

LEPC 101/201

NASTTPO CONFERENCE - April 2024

Carol Way
Colorado LEPC Consultant
CAMEO Suite Training, LLC
Carol.Way@Q.com

Who am I?

**Hazmat Responder
(Technician) for EPA
Region 8**

**EPA Region 8 EPCRA
Outreach &
Enforcement
Officer**

**OSHA Institute
Adjunct Instructor -
HAZWOPER
HCS/GHS**

**CO LEPC Assistant -
LEPC Outreach,
Annual Conference,
EPCRA Training**

**Private Industry
Hazardous Materials
Consultant/Trainer**

**Creator & Presenter of CO
LEPC Chemical Safety
Workshops**

**CAMEO Suite Training, LLC -
hybrid online/live webinar
training with Tom Bergman**

PURPOSE OF EPCRA

- ▶ **Require communities to plan for accidental chemical releases**
- ▶ **Provide Emergency Responders with hazard data**
- ▶ **Provide information on chemical risks in communities**



If you've seen one LEPC...

You've seen one LEPC!

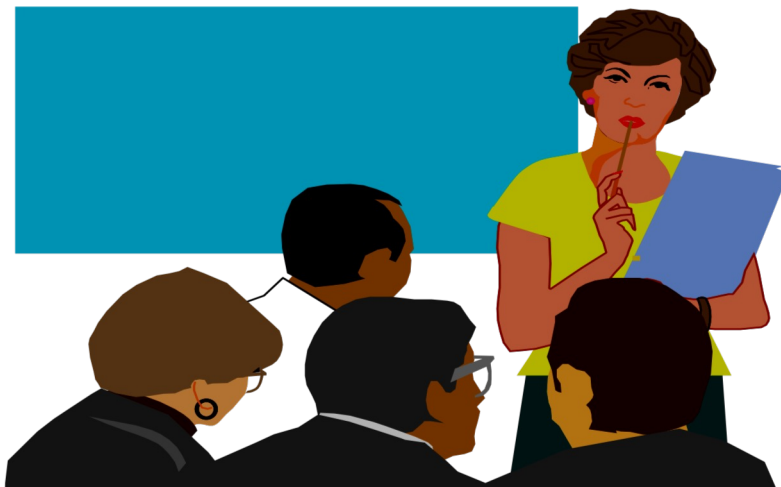
~ Greg Noll, The HAZMAT Roundtable

The LEPC/TEPC should consist of the following:

