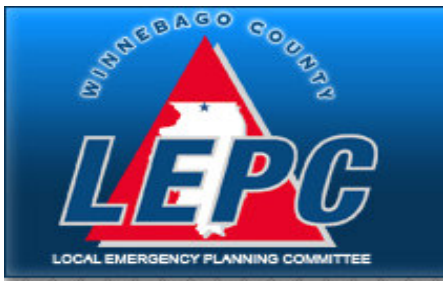


When requesting information under the federal Right-To-Know law, you should be aware that some facilities (such as research laboratories and medical facilities), some chemical substances (such as cosmetics, tobacco, wood, and household products) and "trade secrets" are exempt from the requirements. In addition, companies that handle or release smaller amounts of toxic chemicals may also be exempt from certain reporting requirements. Such exemptions should not deter you from requesting all of the information described for all sites in your community.

LOCAL EMERGENCY

PLANNING COMMITTEE



<http://www.winn-lepc.org/>

**EMERGENCY PLANNING & COMMUNITY
RIGHT-TO-KNOW:
WHAT INFORMATION YOU CAN GET
AND WHERE YOU CAN GET IT**

The federal Right-To-Know law requires companies that handle hazardous chemicals to make information available about: (1) the manufacturer, use and storage of chemicals; (2) chemical accidents; & (3) toxic emissions.

Information about incidents and the routine manufacturer use & storage of chemicals within our community, is available through the LEPC. Manufacturers may provide the LEPC with the following reports:

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) describe each chemical used or stored at the site, along with its health effects. A company may submit a list of chemicals present at its site.

Chemical Inventory Forms (Tier I) include information about the quality and location of chemicals stored or used at the site.

Tier II Forms provide detailed information about the specific chemicals stored, how long they are present, & their precise location at the site.

Emergency Notices & Follow-up Emergency Notices provide information about spills of substances, including clean-up actions & impacts on public health.

Using this information, your LEPC prepares a comprehensive Emergency Plan to prevent & respond to emergency chemical accidents, fires, & spills. The LEPC should have information to help answer the following questions:

What hazardous chemicals are used, stored, & manufactured within our community?

What are the possible health effects within our community?

Is our community adequately prepared to handle a chemical accident, fire, or spill?

Information about routine chemical releases are reported to state & federal governments on Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) forms.

Manufacturers must submit a report every year to the Illinois EPA describing specific hazardous chemicals that were released into the environment.

The U.S.EPA has created a TRI DATABASE, which is available to the public. It includes the name, address, & public contact person for each site that manufactures, processes, or uses toxic chemicals. the estimated quantity of the chemicals released into the air, rivers, or lakes, discharged on land or underground, & methods used to treat and minimize toxic wastes. The TRI DATABASE may help answer the following questions:

What chemicals are routinely released within our community?

Are sites causing environmental problems?

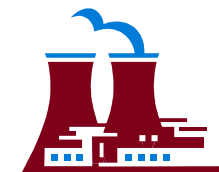
Are companies using all available controls & hazardous waste reduction methods?

What companies are sending to remove hazardous wastes to local landfills and incinerators?



**DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT HAZARDOUS
CHEMICALS IN YOUR
COMMUNITY?**

**IT'S YOUR
Right-To-Know
USE THE LAW!**



What is the RIGHT-TO-KNOW Law...

And How Can You Use It?

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act is a powerful 1987 federal law that gives us the right to know what hazardous chemicals are used, released, manufactured, & disposed of within our communities. Businesses file reports about hazardous chemicals with local officials, who then provide the report to anyone who requests them.

Prior to this 1987 law, not even the government was aware of the extent of toxic emissions in the United States. The first round of reports filed under the Right-To-Know laws revealed that businesses released 2.4 billion pounds of hazardous chemicals into the air in 1987, at least 10 times the amount that had been previously estimated. This 1987 law enables all of us to learn more about the chemicals in our communities and to take action to protect our health, safety, and our environment.

Here's How You Can Use The Right-To-Know Law:

To Promote Safer, Cleaner Manufacturing Practices. Technology allows manufacturers to reduce the use & disposal of chemicals. Public awareness can convince a company to adopt safer, more environmentally-sound practices. Many Illinois manufacturers have reduced their hazardous chemicals discharge since adoption of the 1987 Right-To Know law. The Right-To-Know law can help you identify the major users of chemicals in our community & reduce the chemicals used, discharged, & disposed.

To Prevent Chemical Accidents. Chemical leaks, fires, & explosions can happen. If you live near an industrial plant, the Right-To-Know law can provide you with information about the hazard prevention plans that have been established and the chemicals that are used, stored, and emitted at the site. Working with the LEPC, the response plans can be evaluated & improved.

To Ensure Compliance With Environmental Laws. Governmental enforcement programs are not always adequate to ensure compliance with environmental laws. You can use the Right-To-Know law, along with other environmental protection requirements, to learn whether a company's hazardous emissions & discharges are legal & consistent with its permits.

What You Can Do...

1. Join the **LEPC**. Visit our website at: www.winn-lepc.org to find out about the next meeting or contact information.
2. Work through neighborhood & community organizations, such as the League of Women Voters.
3. Report any chemical accidents or spills to your local fire department.

For Copies Of This Brochure:

Copies of this brochure can be obtained in pdf format by accessing our website at:

www.Winn-Lepc.org

For Information about The Right-To-Know Law Contact:

Winnebago County Emergency Services Disaster Agency (ESDA)
Winnebago County Justice Center
650 W. State Street
Rockford, Illinois 61102
(815) 319-6215

City of Rockford ESDA
204 S. First Street
Rockford, Illinois 61104
(815) 987-5568

IEPA- Rockford Regional Office
4302 N. Main St.
Rockford, Illinois 61103
(815) 987-7760

www.epa.state.il.us

TOXIC RELEASE INVENTORY DATA

Community groups have access to the TRI DATABASE; the latest TRI annual report may be viewed at the main branch of the Rockford Public Library. Copies of the TRI forms for individual sites are already available from your state government. In Illinois, contact:

Office of Chemical Safety

Illinois EPA
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
(217) 782-3637

IF INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT THE LEPC:

1. On the internet go to: www.winn-lepc.org
2. Call: (815) 319-6215
3. Mail: Winnebago County Emergency Services & Disaster Agency (ESDA)

