



Connecticut State Emergency Response Commission

Regular Meeting

November 16, 2023

Online and at CT DESPP-DEMHS HQ

Chairman Gerard Goudreau

Contact: Diane Duva, SERC Manager/Director, Planning
Office, Emergency Response and Spill Prevention
Division, CT DEEP

DEEP.CTEPCRA@ct.gov



[Link to Join SERC Meeting Screen Share and Video](#)

(video optional; computer or phone audio available)

Call: 646-876-9923
Meeting ID: 996 3833 7340
Passcode: 91-16-09

*Trouble with audio?
Try "switching to phone" choice in the phone icon to call in rather than using your computer microphone and speakers.*

November 16, 2023 Meeting Agenda



1. Call to Order
2. Approve September 2023 Meeting Minutes
3. Introductions and welcomes
4. Meeting schedule confirmation for Calendar Year 2024
 - a. Continue Third Thursdays of Odd-Numbered Months?
 - b. Continue 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. timeslot?
 - c. Officers are selected in odd-numbered years (confirmed from last year Chair = Gerard Goudreau; Vice-Chair = Robert Araujo; Secretary = Jeffrey Morrissette); [no changes for this year]
5. Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Training Activities updates
6. Overview of DEMHS EPPI HazMat Exercise October 14 & 18
7. Overview of CT DOT/FRA Rail Freight HazMat Exercise rescheduled from October 21 to December 2
8. Updates on LEPC status and plans;
 - a. Discussion of any LEPC designations needed
 - b. VOTE: Mansfield re-designation from individual municipal LEPC to Capitol Region regional LEPC;
 - c. Review of draft updated LEPC map and contact information
9. Information sharing between Agencies; Updates on Current Issues; Ideas and requests for future meeting topics; New Business
10. Public Comments (opportunity for comments from any members of the public present)
11. Adjournment

Minutes of Regular Meeting September 21, 2023 at 1:30 PM

- The meeting was held **online and in-person** at **CT DESPP/DEMHS Headquarters**, 1111 Country Club Road, Middletown, CT.
- The meeting came to order at 1:35 p.m.
 - Introductions and welcomes; discussion that as identified at the last meeting we have some members meeting in person at DESPP/DEMHS in Middletown with most members joining via the remote option. We will do the same for the November meeting [hybrid at DESPP/DEMHS in person and Zoom for remote option].
 - The May 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion by Bob Araujo, seconded by Bill Abbott.
 - Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Training Activities updates: Diane Duva and Jeff Morrissette noted that hazardous materials courses continue to be offered through the CT Fire Academy, funded through DEEP's distribution of the HMEP training grant to the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control.
 - Overview of this year's full-scale interagency exercise in DEMHS Region 1: Bill Seward and Stephen Foley, instructors from the CT Fire Academy provided an overview of this year's full-scale interagency exercise that occurred in DEMHS Region 1 as a tabletop exercise on September 6 and as a field exercise on September 7. The tabletop exercise developed the Incident Action Plan for implementation the next day. There was participation from federal, state, regional, and local agencies and organizations. The overview presentation will be available on the [SERC website](#). DEEP, EPA, USCG, and the Fairfield Fire Department tested a booming tactic for a Geographic Response Strategy on Ash Creek as an element of the exercise. It was noted that the Fairfield Regional Fire School provided an excellent facility location and the organizers and participants were thanked.
 - Commission members briefly discussed strategies for updating LEPC status and plans and whether any LEPC designations or re-designations are needed. DEEP called each town over the summer to confirm contact information for each town's LEPC. DEEP can share an updated list and map at the next SERC meeting.
 - Information sharing between Agencies; Updates on Current Issues.
 - There was no New Business identified.
 - Public Comments (opportunity for comments from any members of the public present). There were no public comments offered.
 - Adjournment at 2:45p.m. on a motion by Bob Araujo, seconded by Bill Abbott.