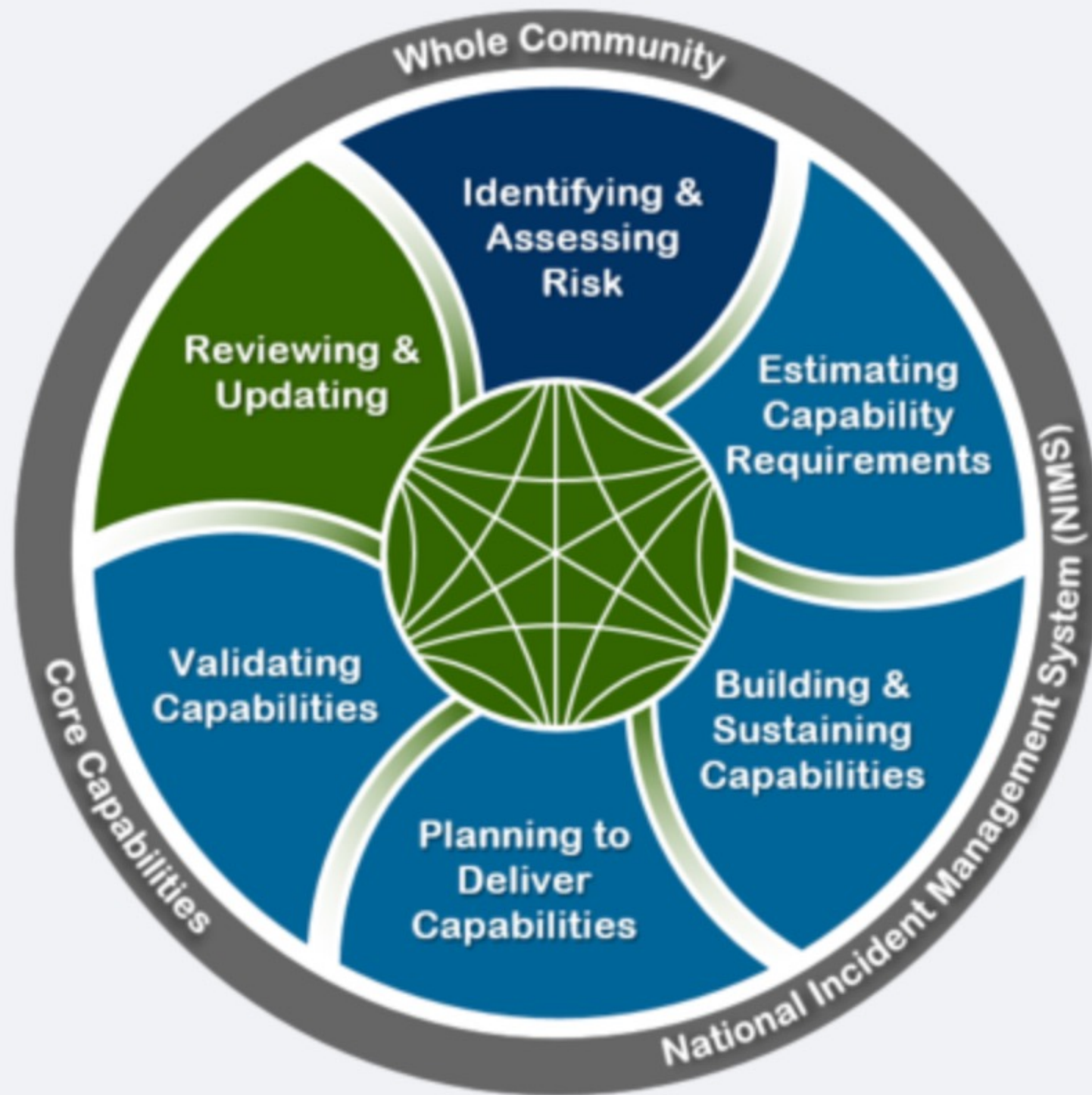
- Elected state and local officials or their representatives
- Law enforcement
- Emergency management
- Firefighters
- EMS,
- Public Health & Hospitals,
- Environmental groups
- Community groups
- News media
- Owners and operators of facilities
- Other users of chemicals, e.g., farms, small businesses

Responsibilities of the LEPC/TEPC

**Develop a plan to prepare for and respond to
chemical emergencies in your district.**



**The original
plan was due
Oct. 17, 1988.**



The LEPC/TEPC plan should:

- Identify facilities and routes
- Describe response procedures
- Designate emergency and facility coordinator(s)
- Outline notification procedures
- Describe methods for determining a release and the affected area
- Describe community and industry resources
- Outline evacuation plans
- Describe training program for personnel
- Describe schedules for exercising plans

Additional responsibilities of the LEPC

- Review plans once a year
- Make available each SDS, chemical list, inventory form, and follow-up emergency notice collected from facilities
- Receive the name of a representative who will participate with the LEPC from each facility
- Receive information requested by public from any facility – and distribute appropriately
- Receive emergency spill notification information and distribute information appropriately

AWIA – Great Opportunity to Review How Your LEPC is Implementing EPCRA

- ▶ Who's at the planning table?
(EPCRA Section 301)
- ▶ Who are your facility partners in planning?
(EPCRA Section 302)
- ▶ What additional information do you need/want?
(EPCRA Section 303)
- ▶ How is your spill notification process working?
(EPCRA Section 304)

AWIA - Great Opportunity to Review How Your LEPC is Implementing EPCRA

- ▶ What does the chemical inventory in your planning district look like? (EPCRA Section 311)
- ▶ What are you doing with your Tier II data?
(EPCRA Section 312)

