



Kent Co. Emergency Planning Committee  
 Kent Co. Sheriff's Department  
 Office of Emergency Management  
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**TO:** Sheriff Lawrence A. Stelma  
 Roger Morgan, Chairman, Kent County Board of Commissioners

**FROM:** Deborah Alderink, Chairperson, Kent County LEPC

**DATE:** January 27, 2009

**RE:** 2008 Annual Report

This year, the Kent County LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) completed 4 new offsite response plans and 237 existing plans were revised. A total of 241 offsite response plans were approved in 2008. Since the inception of the program, more than 295 plans have been completed. This year, 8 plans were removed from our list as they no longer have extremely hazardous substances over the threshold planning quantity at their site, or because the facilities have gone out of business.

The following table shows our performance over the last nine years:

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
<b>New Plans Completed:</b>	4	11	8	12	8	8	4	16	36
<b>Plans Revised:</b>	237	231	227	241	231	223	148	124	122

CAMEO (Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations) continues to be an integral part of each plan. In October 2008, Kent County received a grant from the State of Michigan to have access to a web-based program, Tier II Manager. This program allows facilities with hazardous materials to report their chemical information which is due each March online. The program allows us access to this database as well as a GIS mapping function. The State of Michigan is in the process of adding Special Populations' information. We have begun to attach our offsite response plans to this website and will continue this process in 2008. Access will be provided to all fire departments, dispatch centers, hospitals, hazmat teams and health department within Kent County. We are hope that through this new capability we will become less dependent on paper to distribute our plans.

Our members continue to work on projects using the subcommittee structure. On May 6, 2008, the Exercise Design Subcommittee held their annual exercise. The exercise location was UAP Distribution, Inc. in Sparta Township and simulated a release of several pesticides from a delivery truck located in the loading bay. Sparta Fire Department was the first responder with assistance from the Regional Response Team which provided hazardous materials response, Life EMS, and Kent County Sheriff Dept. UAP Distribution was a pleasure to work with and they were grateful to have been able to participate in this event with us. This exercise helped build a strong government/industry bond. The LEPC always schedules the annual exercise during Chemical Awareness Week. On November 6, 2008 we held a tabletop exercise at Spartan Stores. In September management staff from Spartan Stores approached the Kent County LEPC

and asked if they could please have an exercise to test both external and internal response plans to a release of Anhydrous Ammonia from their refrigeration unit. We commend Spartan Stores administration for being proactive regarding the safety of their employees as well as the surrounding community.

The Industry Outreach Subcommittee put on their annual workshop on October 10 at the Grand Rapids Community College Applied Technology Center. Once again the space for the workshop was donated and Univar USA covered the cost of the refreshments. The workshop was entitled "When Seconds Count ...Is Your Organization Prepared?" and was aimed at businesses and industry in Kent County which have hazardous chemicals. We had 120 persons register to attend. Evaluations from the workshop were very favorable and numerous suggestions were made regarding future topics they would like for similar events. The only issue that seemed to come up again and again was the limited parking at this facility. Next year we will look for a new location with ample free parking.

The Plan Review Subcommittee reads each and every plan or plan revision each month to ensure that the plan is current and accurate. On a sad note, Retired Grand Rapids Township Fire Chief Bill Versluys, who was chair of this subcommittee, passed away in November. We would like to recognize Bill for all of his time and effort which he put into this work as well as his faithful 17 years of service as a member of the Kent County LEPC.

The Kent County and Grand Rapids LEPC continue to be the Kent County Citizen Corp Council. This Council oversees the activities of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC), Neighborhood Watch (NW), Volunteers In Policing (VIP) and the new Fire Corp program (within the Grand Rapids Fire Dept) in Kent County. The Council meets every other month and each program is asked to give an update at these meetings. The Program Director of the MRC sits on the Regional Citizen Corp subcommittee and is asked to provide information regarding grant activities. Kent County had 8 program coordinators participate in a Statewide Citizen Corp conference in November which was paid for using Federal grant funds.

In an effort to work more closely with the Grand Rapids LEPC both meetings are held on the same day, back to back, at the Kent County Sheriff Dept. The Grand Rapids LEPC provided their mailing list of businesses for the Industry Outreach workshop and covered the mailing to all potential participants. Talk has begun regarding having the Kent County LEPC cover the City of Grand Rapids as well.

On a quarterly basis, we continue to provide all three of our HazMat Teams a CD which includes all of our site plans. Response to this effort has been very favorable.

The LEPC provides the public with information regarding SARA Title III, Kent County LEPC activities, and copies of all our educational materials on the web at [www.accesskent.com/lepc](http://www.accesskent.com/lepc). LEPC staff reviews and updates the information on the website. Throughout the year, Kent County Emergency Management staff makes presentations that include information about the Kent County LEPC.

A small amount of funding was received by the Kent County LEPC under the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant for 2007-2008.

The LEPC appreciates the fine cooperation it continues to have with local industrial and agricultural facilities in creating these comprehensive plans.

