WHAT IS A LEPC?

Local Emergency Planning Committees are groups of people who share the mission of protecting the health and safety of our community from all types of incidents and disasters.

WHAT DO LEPC'S DO?

LEPC's provide the opportunity for all those local organizations, businesses and individuals involved in responding to emergencies to work together, get to know each other, prepare and plan BEFORE an emergency occurs.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Become involved in our LEPC. Review and comment on our local emergency response plan. Participate in decision that affect the health and safety of the people in our community. Prepare yourself, your family, your business and your community.

For More Information:

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BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN

John Cosgrove .....Mayor
Amy Lefkowitz ..... Deputy Mayor
Daniel Dunay..... Deputy Mayor
Lisa Swain..... Councilmember
Kurt Peluso..... Councilmember
James Van Kruiningen..... Borough Manager

BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Office of Emergency Management

8-01 Fair Lawn Avenue
Fair Lawn, New Jersey 07410
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Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

HISTORY OF THE LEPC

The 1986 Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) required that governmental jurisdictions form LEPC's to develop emergency plans to respond to chemical emergencies, New Jersey honored the "home rule" tradition and required that every municipal and county form an LEPC.

Legally mandated community-based emergency planning was not a new concept. The NJ Civilian Defense and Disaster Control Act (N.J.S.A. App. A:9_33) required every municipality and county to "… create a local emergency management council" and prepare "…written emergency operations plans." The emergency management council was dedicated to all-hazard planning which already included hazardous materials.

The LEPC and the municipal Emergency Management Council integrated responsibilities under Executive Order 161, signed by Governor Thomas Kean on February 12, 1987. The Order clarified that SARA Title III emergency planning requirements "…would be accomplished in a manner consistent with the provisions of NJSA A:9_33." The means that *in policy and in practice*, members of the LEPC and the emergency management council were representing the same agencies; and emergency management councils became known as "LEPC's." LEPC's expanded their hazardous materials planning mission to include natural, technological and civil disasters – the "all-hazard" approach to emergency planning.

Knowledge of the municipality – its residents, land use, hazards, geography, infrastructure, economics, culture and critical facilities – is also essential for disaster recovery. After an incident occurs, local officials collect disaster intelligence – information concerning death, injuries, damage assessments, roads, utilities, housing conditions, etc. The more credible and more accurate the intelligence, the better case that can be made for a request for disaster recovery assistance. If a Presidential disaster declaration is received, FEMA will look to local counterparts to help them tour affected areas and begin the process for damage claims.

One of the less-emphasized responsibilities of the LEPC has been is its role as a focal point for community members regarding discussions about hazards, emergency planning, and the health and environmental risks of disasters. Citizens should expect the LEPC to be able reply to questions about what hazards the community faces and address concerns about how prepared the community is to respond to them.

WHO SERVES ON THE LEPC?

Representatives from the following stakeholder groups and organizations:

- Elected and local officials
- Emergency Management personnel
- Law Enforcement
- Fire Service
- Emergency Medical Services
- Health
- Local Environmental and Transportation Agencies
- Hospitals
- Local Media Representatives
- Community Groups
- Representatives of Facilities Subject to the Emergency Planning and Community Right To Know Requirements
- Local Business Leaders