



Alabama Emergency Response Commission (AERC) Updates

The AERC met on March 30th and October 24th of this year. The Red Cross and the Alabama Farmer's Cooperative were our guest speakers. Recordings of the AERC meetings can be found on [ADEM's YouTube channel](#).

The AERC would like to encourage facilities to utilize several resources available to keep you informed on EPCRA related updates:

- Subscribe to relevant EPA news bulletins: <https://www.epa.gov/newsroom/email-subscriptions-epa-news-releases>
- Sign up for the EPA monthly SERC-TERC newsletter: <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/serc-terc-monthly-updates>
- National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) has free webinars and a host of resources on their website: <https://nasttpo.com/>
- CISA's ChemLock program is a voluntary program that provides no-cost services to facilities that possess chemicals to help them better understand the risks they face and improve their chemical security posture. <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/programs/chemlock>

The popular hazmat response app, WISER, was discontinued in February 2023. The AERC would like to highlight some resources available for hazmat planning and response. Some of these resources are only available to responders, but we are including them for those facilities who serve in a hazmat response capacity in their communities.

- [Chemical Companion / Emergency Response Decision Support System \(ERDSS\)](#) available as a tablet app & desktop program. ERDSS provides first responders with decision support for hazardous environments contaminated with chemical agents.
- [Chemical Hazards Emergency Medical Management \(CHEMM\)](#), available as desktop program. CHEMM enables first responders, first receivers, other healthcare providers, and planners to plan for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of mass-casualty incidents involving chemicals. It provides a comprehensive, user-friendly, web-based resource that is also downloadable in advance, so that it would be available during an event if the internet is not accessible. There are also resources available for [writing emergency response plans](#).
- [Radiation Emergency Medical Management \(REMM\)](#), available as a mobile app. REMM provides guidance on diagnosis and treatment of radiological emergencies for healthcare providers. They also provide resources for [facilities](#) that deal with radiation and may be exposed to a radiological event.
- [Emergency Response Guidebook \(ERG\)](#), available as a downloadable document & mobile app. The ERG helps responders deal with hazmat transportation accidents during the critical first 30 minutes. Great resource for facilities to plan for transportation incidents that may occur on-site.
- [CAMEO Chemicals](#), available as a website, mobile app, tablet app, & downloadable software. The website allows you to search for information about chemicals, including their regulatory information. It allows you to predict reactivity of chemicals should they be mixed.

Please note that Beth Woodfin is now Beth Donaldson and her e-mail address/contact information on our website will soon be updated. Please be sure to update your contacts.

If you have any questions, concerns, or topics that need to be brought up at the next AERC meeting, please contact [Beth Donaldson](#).

*This newsletter is distributed via e-mail for ease of distribution and to reduce paper waste. Any words in blue throughout this document are hyperlinks that can be clicked on for additional information. The link will open in a different window. Sometimes popup blockers will disable links from opening. If this occurs, hold down the "CTRL" button while clicking on the hyperlink to bypass this issue. If you need further assistance, contact [Beth Donaldson](#). Please feel free to forward this information to other stakeholders. *

Regulatory Updates



- The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) released its final report on a flammable vapor explosion and fire at the Yenkin-Majestic facility in Columbus, OH, on April 8, 2021. One employee died during the incident, and eight other workers were injured. The CSB's [final report](#) makes several important safety recommendations to Yenkin-Majestics, as well as to professional and trade associations.
 - EPA has finalized a rule that improves TRI reporting of PFAS by eliminating the de minimis exemption that allowed facilities to avoid reporting information on PFAS when those chemicals were used in small concentrations. PFAS are used at low concentrations in many products, and as a result of removing this reporting exemption, facilities in TRI-covered industry sectors that make or use any of the 189 TRI-listed PFAS, will no longer be able to avoid disclosing the quantities of PFAS they manage or release into the environment. The rule also makes the de minimis exemption unavailable for purposes of supplier notification requirements to downstream facilities for all chemicals on the list of chemicals of special concern, which also includes additional chemicals that, like PFAS, remain in the environment for long periods of time. This change helps ensure that purchasers of mixtures and trade name products containing these chemicals are informed of their presence in mixtures and products they purchase. For more details, see <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/changes-tri-reporting-requirements-and-polyfluoroalkyl>. (This language was taken from the EPA's [SERC-TERC November Newsletter](#).)
 - CERCLA and EPCRA Reporting Requirements for Air Releases of Hazardous Substances from Animal Waste at Farms is being reconsidered by the EPA. Keep up-to-date by checking the [EPA's website](#).
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Reminders