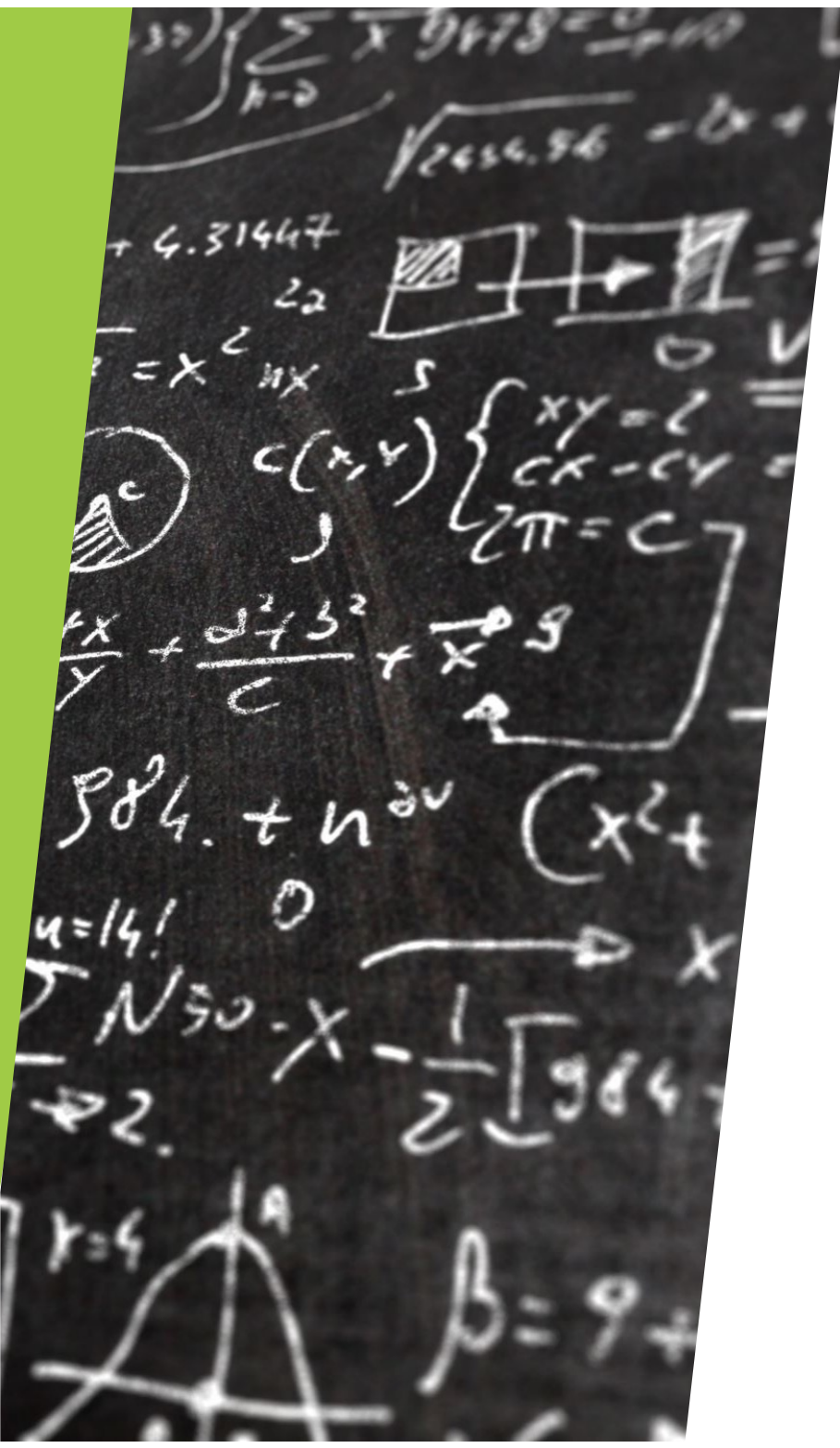
View analyze plan
connect Share exercise

- ▶ Do you know how to share information with the CWS in your planning district to protect your community's drinking water? (EPCRA Section 312 as amended by AWIA)

LEPC ENFORCEMENT

(in case you need it...)

