



# Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency

## State of Georgia SERC Operations

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Anita Y. Mathis  
SERC Staff



# ***Greetings from Georgia***



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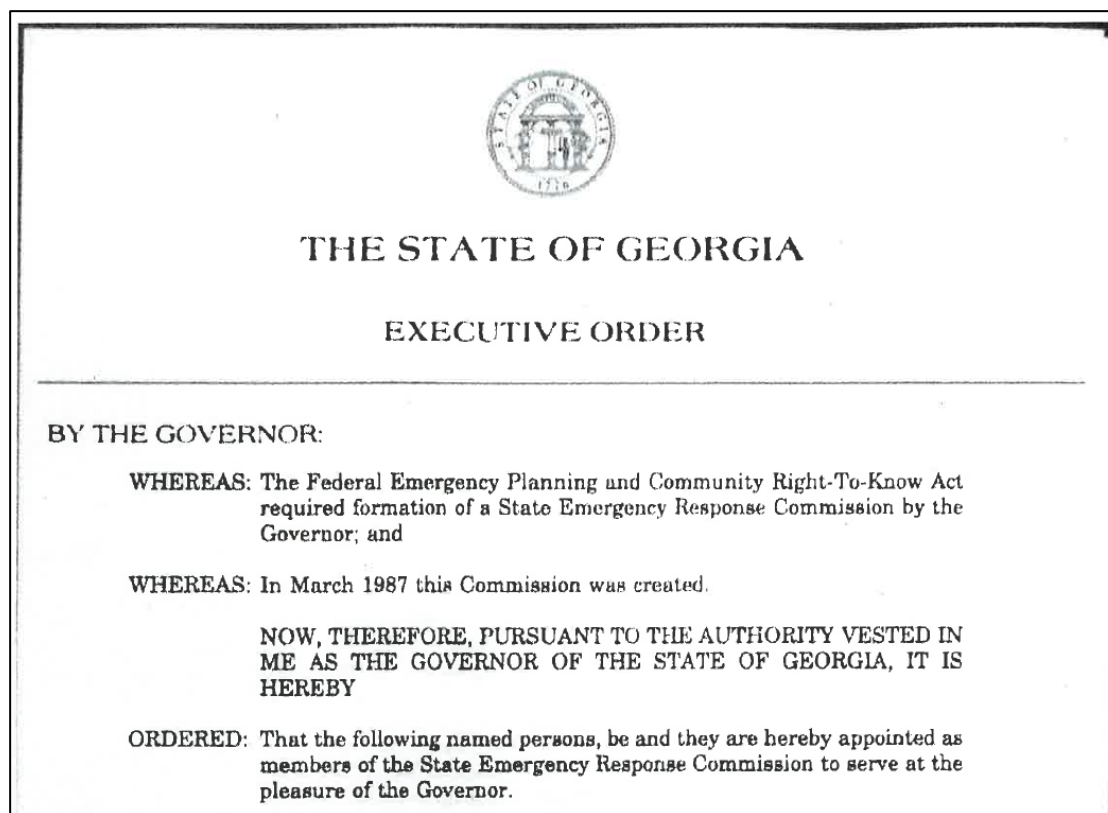
# Our Aim

1. Protect lives by whole community planning
2. Protect the environment
  - ✓ Safeguard the water supply
3. Protect livelihoods
  - ✓ People lose jobs when companies go out of business
4. Partner with industry for success



# Establishment

Background: The Georgia SERC was established by Executive Order in 1987. Initially SERC members were appointed by name. Over time organizational changes occurred and named appointees retired.





# Lead Agencies



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

- Environmental response to spills and releases
- Tier II Reporting
- RCRA – large quantity hazardous waste generators



## GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT *and* HOMELAND SECURITY AGENCY

- Planning support to locals
- LEPC development
- Hazardous materials training



# SERC Members

## Develop a Vision for Hazardous Materials Preparedness in Georgia

**Richard E. Dunn, Former Director**  
Georgia Environmental Protection Division,  
SERC Member, Co-Chair



**James C. Stallings, Director**  
Georgia Emergency Management &  
Homeland Security Agency  
SERC Member, Co-Chair





# SERC Meetings

## Options

### **SERC Co-Chair Meeting (In-Person, Phone, or Virtual)**

As required

Discuss recent events (i.e., Pinova Plant Fire, Brunswick), regulatory requirements, or new industry.

