

APPENDIX C: GLOSSARY

Ambient - Any unconfined portion of the atmosphere; open air; outside surrounding air.

American Chemical Council - The chemical industry's trade association

Agency on Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) - Federal agency that conducts public health and safety studies.

Bhopal - A city in India which, in 1984, suffered the worst chemical accident in history, with a gas cloud from a Union Carbide plant that killed 3,000 people overnight and severely injuring 200,000.

Blue Plains - The name of a sewage treatment plant in Washington, DC which switched from liquid chlorine to sodium hypochlorite for wastewater treatment in October 2001.

Buffer Zones - The amount of land set aside between chemical storage, use or production facilities and surrounding land uses.

Capture Technologies - Equipment added to chemical facilities to impede a release of chemicals from reaching the external environment.

Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 - Amendments enacted by Congress to the nation's key air pollution law, which added requirements for prevention of chemical catastrophes through risk management planning and a facility owner or operator's general duty to prevent chemical accidents.

Clean Production - Industrial design strategies which seek to minimize the damage of an industrial process on environment throughout the production lifecycle, including materials extraction and disposal, as well as waste and energy consumption issues at the production facility.

Community Labor Coalitions - Alliances of chemical facility workers, unions, local residents, and other organizations representing members of the community or the public interest.

Contingency Plan - A document setting out an organized, planned, and coordinated course of action to be followed in case of fire, explosion, or other accident that releases toxic chemicals, hazardous waste, or radioactive materials that threaten human health or the environment.

CPC - Chemical Protective Clothing

Department of Transportation - The federal agency responsible for policies and procedures governing the transport of materials, including hazardous wastes.

DOT - Department of Transportation

EHS - Extremely Hazardous Substance

Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory - An annual report by facilities having one or more extremely hazardous substances or hazardous chemicals above certain weight limits, as specified in Section 311 and 312 of EPCRA.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator - The local government official designated to be notified immediately of chemical emergencies (e.g., spills, chemical releases, explosions, or fires) under EPCRA.

Emergency Responders - Firefighters, police, health care workers and hazmat teams that respond to chemical incidents.

Emergency Response Plans - The plans prepared by emergency responders and LEPC's prescribing how various individuals and institutions will take action in the event of a future chemical accident or other emergency in the community.

End-of-Pipe pollution control technologies - Equipment added to facilities to capture waste or pollutants generated by processes within the operation of the facility. The opposite of end-of-pipe control technologies is pollution prevention or source reduction, which seek to change processes to avoid the creation of the wastes in the first place.

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

EPCRA - Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act Also know as SARA Title III, this law is intended to improve local community access to information about chemical hazards and to improve state and local emergency response capabilities. Some features of EPCRA include community Right-to-Know provisions and the TRI reporting requirement. See Also: CERCLA, SARA, LEPC, MSDS, SERC, TRI

EPCRA - The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986, which is the third part of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, also known as SARA Title III

Extremely Hazardous Substances - Any of 406 chemicals identified by EPA as toxic, and listed under SARA Title III. The list is subject to periodic revision.

Facility Emergency Coordinator - Representative of a facility covered by environmental law (e.g., a chemical plant) who participates in the emergency reporting process with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency

Firewall - A protective element in software or hardware to prevented unwanted intrusions to computers via internet or networks.

Footprint - The vulnerable area indicated by a map, showing how large an area is vulnerable to injury from to chemical releases.

General Duty Clause - Provisions of law requiring measures to prevent known hazards.

Good Neighbor Agreement - A binding agreement negotiated between community organizations and site owners, sometimes including others, detailing the owners' commitments to environmental or safety improvements and other issues of concern to the community.

Hazard Communication Standard - An OSHA regulation that requires chemical manufacturers, suppliers, and importers to assess the hazards of the chemicals they make, supply, or import, and to inform employers, customers, and workers of these hazards through a Material Safety Data Sheet.

Hazardous Chemical - EPA's designation for any hazardous material that requires a Material Safety Data Sheet. Such substances are capable of producing adverse physical effects (fire, explosion, etc.) or adverse health effects (cancer, dermatitis, etc.)

