



## **South Carolina Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Mission:**

“The mission of the South Carolina Emergency Response Commission (SERC) is to supervise and support the activities of the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) in each of the emergency planning districts or counties ensuring (1) that the plans in each district are adequately developed, maintained and exercised to facilitate an effective response to accidents and incidents involving hazardous materials and (2) to receive, process and report on chemical information received under the federal community right-to-know laws.”

South Carolina Emergency Response Commission Bylaws, July 2013

## **Compiled by the South Carolina Emergency Management Division**

### **SERC Activities**

The reporting period for this update is July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The SERC conducted two meetings this year: the first in June and the second in December. The SERC received briefings from representatives of several Federal and State Agencies as well as Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs).

The SERC chairman and several other members visited several LEPC meetings throughout the year. The SERC members reported on their LEPC visits at the two SERC meetings. Their comments and observations are recorded in the SERC minutes distributed after each SERC meeting. Additionally, the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) distributes LEPC meeting schedule updates to members of the SERC. These schedule updates were included in the SERC Newsletters and are also available on the SCEMD website at <https://scemd.org/em-professionals/training/calendar/>.

South Carolina now has all 46 counties with active LEPCs with 100% participation across the state. The regional LEPC concept continues to provide a viable option for small counties; 17 counties participate in one of five regional LEPCs in the State.

The SERC newsletter continues to be provided to all LEPC chairpersons. During the past year, five newsletters were published and distributed with contributions from the Southeast Region Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), SCEMD, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and other sources.

This year, the SERC implemented a new format for the annual report using a standardized template through an online webpage. This report is the first annual report created using this process.

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) continued to meet, share information and accomplish their missions this past year for the state and citizens of South Carolina. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020 and have caused deep impacts across the state. Community gatherings and government operations as well as the SERC and LEPCs have been affected. Guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and SCDHEC have caused meetings to be postponed or canceled and significantly reduced the number of



attendees. Our LEPC community, to include the SERC, has addressed these challenges by embracing technology and conducting meetings via internet platforms such as WebEx, Zoom, Microsoft Teams and others. Despite these challenges, the various committees continued to meet; however, the number of LEPC meetings, exercises and other sponsored events was reduced from previous years. This SERC Annual Report reflects the impacts of COVID-19 on South Carolina, but it also shows the result of our community working to overcome these challenges and continue to function.

Despite the challenges and changes that have resulted from the national response to COVID-19, South Carolina LEPCs have reported positive results. The total number of members of LEPCs in all 46 counties was reported at 2,015 for 2020. There were a total of 28 exercises and 132 training events conducted, along with a total of 80 meetings held throughout the year.



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

After a process of reconsidering several parts of the 2017 Risk Management Plan (RMP) program amendments, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a final rule on December 19, 2019. Within the final reconsideration rule, the EPA rescinded portions of the 2017 amendments it deemed no longer reasonable or practicable. The EPA largely left unchanged portions of the RMP amendments rule relating to local emergency coordination, emergency response exercises, and public meetings.

Currently, the only major provision that has a compliance date is the requirement to periodically coordinate with local emergency responders and document engagement activities. The coordination activities must be conducted annually. Regulated facilities are required to maintain an up-to-date emergency response plan, updated emergency contact information, and any other information that is necessary for developing and implementing the local emergency response plan. The next major compliance date occurs on March 15, 2021, and requires regulated facilities to conduct public meetings within 90 days of any RMP reportable accident with offsite impacts. These meetings are required to provide information to the public about the accident including chemical release information, on-and off-site impacts, contributing factors, and operational or process changes that resulted from the incident investigation. Through 2026, future compliance provisions within the RMP reconsideration rule include developing an emergency response exercise program in coordination with local public emergency response officials and implementing the program to include periodic notification, tabletop, and field emergency response exercises.