- ▶ **EPCRA and RMP exist to provide critical information to the local community and first responders**
- ▶ **“ENFORCEMENT” by LEPCs is about getting the information**
- ▶ **LEPCs have a LOT of authority**



Practical Application of EPCRA

LEPC 201 - Beyond the Basics





Let's get some
PERSPECTIVE...

**IN MOST PLACES A
“ROUTINE” ACCIDENT IS
THE GREATEST RISK**

- ▶ **RESPONDERS, PUBLIC & WORKERS** still routinely hurt
- ▶ Reliance on Standards, Lists & Thresholds to **DEFINE RISK**
- ▶ Public does not have a sense of **RESPONSIBILITY** – Lack of information/awareness.

An aerial photograph showing a train accident. Several large, cylindrical tank cars are overturned and scattered across a field. Some cars are heavily damaged and leaking. The scene is surrounded by dry grass and some trees. The text is overlaid on a dark blue and green background on the right side of the image.

Let's get some PERSPECTIVE...

- ▶ **PLANNING GAPS –**
 - ▶ Access & Functional needs,
 - ▶ Individuals without Homes,
 - ▶ Non-English speakers
- ▶ Reliance on SOPs
 - ▶ **HABIT vs ANALYSIS**
- ▶ Evaluated in 20/20 Hindsight –

**WE ARE ONLY AS GOOD AS
THE LAST INCIDENT**



Forward to 2024 and beyond...

- ▶ The world has changed since 1986
- ▶ Emergency management is institutionalized
- ▶ All-hazards planning is the objective
- ▶ Terrorism concerns interfere with Community Right-to-Know

- ▶ Are LEPCs and SERCs still relevant?
 - ▶ Yes, if you correctly define their roles.

What is our job?

- ▶ **WHAT JOB CAN WE DEFINE AND CONTROL?**
 - ▶ We must break away from 20/20 hindsight.
-

MY SUGGESTED ANSWER:

- ▶ **“IMPROVING COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS”**

THE OBVIOUS QUESTION:

- ▶ What will we **MEASURE** to show **SUCCESS**?

WHAT ARE THE KEY QUESTIONS?

- **Is our community aware and prepared?**
- **Are we serving the whole community?**
- **Who is our “customer”?**
- **How do we know if we are doing a good job?**

- **What’s not on this list?**
 - ▶ **Simple EPCRA Compliance**
 - ▶ **EPCRA is a tool, it does not define success**

THE JOB DESCRIPTION

- ▶ **Improving Community Preparedness is about Closing Capability Gaps – the process is:**
 - ▶ **What are the risks in your community?**
 - ▶ **EPCRA is a key tool**
 - ▶ **What are the community's capabilities?**
 - ▶ **Whole of community, not just first responders.**
 - ▶ **What are the community's desired capabilities?**
 - ▶ **Strategically plan to fill the gaps.**
 - ▶ **Community-involved process to prioritize**

PRAGMATIC VIEW OF COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

**Ordinary Skills Can Be Applied To
Extraordinary Situations...**

- ▶ You don't need expensive stuff
- ▶ You don't need hours and hours of training
- ▶ You need *planning* and *foresight*:
 - ▶ think out scenarios in advance
 - ▶ train for categories of hazards
 - ▶ practice how you play

MEASURING SUCCESS

- ▶ **Measure success by showing progress on the elements of the strategic plan.**
 - ▶ **The plan will have lots of steps to address gaps.**
- ▶ **Progress on each of those steps can be measured.**
- ▶ **For example:**
 - ▶ **Is training conducted?**
 - ▶ **Does that training address a capability gap?**
 - ▶ **Was the training successful?**