Hazardous Chemicals - Any chemical as defined by SARA Title III Section 311.(e), which reads: "Substances as defined within the meaning of 29 CFR 1910.1200(c), except that the term does not include the following: (1) Any food, food additive, color additive, drug or cosmetic regulated by the FDA; (2) Any substance present as a solid in any manufactured item to the extent that exposure to the substance does not occur under normal circumstances; (3) Any substance to the extent that it is used for personal, family or household purposes or is present in the same form and concentration as a product packaged for distribution and use by the general public; (4) Any substance to the extent that is is used on a research laboratory or a hospital or other medical facility under the direct supervision of a technically qualified individual; (5) Any substance to the extent that it is used in routine agricultural operations or is a fertilizer held for sale by a retailer to the ultimate consumer."

Hazmat - Hazardous Material

HMTA - Hazardous Materials Transportation Act The HMTA provides for the safe transportation of hazardous materials. Regulations developed from the HMTA cover shipment preparation and labeling, handling, routing, emergency and security planning, incident notifications, and liability insurance. See Also: DOT, RCRA

Incident Command System (ICS) - An organizational scheme wherein one person, normally the Fire Chief, takes charge of an integrated, comprehensive emergency response. This commander is backed by an Emergency Operations Center which provides support, resources, communications, and advice.

Inherent Safety - Elements in the design or redesign of a facility which eliminate the potential for catastrophic chemical releases or incidents.

LEPC - Local Emergency Planning Committee. In Bucks County, the Bucks County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

LNG - Liquefied natural gas

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) - The body appointed by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), as required by EPCRA, which develops comprehensive emergency plans for Local Emergency Planning Districts, collects MSDS forms and chemical release reports, and provides this information to the public. Each county and some large city governments participate in an LEPC.

LPG - Liquefied petroleum gas.

Management of Change - OSHA requirements for regulated facilities to anticipate changes in technologies or operations, and to assess and prepare for the safety of the changes before they are undertaken.

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) - Printed material concerning a hazardous chemical, or Extremely Hazardous Substance, including its physical properties, hazards to personnel, fire and explosion potential, safe handling recommendations, health effects, fire fighting techniques, reactivity, and proper disposal. Originally established for employee safety by OSHA.

MCL - Maximum contaminant level. The maximum level of contamination allowed under EPA standards.

MIC - Methyl isocyanate, the chemical involved in the 1984 Bhopal chemical disaster in which 3,000 people were killed in a single night.

National Response Center (NRC) - The primary communications center operated by the U.S. Coast Guard to receive reports of major chemical and oil spills and other hazardous substances into the environment. The NRC immediately relays reports to a pre-designated federal On-Scene Coordinator.

National Response Team (NRT) - Representatives from 15 federal agencies with interests and expertise in various aspects of emergency response to pollution incidents. EPA serves as chair and the U.S. Coast Guard serves as vice-chair. The NRT is primarily a national planning, policy, and coordinating body and does not respond directly to incidents. The NRT provides policy guidance prior to an incident and assistance as requested by a federal On-Scene Coordinator via a Regional Response Team during an incident. NRT assistance usually takes the form of technical advice, access to additional resources or equipment, or coordination with other RRTs.

National Strike Force (NSF) - Operated by the U.S. Coast Guard, the NSF is composed of three strategically located teams (Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts) who back up the federal On-Scene Coordinator. These teams are extensively trained and equipped to respond to major oil spills and chemical releases. These capabilities are especially suited to incidents in a marine environment but also include site assessment, safety, action plan development, and documentation for both inland and coastal zone incidents. The NSF Coordination Center is at Elizabeth City, NC.

Offsite Consequence Analysis - An analysis in a facility's risk management plan, and risk management plan summary, that indicates how many people are placed in danger of injury or death in the event of a chemical release incident at the facility.

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) - The federal official responsible for the coordination of a hazardous materials response action, as specified in individual Regional Contingency Plans. OSCs are predesignated by EPA for inland areas and by the U.S. Coast Guard for coastal areas. The OSC coordinates all federal containment, removal, and disposal efforts and resources during a pollution incident. The OSC is the point of contact for the coordination of federal efforts with those of the local response community. The OSC has access to extensive federal resources, including the National Strike Force, the Environmental Response Team, and Scientific Support Coordinators. The OSC can be a source of valuable support and information to the community.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) - Agency within the U.S. Department of Labor that is responsible for the implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. **Process Hazard Analysis (PHA)** The analysis of a facility's hazards conducted by the facility or its consultants as required by EPA regulations on risk management planning.