Over the next few years, we expect these regulated facilities to be in contact with their local response officials to coordinate their plans, exercise programs, and possible public meetings to meet these new requirements. If you have any questions about the new RMP rule changes, please visit the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/rmp/final-risk-management-program-rmp-reconsideration-rule> or contact Bryan Nichols at 803-898-0341.



### **Abbeville County:**

Abbeville County’s LEPC addresses all forms of hazards and not just hazardous materials. As our committee continues to mature, stakeholders have been asked to begin thinking of specific needs of the community and participating organizations. Executive positions have been appointed, and meetings are scheduled in 2021 to allow for additional participation. In addition, Abbeville County will conduct a full scale exercise involving local industry to reinforce the value of planning and preparedness.

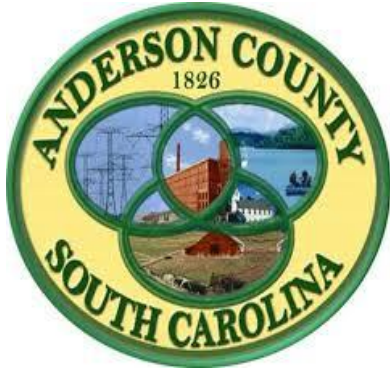
Total LEPC Membership	50	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	1
Number of Exercises Conducted	1	Number of Meetings Conducted	3
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	3	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### **Accomplishments**

1. Conducted outreach to Abbeville County Tier II reporting organizations for increased participation.
2. Conducted outreach to the whole community for increased participation in the LEPC.
3. Planned, prepared, and conducted an exercise with LEPC partners.

### **Goals**

1. Continue to outreach for increased LEPC partnerships.
2. Work to sustain and continue LEPC activities within COVID-19 environment and considerations.
3. Use the LEPC as planning committee for development of a hazmat plan for Abbeville County.



**Anderson County:**

The Anderson County LEPC meets every other month focusing on an all-hazards approach. Currently, the Tier II entities are on a fee schedule to help sustain hazmat response, training, and other basic costs of LEPC operation. Meetings are held at various locations around Anderson County to provide visibility of stakeholder operations and build strong planning and response capabilities.

Total LEPC Membership	110	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	12
Number of Exercised Conducted	3	Number of Meetings Conducted	6
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	No

**Accomplishments**

1. Established a new payment system for the Tier II fee collection, which includes online payment options with the ability to check payment status online.
2. Meetings are now held at local industries with tours to follow to allow for other companies to see what safety practices are put in place in other industries to potentially help others make safer decisions in their businesses.
3. Implemented web-based meetings to continue activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Updated the LEPC on plans for the O'Dell oil company fuel farm in Belton, SC.

**Goals**

1. Establish a mobile system for web-based and in-person meetings to allow for the options of others to join who cannot participate in person.
2. Establish an ad hoc committee to update the method of late fee collection and notification for those who may be late on payment.
3. Create an interactive environment for LEPC members to become more engaged in planning and preparation activities for potential hazardous material incidents or disasters.



### Beaufort County

Despite limitations due to the COVID-19 response, the Beaufort County LEPC remained active throughout the past year with emphasis on hazmat team preparation and response capabilities. Longtime Hazmat Coordinator, Louise Murray, retired in June 2020. The LEPC focus for 2021 will continue to be on hazmat team readiness and interaction with local businesses to facilitate hazmat compliance.

Total LEPC Membership	17	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	2
Number of Exercises Conducted	2	Number of Meetings Conducted	2
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	No

### Accomplishments

1. Maintained relationships with businesses for hazmat renewals and registration for local business.
2. Supported Beaufort County hazmat team with hazmat response training for new and updated techniques.
3. Identified new businesses and those that were not compliant with hazmat registration and provided the proper regulations and rules for compliance.

### Goals

1. Maintain current hazmat registrations and identify new business as well as those who are not in compliance.
2. Support the county hazmat team to maintain proficiency.
3. Continue to SARA Title III for public awareness and plan training with U.S. Coast Guard activities regarding the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.