### **SERC/LEPC Meeting (In-Person, Virtual)**

Multi-day event, i.e., conference

Information sharing, regional/area updates, request input, planning.

### **SERC/State Agency Meeting (In-Person, Virtual)**

One day, half-day, <half-day

Information sharing, regional/area updates, request input, decision-making, planning.



# SERC Staff

**Robert Mangum, Emergency Response Program  
Manager**

Georgia Environmental Protection Division



**Anita Mathis, HMEP/SERC/LEPC Coordinator**  
Georgia Emergency Management &  
Homeland Security Agency



- Day-to-day administration
- Maintain in-depth knowledge of the regulation
- Sharing regulatory information with SERC members as needed





# Communication

## **Within the SERC is critical!**

Knowledge transfer when staff changes

- What's been done
- How we do things
- What not to do

Day to day information

- Projects
- Planning
- Decision-making



# Communicating with SERC Members

## Amendment to EPCRA 2018, AWIA

### Background

- SERC staff became aware at NASTTPO and regulatory newsletters.
- EPA Region IV sent letter to GEMA Director, SERC Co-Chair.
- Amendment affected both agencies.

### Immediate Action

- Request for specific guidance moved forward through management to agency leadership.
- GEMA/HS clarified how notification handled through Warning Point.
- EPD made internal changes within Water Protection Branch to ensure proper notifications occur.

### Supplementary Actions

- Many LEPCS have Water System representative members.
- GEMA/HS obtained state GIS of water sources and evaluated against Tier II facilities. Information available upon request.



# SERC Involvement with HMEP Grant

## Purpose of the HMEP Grant:

“Hazmat Emergency Preparedness Planning and Training Grant will support the state of Georgia in developing emergency plans under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986. Outcome will be improved Preparedness for Hazmat emergencies.”

- LEPCs do not receive HMEP subgrant funds
- Majority of funds redirected to training
- GEMA and Ga EPD/SERC involved in grant application needs assessment and preparation



# Tier II Reports

## Tier II Reports



<http://erplan.net>




### E-Plan for First Responders

UserID	<input type="text" value="jramsey"/>	<a href="#">Forgot User Id</a>
Password	<input type="password" value="*****"/>	<a href="#">Forgot Password</a>
<input type="button" value="Login"/>		

[Don't have an E-Plan's User ID? Create New Account](#)

*In hazmat or terrorism disasters,  
every second should count.  
With E-Plan, every  
second does.*



**EPlan**

*A federally-sponsored,  
highly secure system designed  
to make hazardous material  
information immediately  
available online.*

Easy to use  
mapping  
capability.



# Requests for Tier II Information

## Requests for SARA Title III information

Early EPCRA (early 90s/2000s) – paper submission

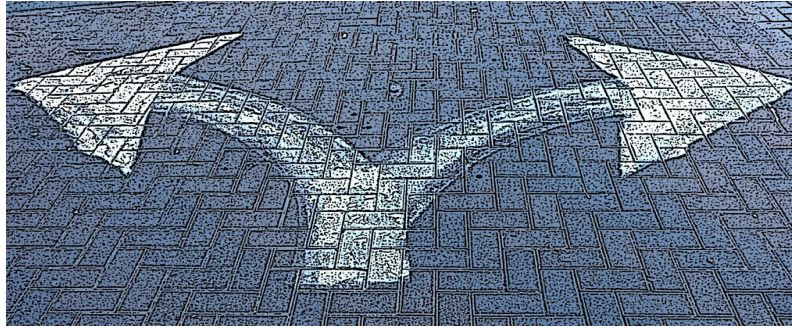
- SERC handled requests.
- With LEPC development, this function handled locally and by state.

Current state – electronic submission

- Request pushed down to LEPC when possible.
- SERC handles requests for counties that do not have LEPC.



