

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Franklin County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan (HMEP) was developed by the LEPC Planning Sub-Committee with support from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Department and Regional Preparedness Program. The HMEP serves several purposes. First, statutory requirements require all LEPCs to develop, exercise and annually review a hazardous materials emergency plan. Second, no regionally focused planning tool existed to describe and analyze hazardous threats in Franklin County. Third, a regional plan was needed to standardize hazardous materials release reporting, notification and response.

The Franklin County Regional HMEP is a planning and guidance document that provides resources and recommendations for the development of individual community plans (ICP). It is the responsibility of each community to detail local response activities.

Major Concepts and Components of the Regional HMEP include:

- **An Action Guide for Field Use and Plan Reference**
- **A Hazard Analysis that includes fixed facilities and roads/rail for Pre-Event Planning**
- **Standardized concept of operations for emergency response using the three (3) Response Level Criteria**
- **Institutionalization of the Incident Command System**
- **Guidance on how and when to request assistance from the District HAZMAT Team.**
- **Institutionalization of protocols for needed local, state and federal notification**
- **The newly developed Resource Directory for emergency response**
- **A clearinghouse of contact information for all Franklin County towns, agencies and persons that may be involved in a hazardous materials emergency.**

Again, all communities in the Franklin County LEPC should develop their own concepts based on these recommendations within existing emergency procedures.

On the following pages you will find summary information from the HMEP including Objectives, Organization, and Concept of Operations.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the **Franklin County REPC, Massachusetts Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan** are to:

1. Describe the regional courses of action that will minimize hazards to life and result in adverse impacts upon the environment from the release of a hazardous material.
2. Recommend procedures to activate and provide for a coordinated effort by the state, communities and private industry within the region in response to a hazardous materials emergency.
3. Identify regional emergency response organizations, equipment and other resources, that can be utilized during a hazardous materials incident.
4. Provide a mechanism (e.g.: Incident Command) to integrate community and facility response procedures to be implemented immediately upon a Declaration of an Emergency.
5. Facilitate annual exercises and training with all members of the LEPC.

ORGANIZATION

The organization of the **Franklin County REPC, Massachusetts** Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan is as follows:

- A. The basic plan describes general information about the purpose and scope of this hazardous materials emergency plan and system. **Community specific information will be found in the HAZMAT plans of the individual communities.**
- B. The descriptions of the known (reported) hazardous chemical facilities, and transportation routes in the communities covered by the REPC will be found in the **hazard analysis portion of this Plan.**
- C. The REPC plan is then divided into functional Annexes. General information and procedures as well as Emergency HAZMAT resources will be found in the REPC HAZMAT plan. **Community specific information beyond what is found in this Plan will be found in the HAZMAT plans of each community.**

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

The protection of the health and welfare of the residents of **REPC's area** must be managed at the local level. Assistance from other communities within the REPC and the State will be provided when requested, or in cases where a hazardous material emergency exceeds the capability of local

response resources. **REPC communities should develop their own concepts within existing emergency procedures.**

Hazardous materials emergencies can range from small fuel spills to large-scale releases requiring major evacuations and cause other problems. For purposes of consistency, the following response level definitions have been developed for this plan:

Response Level Criteria

Level 1 – Controlled Emergency Condition

- .. Incident that can be controlled by the primary first response agencies of a local jurisdiction
- .. Single jurisdiction and limited agency involvement
- .. Does not require evacuation, except for the structure or affected facility
- .. Confined geographic area
- .. No immediate threat to life, health or property

Level 2 – Limited Emergency

- .. Potential threat to life, health or property
- .. Expanded geographic scope
- .. Limited evacuation of nearby residents or facilities
- .. Involvement of one, two, three, or more jurisdictions
- .. Limited participation or mutual aid from agencies that do not routinely respond to emergency incidents in the area
- .. Specialist or technical team is called to the scene
- .. Combined emergency operation such as fire fighting and evacuation, or containment and emergency medical care

Level 3 – Full Emergency Condition

- .. Serious hazard or severe threat to life, health and property
- .. Large geographic impact
- .. Major community evacuation
- .. Multi-jurisdictional involvement
- .. State and Federal involvement
- .. Specialists and technical teams deployed
- .. Extensive resource management and allocation
- .. Multiple emergency operations