### Berkeley County

The Berkeley County LEPC meets bi-monthly and has worked the last year to grow its membership by actively engaging members of the community. Currently the LEPC has robust subcommittees that have worked on LEPC hazardous materials response plans, executed numerous exercises, and worked to promote outreach among the community. In the next year, it will focus on tracking improvement plans from past exercises and continued community outreach.

Total LEPC Membership	30	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	0
Number of Exercises Conducted	3	Number of Meetings Conducted	8
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	4	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. LEPC response plan / hazmat plan creation and validation with TTX in June 2020.
2. Continued exercise / training schedule with improvement plan tracking quarterly activities. The COVID-19 situation had canceled multiple Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant funded training sessions.
3. The creation of public relations / community outreach subcommittee.

### Goals

1. To continue the public / community outreach.
2. To continue the improvement plan tracking quarterly.
3. To continue the training / exercise schedule.
4. Conduct the organization bylaw and LEPC response plan revisions.
5. Facilitate the LEPC involvement in county-wide full-scale exercise (FSE).
6. To continue the recruitment of Emergency Services members.
7. To continue the development of medical points of dispensing initiative for business / industry.



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### Calhoun County

The Calhoun LEPC continues to grow and expand its membership. Volunteers Active in Disasters (VOAD) member organizations have been added to LEPC membership to establish better county partnerships. Calhoun LEPC meets twice a year in May and November. The meetings allow members to share best practices, learn about other organizations, and train on current issues.

Total LEPC Membership	15	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	1
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	1
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

None. The scheduled meeting for 2020 was canceled due to COVID-19.

### Goals

The LEPC will focus on increasing more participation from companies.



### Charleston County

The Charleston County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was organized to fulfill the requirements of the federal regulations regarding Title III of the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. The organization is composed of concerned citizens, representatives of industry, and emergency services. The LEPC seeks to formulate a partnership between its diverse members to prepare the County to withstand the effects of hazardous materials emergencies through planning and exercising the comprehensive emergency action plan.

The Charleston County EMD coordinates with the LEPC for hazardous materials planning and emergency response. EMD also coordinates the "Knox Box" program and receives Tier II Chemical Inventory Reports on behalf of the LEPC. Meetings are open to the public and held the second Wednesday of every other month.

Total LEPC Membership	250	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	1
Number of Exercises Conducted	1	Number of Meetings Conducted	6
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	3	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. The Boeing facility provided the setting for the May meeting. Those members in attendance were provided a tour of the facility, which highlighted its capabilities and resources.
2. Provided a workshop that included active participation by numerous business partners and governmental agencies. There has been increased interaction and collaboration between facilities that store hazardous materials and their local emergency responders.
3. Provided numerous hazmat training opportunities and equipment for classes to first responders, businesses, and members of the LEPC.

### Goals

1. Continue to formulate a partnership between the diverse members of the LEPC to prepare the County to withstand the effects of hazardous materials emergencies through planning and exercising of a comprehensive emergency action plan.
2. Continue building response capabilities for major incidents, especially those related to hazmat.
3. Sponsor training classes and purchase training equipment for first responders. Focus on recruitment, more active participation and involvement by local industry and enhanced communications and coordination among LEPC partners to strengthen the role of the LEPC and encourage participation.
4. Sustain community outreach and continue to provide information and guidance on risk management planning to the numerous facilities within Charleston County.





### Cherokee County

Cherokee County has an active LEPC that meets quarterly with approximately thirty-five (35) individuals. Highlights of the 2019-2020 include the re-election of LEPC Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary, Cherokee County Active Shooter Exercise, and the FEMA evaluation of their Catawba Reception Center/Congregate Care facility. Goals for the 2019-2020 year included increasing member participation, outreach to new companies, and increased member participation. This participation from local medical facilities, county first responder agencies, state agencies, and private enterprise ensure that the Cherokee County LEPC is an organization that undertakes a whole community approach to local emergency planning.

