, and other critical infrastructure. It also identifies and prioritizes the need for evacuation plans for schools, hospitals, nursing homes and other densely populated facilities which may involve special needs. Finally, there may be some critical infrastructure facilities which cannot be evacuated. These facilities need to know the potential impact on their facility so that they can plan accordingly for continuity of operations.

Whole Community:
GIS tools may also be helpful in identify special needs such as locations where other languages are prevalent, poverty may impact the communication tools available to receive the instructions on protective measures, and the location of disabled persons. These factors must be incorporated into the planning and prioritization of resources.

Training: Training among responders should focus on the high risk hazards to ensure that responders are adequately prepared. This may include hazard-specific training, equipment-specific operations (such as pipeline response) and team-based training (facility, fire department, law enforcement, emergency medical services). *Best Practices*: Recognizing that the first hour in emergency medical response is critical to saving lives, EMS and hospitals have trained their responders and receivers, respectively, on recognition, triage, decontamination and stabilization of victims exposed to the highest-risk hazards in their community. Hazardous material response teams have identified detection capabilities and gaps with respect to high-risk hazards in their community.

Exercises: Exercises are a great way to bring multiple responders together and validate the community's capabilities. Many communities will conduct seminars and table top exercises after updating their plans to ensure the emergency management community is familiar with the updates. Additionally, exercise series (escalating exercises) are helpful in building upon a common framework that is established during discussion-based exercise and culminate during operations-based exercises (drills, functional and full-scale). Each exercise is a formal opportunity to identify limitations and improve on the community's preparedness. ***Best Practice:*** Incorporate scenarios involving the highest-risk hazards in the community exercise plan.

Summary

Risk management is the process of managing and controlling risks. Using a comprehensive risk assessment that ranks hazards based on risk, a community can systematically work to prevent, mitigate and prepare for the risks in a prioritized manner. This process ensures alignment of resources with the greatest needs.

The final article in this series will explore "Developing Emergency Response Procedures."

EPA's Risk Management Program (RMP) Request for Information (RFI) Published

EPA issued the following press release announcing publication of the Risk Management Programs' Request for Information. on 24 July 2014:

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Request for Information (RFI) to seek comment on potential revisions to its Risk Management Program (RMP) regulations and related programs to modernize its regulations as required under Executive Order (EO) 13650: *Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security*.

"Chemical safety and security are a shared commitment among government, industry, public interest groups and communities," said Mathy Stanislaus, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. "We are reaching out to all these partners to ask for their suggestions and comments to help us improve the Risk Management Program, and in turn improve safety and security of chemical facilities."

The RFI addresses potentially updating the list of RMP regulated substances, and adjusting threshold quantities and toxic endpoints based on Acute Exposure Guideline Level (AEGL) toxicity values. The RFI seeks comment on strengthening or clarifying several existing process safety elements under the RMP including compliance audits, maintenance of safety critical equipment, managing organizational changes, emergency response capabilities, and incident investigation. It also seeks comment on adding additional risk management program elements, such as consideration of using inherently safer technology, process safety metrics, automated monitoring of releases, emergency drills, stop work authority, and addressing facility location (siting) risks. Some of the items under consideration were discussed at the public listening sessions held on the EO or in comments received on the January 2014 EO Section 6(a) options for policy, regulations and standards modernization to improve chemical facility risk management.
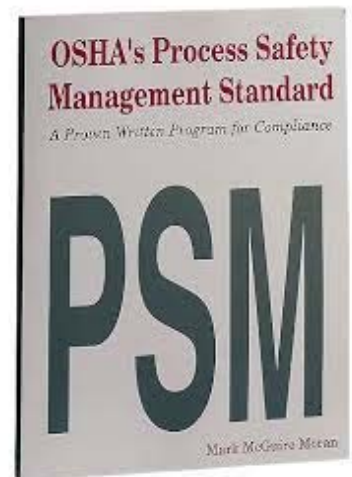
RMP Request for Information

To view EPA's RFI and provide public comment, visit:

http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/eo_improving_chem_fac.htm

The public will have 90 days to submit written comments online,

www.regulations.gov (the portal for federal rulemaking), or by mail.

Press Release Date: 07/24/2014

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TRANCAER Resources and Updates

TRANCAER Today Magazine
Summer 2014 Edition Available Online!

http://www.transcaer.com/docs/newsletters/magazine/2014%20summer/index.html

Past TRANCAER Today magazine issues, training resources, and guidance on HAZMAT preparedness and response is always available on the TRANCAER website at

http://www.transcaer.com/

TRANCAER continues to bring transportation related information and resources to first responders across Region 6 and the country.

Visit http://www.transcaer.com to access Chlorine and Ammonia Training Tour schedules, view the calendar for upcoming trainings scheduled in Region 6, and view a wide library of HAZMAT information al resources. Recent resources added to TRANCAER.com include:

- ▪ PHMSA First Responder LNG Safety Video
- ▪ Fire Department Water Tank Rollover Prevention Video
- ▪ OSHA Global Harmonization System (GHS) Guidance
- ▪ Safety and Security Guidelines for the Storage and Transportation of Fertilizer Grade Ammonium Nitrate at Retail Facilities

For Information or to request training, contact:

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The "Disaster Dozen"
Top Twelve Myths of Disaster Preparedness
By Paul Purcell
Courtesy of EPA Region 8 Preparedness Quarterly Newsletter, Vol. 5, No. 3

About the Author: Paul Purcell Paul is the co-owner, Vice President, and lead security analyst for InfoQuest Investigators in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Purcell has performed security analysis for corporations and industry, worked as a volunteer civilian security analyst with DeKalb County Office of Homeland Security, and performed vulnerability studies of some of the county's sensitive infrastructure locations.