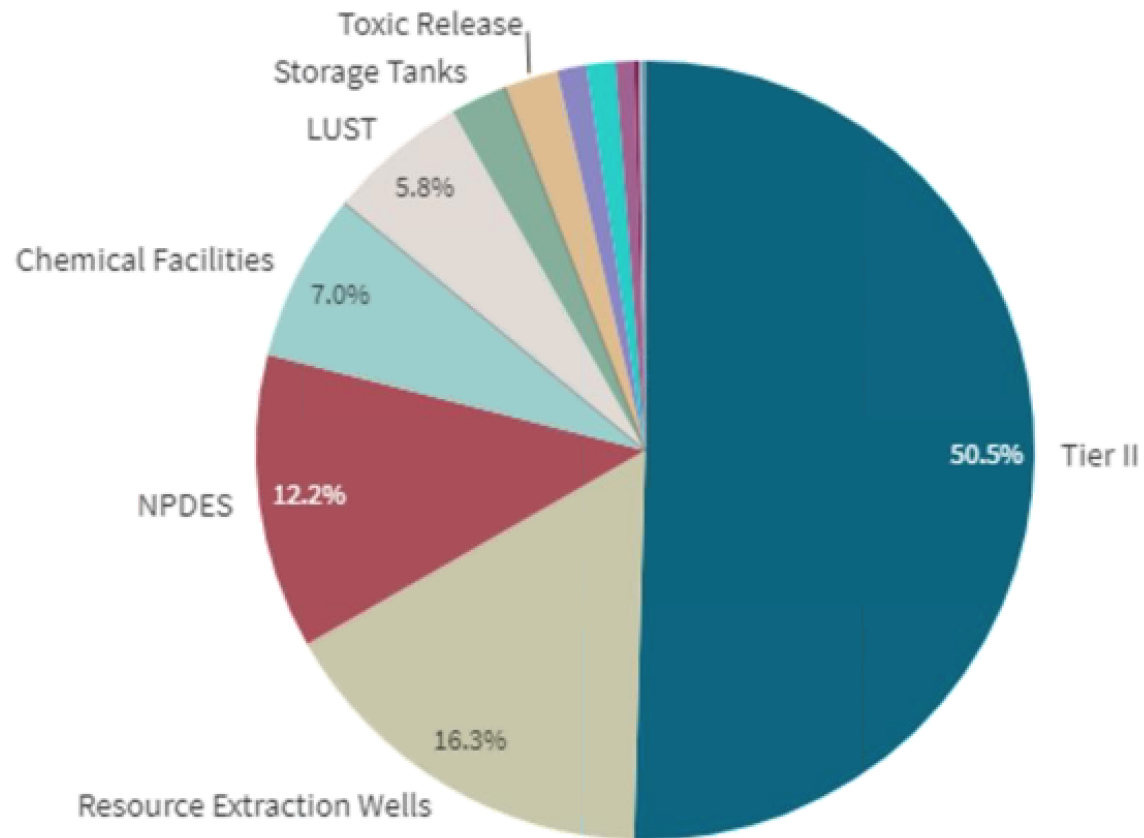
GOLDEN RULES

- ▶ **Be honest about capabilities – don't guess**
 - ▶ 1st responders will be overwhelmed by some events
 - ▶ Prove what the public/businesses can & will do
- ▶ **Educate public and businesses**
 - ▶ What can happen to them?
 - ▶ Will there be help? Are there limits to the help?
 - ▶ What are their preparedness obligations?
- ▶ **Create participation and cooperation**
 - ▶ Public, small business & industry, non-profits, government
 - ▶ Have high expectations

Where is the Risk Information?

- ▶ **Tier II Reports**
- ▶ **Risk Management Plans (RMP)**
- ▶ **§303(d)(3) Requests**
- ▶ **Invite facilities to LEPC meetings to discuss their capabilities, expectations & plans**

Importance of Tier II Chemical Inventory Data



Tier II reports include the name, CAS #, and mass (in pounds) of material stored on site.

Look at the Data!

Download and use CAMEO, or your Tier II management software

Get the RMP reports for facilities in your area.