- The ADEM [SARA Title III Webpage](#) is updated periodically throughout the year and contains FAQs and useful information on EPCRA reporting requirements.
 - The AERC requires all EPCRA correspondence to be submitted electronically either through AL312@adem.alabama.gov or [E-Plan](#). The only two acceptable forms of submission for Tier II reporting to the AERC are [Tier2Submit](#) or [E-Plan](#).
 - For all EPCRA reporting, you must also check with your LEPC and Local Fire Department (if applicable) to see what format they require for compliance. Retain proof-of-receipt from all three entities.
 - Tier II forms are due by March 1st. All forms received after March 1st are considered late.
 - Verify all street addresses as well as latitude and longitude coordinates! If you do not have a street address, please register a 911 address so that First Responders can easily locate your facility.
 - Please note: if you submit a Tier II form that is lacking any required categories/fields or contains inaccurate information, it can be considered invalid and rejected. If a document is rejected, please make accurate and timely corrections as soon as possible, and resubmit.
 - If using Tier2Submit to file a Tier II form, be sure to download the latest version from the [EPA's website](#).
 - TRI forms are due July 1st and must be filed through EPA's [TRI-MEweb](#) system.
 - Please note if you are filing a Trade Secret form for the TRI, you must mail the sanitized form to ADEM. This is the only EPCRA form that is allowed and required to be submitted by paper. Please do not include unsanitized forms. Address to SARA Title III Coordinator at 1350 Coliseum Blvd. Montgomery, AL 36110.
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Training Opportunities



- E-Plan offers free [webinars](#) in January and February.
- Tier2Submit 2023 tutorial is available [here](#).
- Free [resources](#) for creating emergency response planning for facilities.
- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) ChemLock program provides the *ChemLock: Secure Your Chemicals Security Planning Training Course, Virtual*. This course walks through how to create a tailored, scalable security plan that meets the business model and unique circumstances of a facility. Participants will learn the key elements of a chemical security plan and benefit from examples, lessons learned, and best practices. The course runs 2-3 hours in length and is designed to help leadership, facility security personnel, and other applicable personnel understand, develop, and implement a facility security plan.
 - [Register for February 6, 2024 - 2-5 pm ET](#)

- [Register for May 6, 2024 - 12-3 pm ET](#)
- *ChemLock: Introduction to Chemical Security Training Course, Virtual*. This course provides an introduction to identifying, assessing, evaluating, and mitigating chemical security risks. This easy-to-understand overview identifies key components and best practices of chemical security awareness and planning to help kickstart chemical security discussions at a facility. This course runs 1-2 hours in length and is appropriate for all personnel regardless of their level of involvement with dangerous chemicals.
 - [Register for January 10, 2024 - 2-4 pm ET](#)
 - [Register for April 8, 2024 - 12-2 pm ET](#)
- For more information or to request a specific training for your facility, please visit the [ChemLock Training webpage](#).

Voices from Industry

Voices from Industry is a segment that allows industry representatives to suggest a topic that might be valuable to others. This year's article requester would like to remain anonymous, they wanted to highlight the importance of OSHA's Safe State Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Program. The following information was pulled from the Safe State Program's [website](#).

The Safe State Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Program is a free, confidential service provided by The University of Alabama to employers throughout Alabama.

At your invitation, Safe State consultants will come to your office or plant and perform a survey to advise you of existing or potential health and safety problems in your facility. Consultants will suggest general approaches or options for solving those problems and provide you with a written report summarizing the findings of the visit. If additional resources or expertise are needed, consultants will help you to identify potential sources. Safe State consultants are trained, qualified, and have the experience needed to provide quality safety and health guidance to Alabama industries. Most have graduate degrees and certifications granted by professional organizations.

A safe and healthy workplace will reduce your cost of doing business and contribute to your return on investment in both the short and long term. The Safe State Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Program is designed to help employers control costs by reducing accidents, illnesses, and problems with regulatory compliance. This cooperative agreement program is 90% funded by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and 10% by state of Alabama.

As a condition, you, the employer, must agree to:

- Correct all identified serious hazards that could result in injury and/or illness to your employees,
- Post a list of identified serious hazards in a prominent location readily observable by all affected employees for at least 3 days or until the hazards are corrected, whichever is longer.

Consultants will not:

- Issue citations or propose penalties for violations of OSHA standards,
- Guarantee that any workplace will pass an OSHA inspection,
- Prescribe specific engineering designs,
- Recommend specific firms to solve problems,
- Report possible violations to OSHA enforcement staff (unless the employer refuses or fails to correct a hazard within an agreeable time frame).

To schedule a free on-site consultation, click [here](#). For questions or more information, call 855-517-3347.

Safe State offers a plethora of health and safety training throughout the year. Click [here](#) to see a list of training and conference opportunities for 2024.

If you have a topic that you think should be included in the next issue of the newsletter, please submit all suggestions to [Beth Donaldson](#). Topic suggestions can remain anonymous. All ideas are welcome for consideration.