Total LEPC Membership	34	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	2
Number of Exercises Conducted	1	Number of Meetings Conducted	3
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	1	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. Conducted full scale active shooter exercise in December 2019.
2. Applied for and received HMEP grant, which allowed 10 persons to receive ICS training.

### Goals

1. Add more training opportunities.
2. Conduct outreach to new companies for LEPC membership.
3. Increase the attendance at LEPC meetings.



### Chester County

The Chester County LEPC used the yearly HMEP grant to train area responders on responses to hazardous materials transportation incidents that pose a threat to the residents of Chester County. Chemical plants or facilities that use hazardous materials are selected as training sites for these exercises for two purposes: (1) provide responding agencies familiarity with facility layouts and potential hazards of the facility, and (2) provide responding agencies face-to-face contact with facility officials who will be their key contacts if called to respond to that location. Collaboration between exercise

planners and the facility is vital to produce a realistic exercise that provides the needed training to responders and plant personnel. These exercises also give the facility documented training that they use to fulfill their corporate safety program requirements. Their exercise cycle included FEMA evaluation of their Catawba Reception Center/Congregate Care facility plans.

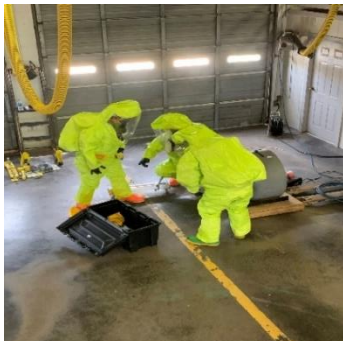
Total LEPC Membership	45	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	3
Number of Exercises Conducted	1	Number of Meetings Conducted	3
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	2	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. The County EMD updated Chester County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
2. The LEPC held its yearly hazardous materials transportation exercise.
3. The LEPC maintained facility contact and exercise training during COVID-19 restrictions by use of virtual meetings.

### Goals

1. Hold yearly hazardous materials transportation exercise.
2. Conduct quarterly hazmat training with county technicians and team.
3. Conduct quarterly tours of county chemical facilities with hazmat team and LEPC members.



Chester County Hazmat training on a 1 ton cylinder leak situation.



### Chesterfield County



Chad Arant is the EMD director, and he has assigned Assistant Director Clay Kerns to manage the operations of the LEPC. Chesterfield’s LEPC is primarily based on first responder agencies in the county. LEPC meetings occur in the county EOC. Chesterfield, like most LEPCs, faced a difficult time this year with meetings. It normally conducts quarterly meetings, and this year conducted meetings in August, November, and February before cancelling in-person meetings due to COVID-19. In May 2020, the LEPC conducted a virtual meeting where members discussed county COVID-19 protocols and PPE issues. The LEPC continued with virtual meetings during the rest of 2020.

Total LEPC Membership	23	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	4
Number of Exercised Conducted	4	Number of Meetings Conducted	4
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	1	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. The LEPC was able to establish / update contact info for all members of LEPC.
2. Continued holding meetings despite COVID-19 via Webex.
3. Advised members of resources available through the EOC and how to obtain them if needed.

### Goals

1. The LEPC will become more involved in the community.
2. The LEPC will increase industry involvement.



### Clarendon County

The Sumter/Clarendon/Lee LEPC was formed to serve the Tri-County area in 2018. The LEPC meets twice a year and is working on growing its membership by welcoming additional stakeholders in the three counties. The LEPC is exploring new subcommittees and programs to engage the community in its outreach program.

Total LEPC Membership	10	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	0
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	0
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	No

### Accomplishments

Established regional partnership with the Sumter and Lee county LEPCs to move forward in a joint LEPC program to share resources and membership information.

### Goals

1. The LEPC will establish subcommittees.
2. The LEPC will conduct more meetings.
3. The LEPC will continue and increase outreach and planning.



