

EPCRA (Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act)
Washington State 40 CFR Part 355.40
Emergency Chemical Release Reporting

Congress passed a law to help America's communities deal safely and effectively with the hazardous substances used throughout our society. The law is called the **Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act**. The law has two main purposes:

- to encourage and support emergency planning for responding to chemical accidents; and
- to provide local governments **and the public** with information about possible chemical hazards in their communities.

Immediate reporting must be made (within 15 minutes if possible) if there is a **spill or release** of an Extremely Hazardous Substance or a release of a CERCLA Hazardous Substance that exceeds the Reportable **Q**uantity. The following agencies must be **notified** and the report must contain the items identified in the regulations:

- **911**, call to report the emergency and get help
(not required by statute, however, this is always a good idea)
- **National Response Center (NRC)**, 1-800-424-8802, if it is a CERCLA chemical.
- State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), **Washington Emergency Management Division, 1-800-258-5990**. Contact the SERCs for all states that could potentially be affected by release.
- **Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)**, notify all LEPCs that could potentially be affected by the release. Phoning 911 may satisfy this requirement if the county is set up this way, it may not satisfy the requirements for notification of other LEPCs potentially affected by the release.

Report a spill or release within 15 minutes if possible.
No penalties for reporting a spill or release unnecessarily.
Significant penalties possible for not reporting a spill or release.

Written Follow-up Reports are required under **EPCRA SECTION 304(c)** and must be submitted within 30 days of a spill or release. The report must contain items in the regulations. Submit reports to:

- Department of Ecology
Washington State Emergency Response Commission
Community Right-to-know Unit
P.O. Box 47659
Attn: Sadie Whitener
- **LEPCs** affected by the release must receive a written follow-up report.

WHEN MORE THAN ONE STATE OR LEPC IS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY A SPILL OR RELEASE, EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND WRITTEN FOLLOW-UPS MUST BE MADE TO ALL SERCs AND LEPCs POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE SPILL OR RELEASE.

The List of Lists-Consolidated List of Chemicals Subject to EPCRA, CERCLA and Section 112(r) of the CAA- was prepared to help firms handling chemicals determine (for a specific chemical) whether they may be subject to reporting requirements.

<http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/tools.htm#lol>

Industry, interested citizens, environmental and other public-interest organizations, and government at all levels must work together to reduce the risk to the public from releases of toxic chemicals into the environment.

http://www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/epcra/washington_release_reporting_guide.pdf