Also in attendance: **Joe Cyr**, MDC; **Bill Seward**, CFA; Stephen Foley, CFA; Chief Denis McCarthy, **Fairfield Fire Department**; **Albert Bassett**, **Adam Silverstone**, Fairfield County HIRT; **Robert Kenny**, DESPP-DEMHS Region 1; **Karen Way**, US EPA; **Mike Popovich**, Nuka Research; **Steve Huleatt**, CRCOG/CREPC; **Bob Kovach**, environmental consultant; **Fran Patno**, US DHS CISA; others

September 21, 2023 SERC Meeting Attendance

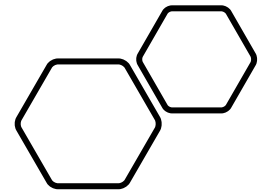
In attendance?	Member
No	Gerard P. Goudreau - Chairperson Facility member
Yes	Diane W. Duva, Director, Planning Office, Emergency Response and Spill Prevention Div. CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Yes	Jeffrey Morrissette, State Fire Administrator CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Yes	David Kallander, Ph.D. , Toxicologist/ Francesca Provenzano Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program/Preparedness CT Department of Public Health
Yes	Jason Coite Environmental Compliance, Bureau of Engineering and Construction CT Department of Transportation
Yes	William Turner, Director, Emergency Management, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
No	Jeff Saltus, CONN-OSHA CT Department of Labor
No, schedule conflict	Matthew LaFayette, Budget Analyst, Budget and Financial Management Division CT Office of Policy and Management
Yes	William Abbott, State Fire Marshal Office of State Fire Marshal, Division of Construction Services CT Department of Administrative Services
Yes	LTC Benjamin Neumon Connecticut Military Department
No	Chief John C. Littell, Tolland Fire Department Volunteer Fire Department member
Yes	Chief Edward N. Richards, Enfield Fire Department Municipal Fire Department member
Yes	Robert J. Araujo, Facility member
Yes	Lisa Morrissey, CT DPH Deputy Commissioner
Yes	Robert Ross, Public member
No, schedule conflict	Anthony Salvatore, Town Manager, Cromwell, member
No	Kyle Zimmer, Jr., Public member



Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Training Activities



- ✓ Transportation Incident Management Pocket Guide distributed. Printed more copies.
- ✓ CT DOT providing TIM training. Contact Aidan Neely to schedule training.
- ✓ 2023 Interagency Exercise—in DEMHS Region 1-Bill Seward and Stephen Foley organized
 - ✓ September 6 Tabletop Exercise at Fairfield Fire Training School
 - ✓ September 7 Full-Scale Exercise at Fairfield Fire Training
- ❑ **Planning for next year's exercise—New London/Groton? April/May rather than Fall?**



SERC and LEPC Topics Today

- LEPC designations updates
 - Mansfield notified they are joining the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee [CREPC]
 - Review item; Commission vote to redesignate the LEPC for Mansfield as CREPC
- Which LEPCs have updated plans and which need updates?
 - Info from DEMHS Regional Coordinators? On file at DEMHS?
- Review draft updated LEPC map; Commission members to assist with identifying towns that need updated designations if they are part of regional committees
- Strategies for updating LEPC status and plans
- Discussion of any LEPC designations needed



Information Sharing

Information sharing between Commission members, Agencies, partners

- Rail Freight Exercises in October
 - ❑ DEMHS EPPI October 14 & 18
 - ❑ DOT/FRA Rail Freight Exercises October 21 rescheduled to December 2
- CAMEO training for Fairfield County HazMat Team held October 23
- Updates on Current Issues

- Ideas and requests for future meeting topics
- New Business

CSB Calls on Chemical Companies to Prepare for Harsh Hurricane Season

Following the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) recent outlook predicting "above average" activity for the remainder of the 2023 Atlantic hurricane season., the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) is urging the chemical industry to act now to prepare for potentially more frequent and more powerful hurricanes and other extreme wind events in the months ahead. Find more information [here](#).

[Caught in the Storm: Extreme Weather Hazards](#)

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SERC/TERC Updates from EPA, CISA, other federal partners

Training from EPA Region 1: Chemical Accident Prevention for Ammonia Refrigeration Systems

Anhydrous ammonia is a highly efficient and effective refrigerant commonly used in industrial refrigeration systems. However, ammonia is a toxic substance which must be handled with care to reduce the risk of accidental leaks and harmful exposures. The US EPA regulates the safe management of ammonia refrigerant through the chemical accident prevention provisions of the Clean Air Act and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

The EPA Region 1 webinar that will cover common unsafe conditions and common citations at ammonia refrigeration facilities.

The webinar will also provide some results from the Region 1 General Duty Clause (GDC) pilot initiative for ammonia refrigeration facilities. This pilot was designed to increase compliance at ammonia refrigeration facilities with the GDC of the Clean Air Act. Joint EPA, OSHA and DHS resources covering the Chemical Warehouse and Chemical Distributor sector including: EPA Enforcement Alert, Joint Agency Safety Advisory and new video will also be shared.