### Colleton County

The Colleton County LEPC exists to drive continual improvement on issues relating to community health and safety by acting as a conduit for the flow of knowledge with the purpose of better preparing citizens, private industry, and local emergency response agencies for all hazardous emergency situations.

Total LEPC Membership	21	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	3
Number of Exercises Conducted	2	Number of Meetings Conducted	3
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	No

### Accomplishments

1. Reviewed Commodity Study with local stakeholders.
2. Identified hazardous materials response capability shortfalls.
3. Completed Bleeding Control (BCON) training in all schools, courthouse, and county offices. Placed BCON kits in those facilities.

### Goals

1. The LEPC will continue procuring speakers that will inform LEPC members.
2. The LEPC will enhance response capabilities through responder training.
3. The LEPC will exercise hazmat response with realistic field exercises and table top exercises.



Janet Laney, Colleton County Deputy Emergency Manager, conducting Bleeding Control (BCON tourniquet) training with Colleton County Department Directors



### Darlington County

Darlington has a strong LEPC made up of both first responder agencies and local businesses to bring together diverse groups into a cohesive organization.

The LEPC meets quarterly in the County Council chambers in the Public Safety building. Meetings occurred in August, December and February before having to cancel meetings due to COVID-19.

Total LEPC Membership	50	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	1
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	3
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. The LEPC increased meeting attendance by membership from 28% in the previous year to 50% in the current year.
2. Recruited more partners in the commerce field for a better all-hazards approach.
3. Received presentations on SkyWarn from NWS, the state Fusion Center from SLED, and business continuity from the SC Commerce Department.

### Goals

1. Increase meeting attendance of membership by 5% at each meeting in the upcoming year.
2. Recruit more educational institution partners. We currently have two organizations represented and would like to recruit five more.
3. Plan an introductory tabletop exercise (TTX) for commerce partners by May 2021.



### Dillon County

The Dillon County Local Emergency Planning Committee meets bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday. Meetings include informative presentations from different departments, agencies, and organizations. Dillon began canceling LEPC meetings in March of 2020 due to COVID-19 and does not plan to start again until 2021.

Total LEPC Membership	60	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	0
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	1
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	No

### Accomplishments

Due to COVID-19, Dillon County has only conducted one meeting in January 2020 and has not completed any accomplishments. The LEPC plans to return to normal bi-monthly meetings beginning in January 2021 either in person or virtually and looks forward to working towards their goals in 2021.

### Goals

1. Preparedness through public relations and keeping members up to date on changes on Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).
2. Election of the chairperson. The chairperson is no longer with us. The LEPC is seeking nominations for the position.
3. Plan improvement in the county by providing hazardous material training to fire departments.



### Dorchester County

The Dorchester Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is appointed by the State Emergency Response Commission. The committee implements the Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (SARA Title III/EPCRA). The LEPC works with private businesses to identify and monitor existing chemical hazards within the County.

The mission of the LEPC is to:

- Develop and maintain a comprehensive emergency plan for the community
- Receive information about accidental chemical releases
- Annually update the information about chemicals stored or used by local facilities
- Collect, manage, and provide public access to information on hazardous chemicals in the area
- Support the local fire department and emergency response teams
- Educate the public about risks from accidental and routine releases of chemicals and work with facilities to minimize risks

Dorchester County LEPC continues to have increased participation and growth in membership since forming in 2010. The LEPC has built solid relationships with local industry, which has allowed meetings to be held on-site at partner facilities. Dorchester County LEPC continues to meet bi-monthly and produces a newsletter with a community spotlight to engage the community.

Total LEPC Membership	150	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	2
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	1
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	No

### Accomplishments

1. Finalized a schedule that will allow for LEPC engagement every month.
2. The Dorchester County LEPC newsletter was started.
3. Scheduled meetings to take place at industry partners facilities. Each host industry would give a tour and short presentation on how it runs its facility.