# Emergency planning districts



## Early 90s

### Which way to go?

- Locals demanding state guidance
- 98% have Hazardous Materials Annex
- Unfunded EPA mandate
- Limited HMEP funds available to divide between 159 counties

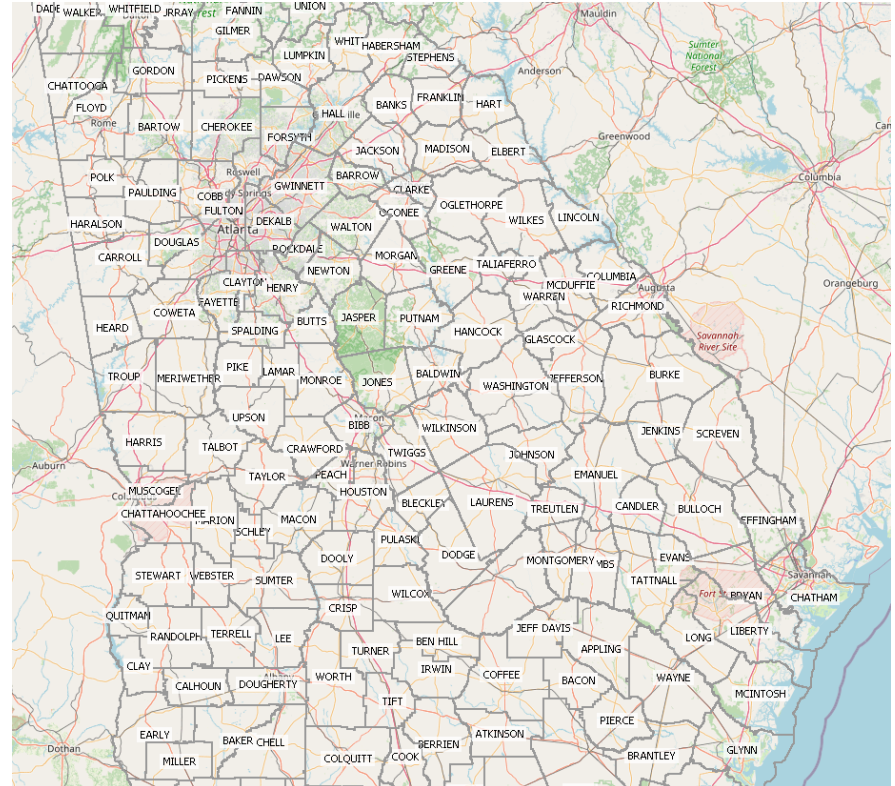
Program developed based on a minimized state structure tailored to support and enhance local programs.



# Emergency planning districts

## SERC early 2000s

- Entire state of Georgia (all 159 counties) designated as a single emergency planning district
- Counties began establishing LEPCs and expanding on ESF-10 Hazmat Annex.
- Regional Planning Committees and Resource Councils created.
- County emergency managers supported EPCRA through enhanced hazardous materials information flow and planning.



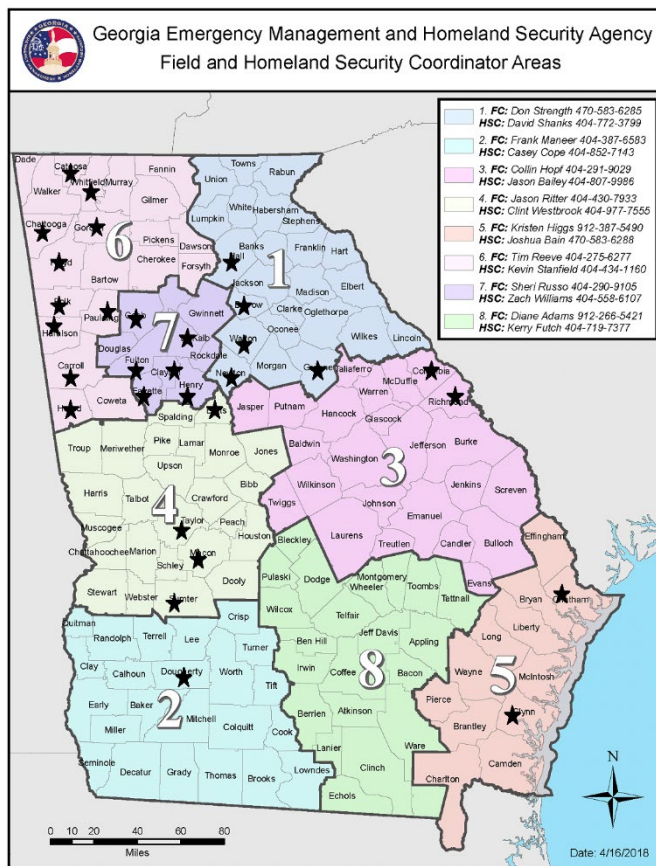




# Emergency planning districts

## SERC 2023

- All counties include hazardous materials in all-hazards planning
- Resuming statewide EPCRA planning to supplement local plans
- Continue to encourage formation of county LEPCs to plan with industry
- Support regional planning around response resources