He is the author of Disaster Prep 101, a detailed training guide aimed at improving the emergency preparedness and protection of the average civilian.

Hurricane Katrina and other disasters have given us a series of emergency preparedness wake-up calls. Do we pay attention now or hit the snooze button again? Let's "wake up" and look at the most important part of a comprehensive emergency readiness plan, which is the preparedness levels of individuals and families. We find that the biggest obstacles to comprehensive family emergency readiness education are the misconceptions surrounding the true nature of preparedness. So, to set the stage for better education and ultimately better public safety, let's take a look at some of these myths.

1. "If something happens, all I have to do is call 9-1-1."
Help can only go so far, or be there so quickly. Security, like charity, begins at home, and the responsibility of your family's safety rests on your shoulders. This isn't to say that you shouldn't call for help when it's truly needed, it's to remind you that you may be on your own for a while, especially if the situation is an expansive or severe one.

2. "All I need is a 72-hour kit with a flashlight, first aid kit, some food and weather, and a radio."
We're not sure where the "72 hour" figure came from, but it's an extremely minimal amount of time and not very realistic. A more practical goal is to be self-sufficient for a minimum of two WEEKS (preferably four weeks). Why at least two weeks? As bad as Katrina was, there are numerous disaster and terrorism scenarios that could see substantially more damage and a disruption of local series for three weeks or more. Also, many biological scenarios may see a two-week quarantine. Regarding supplies and equipment, avoid the "one-size-fits-all lists" and customize yours to your family's unique threats, needs, and assets.

3. "My insurance policy will take care of everything."

SWAT teams of insurance agents aren't going to instantly rebuild your life like on TV. Insurance companies will be far more concerned about their own bottom line than yours. In fact, many insurance companies are rewriting polices to redefine some rather common terrorism or disaster-related incidents as being excluded and not coverable. Check your policies closely!

4. "Good preparedness is too expensive and too complicated."

Nothing could be further from the truth. The problem is we haven't made preparedness a part of our overall education. We get more preparedness info on an airline flight than we get as citizens. Most of us aren't taught that there are literally thousands of subtle, simple, and economical things we can do to drastically improve our emergency readiness. The notion that it might be expensive or complicated has come from companies that aggressively market high-priced unnecessary gear.

5. "We can only form a neighborhood group through FEMA or local Law Enforcement."

Neighbor helping neighbor is one of our highest civic duties. No one regulates this and you don't have to get anyone's permission to coordinate your safety with others. Working with groups is rather advantageous, but not required.

6. "In a Weapons of Mass Destruction terrorist attack, we're all dead anyway."

WMDs might kill large numbers of people, but that doesn't mean widespread destruction is a guaranteed thing. In fact, for widespread destruction, a top-grade WMD must be expertly and precisely applied under ideal conditions. This does not mean that WMDs are to be ignored or that they're nothing to fear, it's just that "Mass Destruction" does NOT mean "Total Destruction" at all.

7. "Nothing like that could ever happen here."

Though some areas are more prone to certain types of disasters, say earthquakes in California, or terror attacks in New York, no area on Earth is completely immune. With as much as people travel, you might travel somewhere and wind up in a disaster you never thought about.

8. "All I have to worry about is my own family."

Technically yes, but the more you're able to care for your own family, the more you can and should help others.

9. "If preparedness is really important, it should be taught in school."

Preparedness really *is* that important. But schools only have so much time and budget to teach the things they already do. This is one of the many things we're trying to change, but for now, you're going to have to not only realize the importance of thorough emergency readiness, but to teach your family yourself.

10. "I can get free preparedness information on the Internet."

Many free sources contain really good information. However, many, many of them are nothing but a rehash of the "72-hour kit" idea, and contain nothing new or comprehensive. Also, it takes time and experience to filter the trash from the treasure. Worse, some of these free sites have "information" that could actually cause more problems than they cure. Start with http://www.ready.gov/, but don't stop there. Continue your education as best you can.

11. "Full preparedness means I have to get a lot of guns and be a "Survivalist."

While personal security and family safety are valid concerns, the vast majority of people around you will not be a threat. In fact, thought looters gained a lot of media attention after Katrina, there were far more numerous stories of heroism and people making new friends through shard adversity. We suggest you balance your personal security needs with your desire to help those around you and strive to reach the best of both worlds.

12. "If something really bad happens, NO one will help."

There's no such thing as "no one helping." However, the best thing people can do is prepare their families so they need as little outside help as possible. There's always someone needier than you, and the more prepared you are, the more you free up assistance resources so they can help those less fortunate.

State EPCRA / LEPC Coordinators and SERC contacts

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New Mexico	Susan Walker (Interim)	505-476-9640	susan.walker@state.nm.us
Oklahoma	Tom Bergman	405-702-1013	tom.bergman@deq.ok.gov
	Bonnie McKelvey	405-521-2481	bonnie.mckelvey@oem.ok.gov
Texas	Bernardine Zimmerman	800-452-2791	Bernardine.zimmerman@dshs.state.tx.us

Emergency Response Numbers

Arkansas Dept. of Emergency Management	**800-322-4012**
Louisiana State Police	**877-925-6595**
New Mexico State Police	**505-827-9126**
Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality	**800-522-0206**
Texas Environmental Hotline	**800-832-8224**
National Response Center	**800-424-8802**
EPA Region 6	**866-372-7745**
CHEMTREC	**800-424-9300**