### Goals

1. Conduct and evaluate at least one online exercise (an additional in person exercise is an additional goal).
2. Begin the community spotlight section of the Dorchester County LEPC Newsletter to engage community partners with each other.
3. Conduct virtual tours of industry partner facilities and discuss their emergency plans.





### **CSRA LEPC – McCormick, Edgefield, Barnwell, and Aiken counties**

The Central Savannah River Area LEPC has worked over the past four years to provide small and medium-sized counties with an opportunity to sustain an operational committee. Regular meetings in each of the four participating counties have brought stakeholders from a variety of private and public entities together. The group has worked to use federal funding for training, hazard vulnerability studies, and exercises. As the committee continues to work on sustainment and participation, future plans for a website and outreach committees remain top priorities.

### **Regional LEPC – Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) combined data**

Total LEPC Membership	30	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	1
Number of Exercises Conducted	1	Number of Meetings Conducted	2
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	No

### **Accomplishments**

1. Sustain LEPC membership and outreach through web-site development.
2. Working on completion of self-evaluation through completion of the LEPC report card from the SCEMD website.
3. Work with partner agencies to utilize and conduct training with apparatus purchased with HMEP funding.

### **Goals**

1. Return to an active meeting schedule of LEPC in a COVID-19 environment with all partners involved.
2. Conduct basic classes as approved by the SC Fire Academy through the use of HMEP grant funding.
3. Increase the participation from LEPC membership with sustain committee activities.



## Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) (continued)

Photos of LEPC meeting; LEPC exercise; and training equipment purchased with HMEP grant funds.





### Florence County

Florence is one of the strongest LEPCs in the Pee Dee region. It meets quarterly and attempts to visit as many industrial partners' locations as it can. The LEPC met twice in 2019 (July and October) before canceling meetings due to COVID-19. At this time, it has not resumed meetings.

Total LEPC Membership	50	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	2
Number of Exercises Conducted	1	Number of Meetings Conducted	2
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	1	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. Florence County LEPC, along with the Florence County Emergency Response Team (FCERT) and Windy Hill Volunteer Fire Company (WHVFC), funded, designed, and built a hazardous materials training platform that contains six different training props. This will allow the LEPC to conduct numerous scenarios as well as train new technicians.
2. Florence County Emergency Response Team conducted a Hazardous Materials Technician course for Windy Hill Volunteer Fire Company to better prepare for hazmat incidents within the county. Approximately 20 fire fighters participated in the training, which was provided over several months. The training culminated in an exercise conducted at Thermo Fisher Scientific. Refresher training will be conducted on a quarterly basis.
3. Florence County Emergency Response Team (FCERT) along with Windy Hill Volunteer Fire Company (WHVFC), conducted a hazmat response exercise with Thermo Fisher Scientific. Thermo Fisher's hazmat team members and WHVFC integrated with FCERT to conduct a three-hour drill in response to a simulated anhydrous ammonia leak.
4. Local industry donated supplies through the Florence County Emergency Management Division (FCEMD) to area hospitals and emergency responders to assist with the demands of the response to COVID-19. Supplies donated include N95 masks, N95 and P100 filters for half-face respirators and disinfectants.

### Goals

1. The LEPC will train more fire departments on hazardous materials response.
2. The LEPC will conduct more exercises with industries that handle hazardous materials on site.



## Florence County (continued)

### Photos

Hazmat Tech training with Windy Hill Volunteer Fire Company using a hazmat training prop funded with Tier II payments from local industry.



Conducting refresher training with county hazmat technicians. This technical decontamination line was funded with Tier II payments from local industry.





### Georgetown County

The Georgetown County LEPC continues to support a whole community approach by including not only traditional LEPC members but also community organizations and regional partners. The Georgetown LEPC encompasses not just tier II facilities but embraces an all-hazards mentality and recognizes that hazardous material incidents can be primary or secondary due to other threats in the community. The LEPC continues to meet quarterly and looks forward to improving its training and exercises in the upcoming year.