Planning Case Scenario - The potential situation of a chemical release upon which a company builds its risk management plan under EPA rules. See also worse case scenario.

Primary Prevention - Front-end solutions to issues of facility hazards, which involve designing the process so that it eliminates vulnerabilities. Also known as inherent safety.

Process Safety Management (PSM) - The OSHA PSM rule requires employers subject to the rule to engage in various activities to prevent or minimize the consequences of catastrophic releases of toxic, reactive, flammable and explosive chemicals.

Right-To-Know - The public's rights to information regarding chemical sites, established under various laws.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) - The federal law on hazardous and solid waste management.

Right-To-Know Act - 1986 Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act

RMP - Risk Management Planning. Planning that is required under the Air Toxics regulations of the Clean Air Act. Risk Management Plans—due by June 21, 1999—are intended to detect and prevent or minimize accidental airborne release of a set of “extremely hazardous substances” and to provide a prompt emergency response to any such release.

SARA Title III - The third part of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, also known as EPCRA.

Secondary Prevention Measures - Hazard reduction measures that accept the existence of a design hazard and seek to reduce the consequences of a potential accident by adding on technologies (e.g. measures to capture releases) and operational practices (e.g. security guards). Opposite of inherent safety or primary prevention.

SERC - State Emergency Response Commission. One of the public agencies that must be notified under the term of EPCRA regarding the presence of certain hazardous substances on a facility property. The LEPC must also be notified if there is a release of a hazardous substance into the environment See Also: EPCRA, LEPC

Shelter in Place - An emergency response strategy in which people living or working near a facility where a chemical incident occurs, in which they are advised to stay indoors and to seal off ventilation against external air sources.

Technology Options Analysis - Analysis of opportunities for enhancing the inherent safety of a facility.

Threshold Planning Quantity (TPQ) - The amount of an extremely hazardous substance present at a facility above which the facility's owner/operator must give emergency planning notification to the LEPC and PEMC.

Tier 1 - The categorical reporting of chemicals stored on the site of a facility under annual chemical inventory reporting. Required to automatically be filed with state and local officials under federal law.

Tier 2 - The detailed item by item reporting of chemicals stored on the site of a facility under annual chemical inventory reporting which are only required to be filed with state and local officials if requested by state or local officials.

Toxic-by-Inhalation (TIH) - Materials which present the danger of forming a toxic cloud which can cause injury or death.

Toxic Cloud - An airborne mass of gases, vapors, fumes, or aerosols of toxic materials.

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) - A database of annual toxic releases from certain manufacturers compiled from EPCRA Section 313 reports. Manufacturers must report annually to EPA and the states the amounts of almost 350 toxic chemicals and 22 chemical categories that they release directly to air, water, or land, inject underground, or transfer to off-site facilities. EPA compiles these reports and makes the information available to the public under the "Community Right-to-Know" portion of the law.

Toxic Substance - A chemical or mixture that can cause illness, death, disease, or birth defects. The quantities and exposures necessary to cause these effects can vary widely. Many toxic substances are pollutants and contaminants in the environment.

TRI - Toxic Release Inventory. An annual inventory that must be reported to EPA and the state of releases of listed "toxic chemicals" and transfers of toxic chemicals that exceed specified threshold amounts. This submittal must also include information about the environmental media where releases take place. See Also: EPCRA

TRI - Toxic Chemical Release Inventory. A federal program described in SARA Title III that requires certain facilities to report releases and transfers of toxic chemicals to the U.S. EPA

U.S. EPA - United States Environmental Protection Agency. The U.S. government agency responsible for developing and administering environmental regulations.

Uniform Fire Code - The nationally developed code of fire prevention which has been adopted by many communities through local regulations or ordinances.

Vulnerability Zone - The area mapped by a facility in risk management planning which reflects the area in which people could suffer injury or death as a result of a chemical incident.

Water Curtain - A technology which sprays water to block the passage of toxic gases from a facility that is experiencing a chemical release.

Worst Case Scenario - The worst chemical release that can happen at a facility, based on EPA's guidelines for calculating this in risk management plans. This scenario involves the release of all of the contents of the largest tank holding extremely hazardous materials at a site.