Tier II information from facilities of interest.

There should never be a “mystery” facility in your area.

EPCRA §303

- ▶ **EPCRA § 303(d)(3) states, “ Upon request from the emergency planning committee, the owner or operator of the facility shall promptly provide information [to the LEPC] necessary for developing and implementing the emergency plan.”**
- ▶ **If the facility fails to provide the information requested under §303(d)(3), an LEPC may sue for failure to provide the information.**

EPCRA §303(d)(3) Requests

- ▶ **Facility Emergency Plan**
- ▶ **Detailed Site Map**
- ▶ **Chemicals in transport – route,
schedule (Specific Commodity Flow Studies)**
- ▶ **Other planning information, as needed**

Other Information Sources

▶ Spill data →

- **Spill Tracking - State**
- **NRC/ERNS Database**

▶ Highway →

- **Commodity Flow Studies**
- **Historic information**

▶ Pipeline →

- **NPMS Public Map Viewer**
- **Local Gov't Request**

▶ Railroad →

- **Rail CFS Requests**
- **TRANSCAER**

Great LEPC Ideas - Capabilities

- ▶ **Specific & Targeted - Training, Drills & Exercises**
- ▶ **Integrate Closely with Fire Planning Activities**
- ▶ **Visual Representation of Hazards and Vulnerabilities**
 - ▶ **CAMEO/MARPLOT**
 - ▶ **Rapid Assessment Maps**
 - ▶ **GIS (or similar)**
 - ▶ **KML (Google Earth)**
 - ▶ **All Hazards Integration – Tier II on Flood Plain maps, wildfire high hazard zones, etc.**

Great LEPC Ideas - Education

Educate Public & Businesses

- ▶ **LEPC Brochure**
- ▶ **Safety Fair Activities**
- ▶ **Targeted Meetings**
- ▶ **Facility Reporting Trainings/Workshops**
- ▶ **Community Workshops**
- ▶ **Informational Speakers/Facility Presentations**
- ▶ **LEPC Website (social media presence)**
- ▶ **LEPC Emails**

Great LEPC Ideas - Participation

- ▶ **Facility Field Trips & Involved Industry**
 - ▶ Visit Tier II Facilities – host meetings, tours
 - ▶ Great Industry Participation
 - ▶ Fire/LEPC Meetings for Business Community
- ▶ **Award/Reward Excellence**
 - ▶ Excellence Program
 - ▶ Partnership Award
 - ▶ Good Neighbor Award
 - ▶ Recognize and reward good partners

Our advice to you....

- ▶ **Honor your community conditions/priorities**
 - ▶ **What's YOUR vision of success?**
- ▶ **Understand the risks**
- ▶ **Realistically understand capabilities**
 - ▶ **Communicate to create realistic expectations**
- ▶ **Strategic plan to fill gaps**
 - ▶ **Community values and priorities**
- ▶ **Do projects that fill gaps – measure success**

LEPCs and Risk Communication

Building Risk Communication Infrastructure by Bolstering Emergency Managers' Formal and Informal Communication Networks