Total LEPC Membership	155	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	5
Number of Exercises Conducted	1	Number of Meetings Conducted	5
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	6	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. Countywide resource inventory was updated.
2. Training and exercise goals were identified.
3. The LEPC developed a business and industry task force for emergency planning and response (facilitated via conference call during the COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricane Isaias).

### Goals

1. The LEPC will enhance the hazard vulnerability analysis related to Tier II facilities throughout the county.
2. The LEPC will enhance the resource database and gap analysis.
3. The LEPC will focus on training and exercise development.

**Greenville County**



The Greenville County LEPC strives to develop emergency plans to educate, communicate, and protect the local community in case of a hazardous materials emergency. In addition, the LEPC also collects inventories of regulated chemicals each year. The role of the LEPC is to form partnerships with local industries and governments as a resource for enhancing hazardous materials preparedness. Members of the LEPC come from the public and private sectors and are familiar with environmental and public safety issues. The LEPC also plays a role in community education, providing information regarding citizen response to hazardous materials incidents, health and environmental planning, and environmental risks.

The Greenville County LEPC continues to have informative and well-attended meetings each quarter. Executive committees and active planning have kept relationships with local industry and government agencies healthy and on the rise. Greenville County implements a Tier II fee schedule for all required partners to sustain response, training, and equipment needs as well as support of community awareness initiatives. The committee has longstanding, well-developed partnerships countywide.

Total LEPC Membership	92	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	3
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	3
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

**Accomplishments**

1. Sponsored an active shooter response training event.
2. Sponsored an ammonia safety training class.
3. Sponsored a live power line demonstration and safety training with Duke Energy.

**Goals**

1. Offer more training opportunities.
2. Purchase needed hazmat equipment to support the county EOP.



# LEPC

Local Emergency Planning Committee

### Greenwood County

**Mission** - Greenwood County LEPC plays a critical role in the development of a comprehensive strategy to address hazardous material incidents in support of the countywide Emergency Operations Plan.

**Vision** - We as the LEPC are committed to prepare for response and recovery from hazardous material incidents in order to protect the lives, property and the environment in which we live and to create a safer future through effective partnerships.

The Greenwood County LEPC has been successful in sustainment and activity over the past three years. Local full scale exercises and routine meetings have proven to bring new partnerships into this all-hazard committee. Strong support from local industry and local government agencies has allowed for development of plans, inclusion of new partners, and visibility of various activities going on around Greenwood County. The committee continues to push forward with exercise and planning agendas for 2021.

Total LEPC Membership	96	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	1
Number of Exercises Conducted	1	Number of Meetings Conducted	3
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	2	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. Conducted a full scale hazmat exercise in November of 2019.
2. Completed and validated Emergency Response Plan.
3. Averaged 30 individuals and 17 different entities at each meeting.

### Goals

1. Coordinate a household hazmat collection day.
2. Review and update coordinated response plans with all LEPC entities.
3. Expand outreach to other entities within Greenwood County to join LEPC.



## Greenwood County (continued)

Greenwood County LEPC exercise photos: incident container with hazmat spill; patient transfer to the EMS crew; hazmat team spill entry; and personal decontamination process.







## ALLENDALE COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA



### Lowcountry Regional LEPC – Hampton, Allendale, Bamberg, and Jasper

The Lowcountry Regional LEPC established several programmatic goals for 2020, but efforts were hindered by COVID-19 response and back-to-back catastrophic events (February floods and April tornadoes). A single training meeting was conducted in February to improve understanding of E-Plan software and program. A leader’s planning meeting in November has set the agenda for advancing the 2020 goals into 2021.

Total LEPC Membership	10	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	1
Number of Exercises Conducted	1	Number of Meetings Conducted	1
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	3	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

Hampton County held an active shooter exercise on January 17, 2020.

