

## MERC Overview

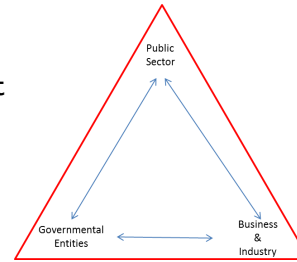
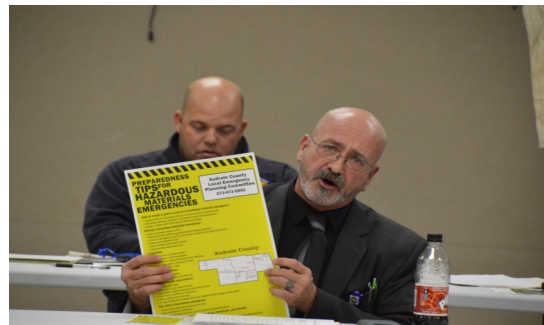
The MERC was first established in 1987 by Executive Order of the Governor and was later established under statute in 1988 and revised in 1992. The commission resides under the Missouri Department of Public Safety (SEMA). Division 10, Chapter 11 of the Rules of Public Safety title 11 CSR 10-11.210 established a statewide hazardous materials safety program, created the Missouri Emergency Response Commission (MERC) and provided for the creation of Hazardous Materials Emergency Response accounts in each county. It also created a supplemental emergency preparedness funding base for chemical emergency preparedness at the county and state levels based upon the fees collected from facilities. These fees enable the LEPC to prepare offsite response plans, acquire response team equipment, develop public "Right-to-Know" education programs, conduct chemical industry awareness and compliance programs, and conduct relevant training, drills and exercises.



## Local Emergency Planning Committee - LEPC

Under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) must develop an emergency response plan, review the plan at least annually, and provide information about chemicals in the community to citizens. Plans are developed by LEPCs with stakeholder participation. LEPCs should include (at a Minimum):

- ◆ Elected local officials
- ◆ Emergency management
- ◆ Police, fire, and health professionals
- ◆ Environmental, transportation, and hospital officials
- ◆ Facility representatives
- ◆ Representatives from community groups
- ◆ Media



## Tier II

Under Section 312 of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), businesses and facilities are required to annually submit Tier II forms. The Tier II provides state, local officials, and the public with information on potential hazards. Tier IIs are filed for chemicals at the facility for the previous year, and must be filed annually between January 1st and March 1st.

## Chemical Emergency

### Preparedness Fund - CEPF

In conjunction with Tier II forms, fees are collected by the MERC from filers. Funds are received by the MERC, processed and reallocated back to the local jurisdiction. Ten percent (10%) is allocated to the State Fire Marshall's office to be utilized for HAZMAT training to local responders. Sixty-five percent (65%) is returned to the counties, and twenty-five percent (25%) is retained by the MERC for administrative fees, LEPC planning and training on a statewide level.

## Missouri Emergency Response Commission

MERC  
2302 Militia Drive  
P.O. Box 3133  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Phone: 1-800-780-1014  
Fax: 573-526-9261

<https://sema.dps.mo.gov/about/merc.php>

## Training & Exercises

MERC Training is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration from fees collected from HAZMAT shippers and carriers. The grant is intended to support public sector planning and training to deal with hazardous material emergencies, particularly those involving transportation.

Sample Courses Offered:

- ◆ HAZMAT Incident Awareness
- ◆ HAZMAT Incident Operations
- ◆ HAZMAT Sizeup
- ◆ LP Gas Emergencies
- ◆ Ignitable Liquids & Ethanol
- ◆ Chemical Suicide



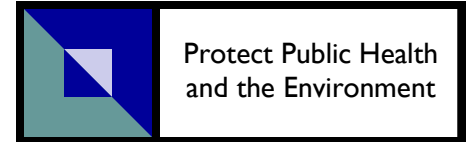
## MERC MISSION

*To protect public health and the environment by assisting communities with chemical incident prevention, preparedness response and recovery; and by receiving, processing and reporting on chemical information received under the community right-to-know act.*

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