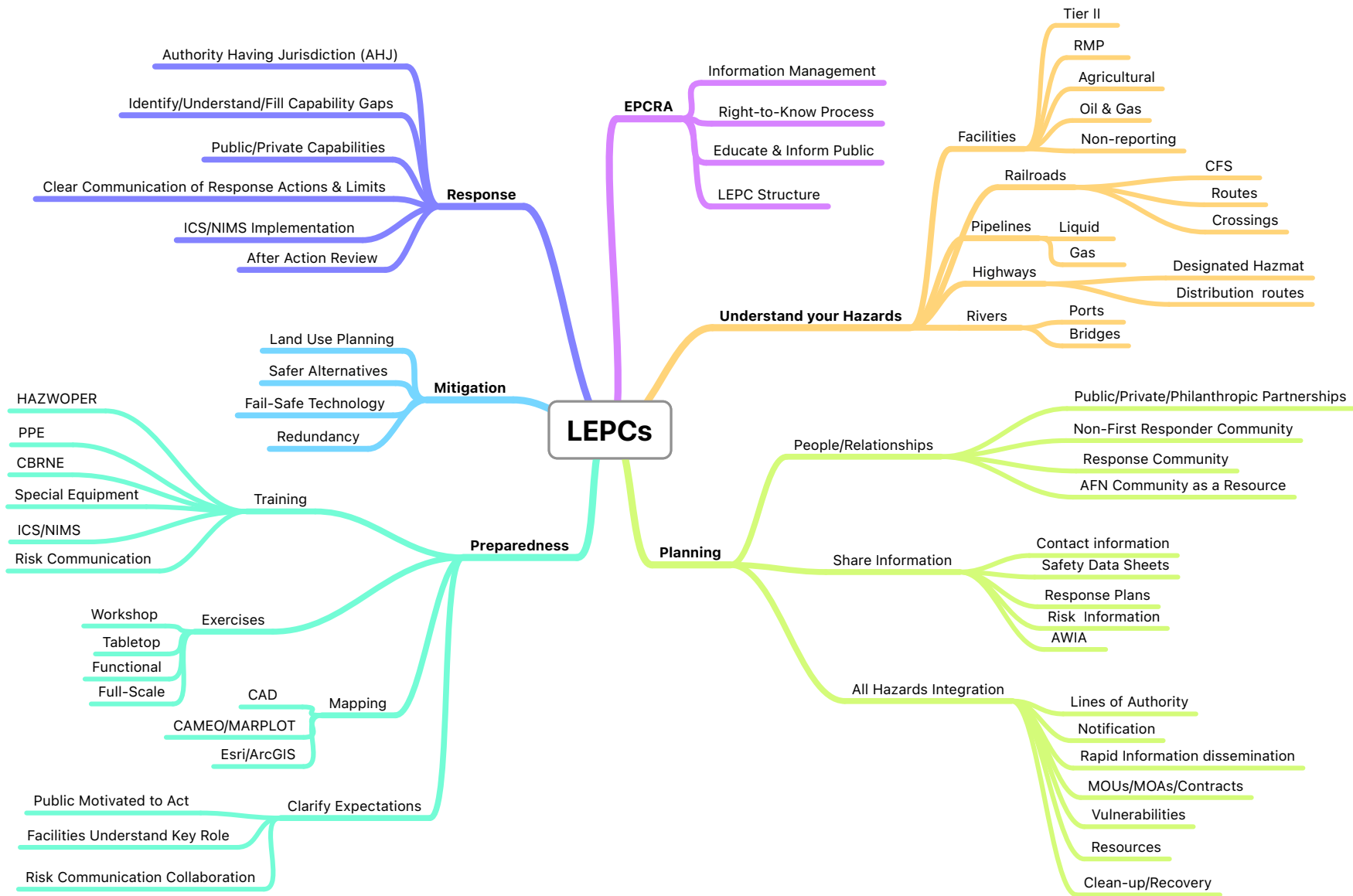
- ▶ [BTrefz](#), [DBierling](#), [AChristjoy](#), [JBarbour](#)
- ▶ Book Editor(s): [HDO'Hair](#), [MJO'Hair](#)
- ▶ First published: 25 November 2022



“Emergency managers and community partners must communicate complex information to public audiences likely to have low knowledge and high anxiety during hazardous materials incidents... Organizations like LEPCs coordinate, connect, and build network communication infrastructures, supporting risk communication in catastrophes. Although LEPCs do not respond to emergencies and disasters, the networks that LEPCs cultivate can assist emergency officials and community partners in sharing coordinated messages about technical risks that are more likely to encourage trust among an anxious public.

Questions for LEPCs...

- ▶ What do LEPCs need to know that no one is telling them?
- ▶ Who is teaching LEPCs how to do a chemical hazard analysis for their district?



Questions?

Carol Way

Carol.Way@Q.com

or

Carol.Way@CAMEOSuiteTraining.com