[Register here for December 6 at 1pm ET.](#)

SERC/TERC Updates from EPA, CISA, other federal partners

- **Training from ChemLock: Secure Your Chemicals Security Planning Training Course, Virtual**

This course walks through how to create a tailored, scalable security plan that meets the business model and unique circumstances of a facility. Participants will learn the key elements of a chemical security plan and benefit from examples, lessons learned, and best practices. The course runs 2-3 hours in length and is designed to help leadership, facility security personnel, and other applicable personnel understand, develop, and implement a facility security plan.

[Register for February 6, 2024 – 2-5 pm ET](#)

[Register for May 6, 2024 – Noon-3 pm ET](#)

- **Training from ChemLock: Introduction to Chemical Security Training Course, Virtual**

This course introduces techniques for identifying, assessing, evaluating, and mitigating chemical security risks. This easy-to-understand overview identifies key components and best practices of chemical security awareness and planning to help kickstart chemical security discussions at a facility. This course runs 1-2 hours in length and is appropriate for all personnel regardless of their level of involvement with dangerous chemicals.

[Register for January 10, 2024 – 2-4 pm ET](#)

[Register for April 8, 2024 – Noon-2 pm ET](#)

To request a special offering of either course for a facility or organization, please fill out the [ChemLock Services Request Form](#). If you have questions about the ChemLock program, please email ChemLock@cisa.dhs.gov.

SERC/TERC Updates from EPA, CISA, other federal partners

Complete 2022 TRI Dataset Now Available

Updated Toxics Release Inventory data for 2022 are now available in [Envirofacts](#) and in the [online tools](#) on the TRI website. This dataset updates the preliminary 2022 data released in August 2023. It includes revised and late submissions from facilities received by EPA as of October 18, 2023.

Among the updated TRI tools, communities can use EPA's [TRI Toxics Tracker](#) to map the locations of TRI-reporting facilities and find out about their chemical releases, other chemical waste management practices, and pollution prevention activities.

EPA's full analysis of the 2022 data will be published early next year in the 2022 TRI National Analysis, and will examine numerous aspects of the data, including trends in environmental releases, waste management reporting by industry sectors, and how facilities are working to reduce pollution.

CAMEO Chemicals 3.0.0 Software Update Released

[CAMEO Chemicals](#) is available as a website, mobile website, desktop program, and an app for iOS and Android mobile devices. This release includes a new mapping tool to plot initial isolation and protective action distances from the Emergency Response Guidebook. This feature is similar to the one that had previously been available in WISER. Map objects can also be exported as KML files to view in other mapping tools, such as [MARPLOT](#).

SERC/TERC Updates from EPA, CISA, other federal partners

EPCRA 311-312 Lithium-Ion Battery Reporting Requirements

The EPA has updated the [lithium-ion battery frequent question website](#) to provide better guidance regarding what lithium-ion batteries are subject to the federal hazardous chemical inventory reporting requirements. The updated website provides explanations regarding the consumer product and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous chemical reporting exemptions, articles, and clarifies that states, tribes, and territories may impose more stringent reporting requirements than the federal regulations. This frequent question may be useful for facilities and implementing agencies to reference for the 2023 EPCRA Section 312 Tier II Reports. [Frequent Question Website](#)

EPA Finalizes Rule to Require Enhanced EPCRA 313 (TRI) Reporting of PFAS

Eliminating the de minimis exemption that allowed facilities to avoid reporting information on PFAS when those chemicals were used in small concentrations. See <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/changes-tri-reporting-requirements-and-polyfluoroalkyl>.



Public Comments

- This is an opportunity for comments from any members of the public present. Please simply unmute your microphone or raise your hand in the “reactions” tab on the Zoom toolbar.
- Adjournment

Next meeting :

- January 18, 2023 [at DESPP in Middletown and via Zoom]



**National Survey of State
Emergency Response
Commissions (SERCs)**

Survey Analysis & Report

April 2023

Office of Emergency Management
U.S. EPA

[National Survey of the State Emergency Response Commissions.pdf \(epa.gov\)](#), US EPA April 2023

This is the first survey of the SERCs that EPA has conducted. However, in 1994, 1999, and 2008, EPA conducted surveys of the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). The survey summarized in this report was distributed to SERCs in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia. Along with the survey questions on how each provision of EPCRA is currently being implemented, EPA requested the SERCs to provide certain information about their LEPCs, including whether they are active or inactive and whether they have an updated emergency plan. In addition, the survey requested states to provide their priorities and reasons for not meeting their priorities, as well as challenges, best practices, and successes. Furthermore, the survey included questions related to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) program and usage of software and other EPA resources available for planners and responders.