

North Carolina Emergency Management Chemical Accident Prevention and Risk Management Program 2000 (March – December) Annual Report

Submitted by: Tina Howard, Risk Management Program Coordinator

Introduction

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Air Quality signed a contract with Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, Emergency Management Division to fully fund the position of Chemical Accident Prevention Program liaison, or Risk Management Program (RMP) Coordinator. The responsibilities of RMP Coordinator include identifying non-compliant facilities; providing outreach to LEPCs, emergency responders and local emergency management agencies; tracking accident and release reporting; acting as liaison to NC Emergency Response Commission; coordinating exercises of Risk Management plans; conducting accident investigations; and assisting with inspections. That position was filled in March 2000. This annual report will summarize activities from March to December 2000 and project activities for 2001.

Program Activities

Outreach. The successful implementation of the Chemical Accident Prevention Program lies with the partnership between regulated facilities and emergency responders. To foster this relationship and improve communication, the RMP Coordinator provides outreach to emergency responders and acts as liaison to Division of Air Quality. Outreach activities include the following:

- **Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC)**—Attended and gave presentations to LEPCs in Onslow, Lee, Union, Wake, and Franklin counties about their role under 112 (r). LEPCs are a body of industry, public, media and environmental advocacy members responsible for emergency preparedness within their communities.
- **Special events**—Set up and staffed display booths at Eastern Fire Chief's Association and North Carolina Hazardous Materials Conference.
- **Brochure**—Created brochure for emergency responders that outlined 112 (r) requirements and impact on responders.
- **Web page**—Developed web page with information for the public, regulated facilities and emergency responders. The Web address is www.ncem.org/hazmat/RMPPAGE1.htm.
- **Promotional Items**—Distributed t-shirts, cups, mugs, and highlighters to Risk Management Plan exercise participants, regulated facilities, members of NC Emergency Response Commission, and local emergency managers.
- **Information**—Provided hard copies of Risk Management Plans to Hazardous Materials Regional Response Teams. Regional Response Teams consist of highly trained and well-equipped members located strategically across the state who respond to hazardous materials incidents that exceed the capabilities of county resources.

Training/Conferences. Attended several training courses and a conference to build capability of program.

- **OSHA Process Safety Management**—Successfully completed 2 ½-week Process Safety Management (PSM) course. PSM program contains similar requirements as RMP Program Level 3. Course thoroughly reviewed statutory requirements and covered basic chemical systems, process hazards and evaluation, process safety systems, emergency response, accidental release prevention methods and techniques for conducting PSM audits.
- **Chemical Accident Prevention Auditing**—Course provided technical information and skills to conduct risk management program auditing.
- **Hazardous Materials Incident Response Operations**—Course provided instruction on hazardous waste and response operations, health and safety procedures and operation of field monitoring equipment.
- **Exercise Design**—Learned steps for designing and evaluating exercises, which included mock design and participation in functional exercise.
- **Basic Incident Command System**—Gained knowledge of organizational structure, elements and functions of emergency operations.
- **North Carolina 2000 Hazardous Materials Conference**—Attended annual conference of firefighters and hazardous material responders. Training included using and disposing of household hazardous materials and LEPC planning for hazardous materials incidents.

Accidental Release Preparedness. To improve local capability and response to accidental releases at regulated facilities, a partnership was forged with other hazardous materials programs within Emergency Management to fund exercises at 112(r)-regulated facilities. Nearly \$23,000 was distributed to 12 counties for exercises.

LEPC	County	Facility
Alamance County	Alamance	South Burlington Wastewater Treatment Plant
Caldwell County	Caldwell	Southeastern Adhesive Company
Catawba County	Catawba	Maiden Water Treatment Plant
Edgecombe County	Edgecombe	Tar River Wastewater Treatment Plant
Gaston County	Gaston	Clariant Corp.
McDowell County	McDowell	Marion Water Treatment Plant
Moore County	Moore	Perdue
Person County	Person	Roxboro Water Treatment Plant
Roanoke-Albemarle-Pamlico	Martin	Perdue
Roanoke-Albemarle-Pamlico	Washington	Royster-Clark
Stanly County	Stanly	Albemarle Wastewater Treatment Plant
Swain County	Swain	Morgan Oil & Propane

Accident Investigation. As a means of tracking and analyzing accidental releases, a database of releases reported to the state was created. According to this database, 49 releases of 112 (r)-regulated chemicals were reported to the state. Facilities were contacted following releases to ensure they were aware of Chemical Accident Prevention Program and requirements under the Risk Management Program Rule and Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

Of those releases, eight occurred at facilities that have submitted Risk Management Plans. Accident investigations; in conjunction with Division of Air Quality 112(r) Coordinator, Regional Air Quality inspectors, Emergency Management Area Coordinators, local Emergency Management Directors, Local Emergency Planning Committee members, and local emergency responders; were conducted at six facilities.

Projected Activities for 2001

Outreach. RMP Coordinator will continue to outreach to emergency responders and local emergency management offices through several objectives:

- **Newsletter**—Assist in development of informational newsletter available on the Internet and distributed to regulated facilities, LEPCs, and local emergency management offices.
- **Shelter-in-Place pamphlets**—Create pamphlets that define “shelter-in-place”, instruct reader on sheltering measures and offer tips for creating shelter-in-place kits.
- **LEPC meetings**—Continue to speak and provide information to LEPCs and local emergency responders.
- **Database distribution**—Distribute RMP Review to Hazardous Materials Regional Response Teams, LEPCs, local emergency responders and 112r inspectors.
- **Accident Notification**—Add accident notification guidelines to web page and brochure.
- **Special Events**—Continue to attend special events to promote program.

Training/Conferences. RMP Coordinator will continue professional development by attending the following training opportunities:

- **Incident Investigator**—Develop skills and techniques for conducting incident investigations and interviews.
- **Exercise Evaluation**—Learn skills to effectively evaluate exercises.
- **Exercise Development**—Course develops in-depth knowledge and skills to manage, control, simulate and evaluate exercises.
- **HazWOPER Refresher**—OSHA required annual refresher training. Course reviews emergency response planning, recognition and classification of hazardous materials, personal protective equipment, incident command system, monitoring and detection, team organization and safe operating procedures.
- **National Governors’ Association/National SERC Conference**—State, industry, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) panelists share information on a broad range of innovative SERC and Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) initiatives, including ways they can most efficiently use available federal and state resources to prepare for, and more importantly, prevent hazardous chemical emergencies.
- **NC 2001 Hazardous Materials Conference**

Accidental Release Preparedness. To further develop local capabilities in response to chemical emergencies, RMP Coordinator will provide the following assistance:

- **Off-Site Consequence Analysis (OCA) Procedures**—Write procedures for handling and distributing OCA information to emergency responders.
- **Exercises**—Continue to fund exercises of Risk Management Plans in an effort to improve training for responses at regulated facilities.

- **Statewide Exercise**—Develop large-scale hazardous materials exercise in conjunction with Terrorism and Regional Response Team programs. Exercise will include 112 (r)-regulated facility and test multi-jurisdictional response to hazardous materials incidents.

Accident Investigation. Continue to offer technical assistance to facilities and local emergency responders following accidental releases and support Air Quality in the conduct of investigations.