# Local emergency planning

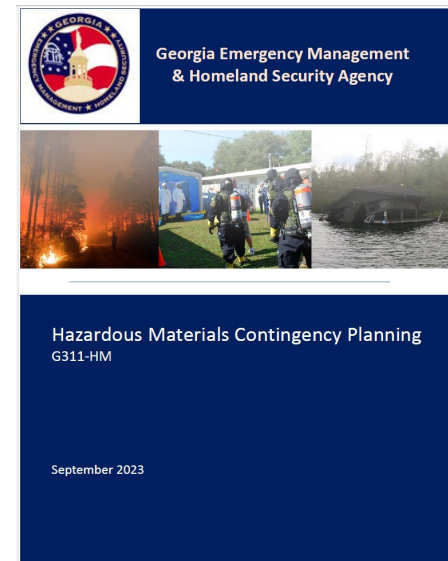
The SERC provides jurisdictions with skills needed to fulfill their responsibilities under EPCRA!

Baseline:

- Each county required by the state to have a Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP).
- The ESF-10 Hazardous Materials Annex is part of the LEOP.

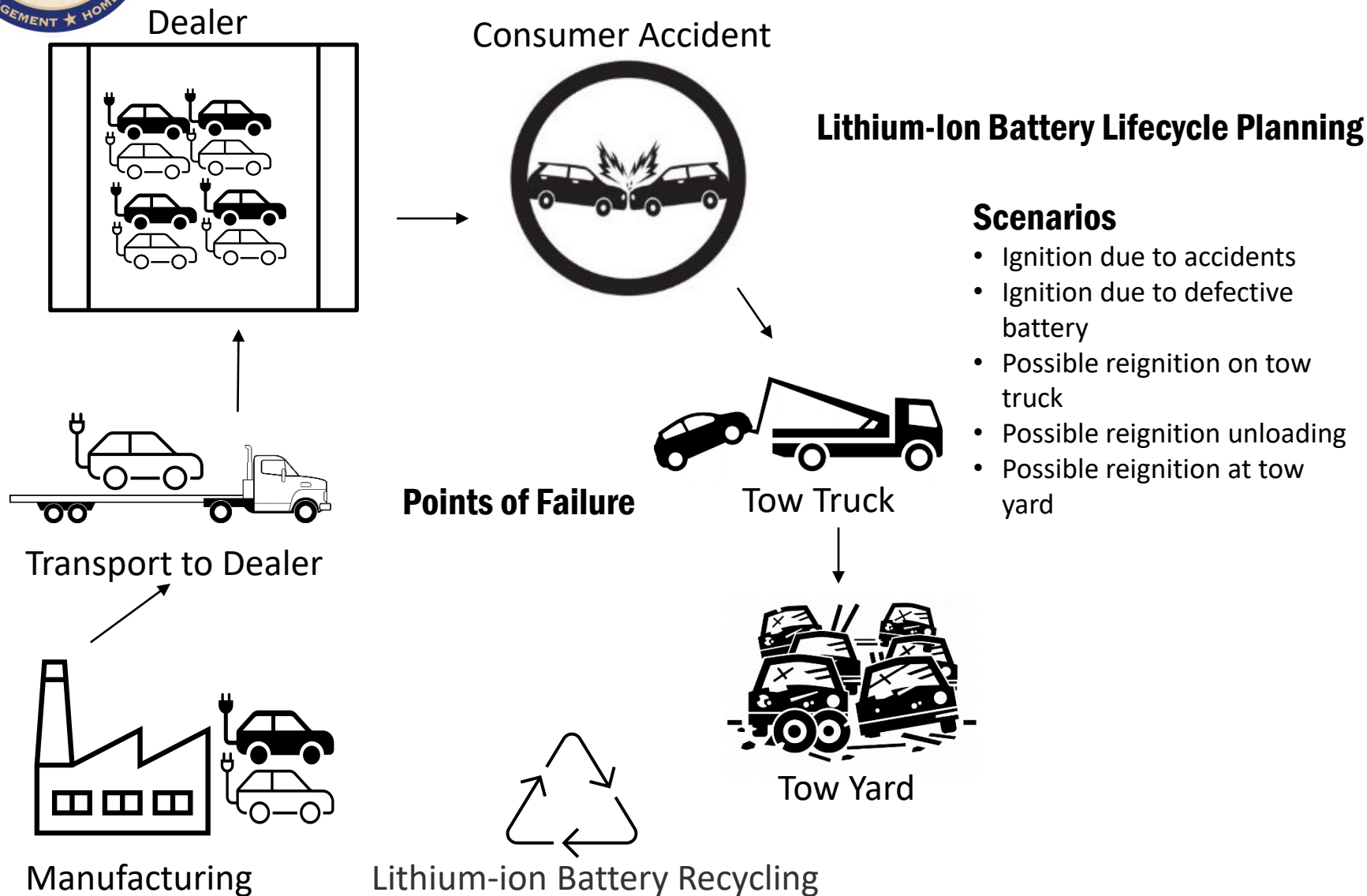
GEMA/HS requires county EMA Directors to take a class called Hazardous Materials Contingency Planning. Contents include:

- Value of establishing LEPCs for planning.
- How to conduct a hazard analysis.
- How to conduct a local commodity flow study.
- How to identify components to include in an EPCRA compliant community hazmat plan.





# Emerging Threats





# Special Projects

**Starting 2024**

## **Collecting Facility Commodity Flow Study Data from Tier II Submission in E-Plan**

*At any given time virtually everything is going down the road. We cannot plan for everything. However, we can plan for known classes, specific chemicals, and create scenarios to test our capabilities.*

### **Data Collection**

- Using the New England format
- All chemicals
- Estimates requested
- Previous years data stored
- One facility question included



# Special Project

## Facility Specific

### State Fields

Georgia requests the following:

**Note:** Georgia requires all reporting to be electronic utilizing E-Plan. You may use Tier2 Submit to create a T2S file, but it must be submitted through E-Plan. Please see [Georgia's reporting instructions](#).

Does your facility have onsite, trained fire personnel to specifically and immediately (regardless of date and time) address fire incidents?

☐ Yes ☒ No (select if unsure)

Comments (please provide the primary route to the facility and, if known, the alternate route) \*

For example: Primary SR 31/U.S. HWY 41 to McNeil St.; Secondary U.S. 221/SR 32/N. Chester Ave./McNeil St.

## Chemical Specific

### State Fields

Georgia requests the following:

**Note:** Georgia requires all reporting to be electronic utilizing E-Plan. You may use Tier2 Submit to create a T2S file, but it must be submitted through E-Plan. Please see [Georgia's reporting instructions](#).

Please *estimate* the quantity and frequency of shipments for planning purposes. (For frequency and quantity, use last year's information if no major changes in usage were made.)

Mode of Shipment \*

☐ Trucks ☐ Tank Trucks ☐ Rail Car ☐ Tank Car  
☐ Pipeline ☐ Barge ☐ Other (Specify) Specify other:

Physical State in Transit \*

Frequency of Shipments per Year \*

Average Shipment Qty (lbs) \*

[Need help converting gallons to pounds?](#)

Carrier \*



# Special Projects

## Special Needs LEPC Sub-Committee

### Columbia County, Ga LEPC

- Incorporated functional needs outreach into Preparedness Fair
- Invited representatives from local community serving functional needs to initial LEPC planning meeting
- Representatives from different groups and interest coming together to support outreach

**ADA is complicated. Where to begin?**

Resource: Georgia ADA Coordinator's Office to get messaging out.



# Special Projects

## CFS Using Technology Flock Camera Technology

### Background:

- Cobb County Resource Council
- Tentatively set for September 13, 2023
- Initially two-part, human & technology

### The problem:

- Getting volunteers; safety concerns
- Who is requesting the data
- Question about ownership of the data
  - GEMA would have purchased the equipment and licensing but is a law enforcement product
  - Data only available for 30 days and needs to be stored.

### Recent update:

- Local expert joined the planning team
- County EMA, law enforcement and fire department in agreement to support the project and working with the LEPC to organize it.
- Highlighted a disconnect between other public safety departments and the LEPC though this one is very active, well funded, and supported by industry.



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# Special Projects

## Benefits of using Flock System

- Track placards as they travels between counties
  - Concerns about specific types of shipments, i.e., explosives
- Equipment programmed to collect for specific period or ongoing data collection then stored.
- Greater public safety applications
  - Hazmat violations
  - Carrier compliance



# Questions?