The LEPC has not been able to meet due to COVID-19 and other disasters that have happened in our areas.

### Goals

Hold a virtual LEPC Meeting late October or early November.

Address new objectives and invite local industries to participate in LEPC Meeting.



### Horry County

The Horry County LEPC was formed to plan and prepare for hazardous materials emergencies. The committee is a volunteer organization with representatives from private industries along with emergency response agencies throughout Horry County. The group’s purpose is to develop and maintain a comprehensive emergency management plan to deal with hazardous materials incidents and to work with local facilities to minimize associated risks.

Horry has recently reorganized the LEPC. It is attempting to build membership and interest in the organization. The LEPC meets twice a year at the County EOC. It met once in October 2019 but canceled the second meeting scheduled for April due to COVID-19. They have continued this year with virtual meetings focusing on continued responses to COVID-19 outbreak and the 2020 hurricane season.

Total LEPC Membership	120	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	0
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	1
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	No

### Accomplishments

The LEPC meeting was held in April, however the second meeting was canceled due to COVID-19 impacts.

### Goals

Restart meetings either virtually or in person due to the due to the COVID-19 impacts.



### Kershaw County

The membership of the Kershaw LEPC includes local first responders and representatives from industries in the county. The LEPC meets twice a year in May and November.

Total LEPC Membership	20	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	0
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	0
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	1	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. Worked with agencies on policies for COVID-19 response.
2. Successful response to the tornado at North Central High School on January 11, 2020.
3. Staff member completed E-Plan software training (The Edge Training) October 2019.

### Goals

1. Encourage prevention by providing public information on the causes of hazard material accidents.
2. Encourage preparedness through the development of emergency response plans by entities handling, manufacturing, storing, transporting or disposing of hazardous chemicals.
3. Encourage planning for emergencies by making training available to first responders, business, and members of the LEPC.



## Lancaster County



A Local Emergency Planning Committee, or LEPC, is a voluntary organization which is established in an Emergency Planning District designated by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC).

Both the SERC and the LEPCs were established to meet the requirements of the Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), also known as the Superfund Amendments and Re-authorization Act (SARA, Title III), for emergency response planning.

Total LEPC Membership	55	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	1
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	2
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

## Accomplishments

1. Lancaster County LEPC's objective for the 2019-2020 year was to continue building response capability for major incidents, especially those related to hazmat. Partnerships among LEPC members and between the membership and Lancaster County Emergency Management were utilized to establish a training and security exercise program to strengthen the role of the LEPC and make participation more meaningful to both the membership and the community. A highlight of the 2019-2020 exercise cycle included FEMA evaluation of their Catawba Reception Center/Congregate Care facility plans.
2. Provided direct support to a new business in the county and assisted them with the Tier II reporting process. This business is now an active member of the LEPC.
3. Utilized LEPC meetings to share operational awareness of preparedness for and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The LEPC brought in a U.S. Department of Homeland Security representative to provide awareness training to LEPC members regarding the chemical facility security program.

## Goals

1. Increase public awareness and outreach efforts, starting with web-based platforms during the 4th calendar quarter 2020.
2. Create a subcommittee within 1st calendar quarter 2021 for training and exercise planning for LEPC membership.
3. Integrate the LEPC into the planning process for the upcoming five-year update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.



### Laurens County

The mission of the Laurens County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is to protect the community from harmful and possibly life-threatening effects of a hazardous materials release by developing and implementing policies and procedures for complying with the Emergency Planning and Right-to-Know Act ( EPCRA ), Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA Title III).

The LEPC consists of representatives from the following groups: elected officials, law enforcement, emergency management, fire service, emergency medical service, public health, hospitals, transportation, environmental organizations, community groups, facility owner/operators, and the media. The Executive Committee consists of the LPEC chairperson, LEPC coordinator, and the chairpersons for each subcommittee. The Executive Committee meets at the request of any member of the committee.

Laurens County has an active LEPC, which meets bi-monthly excluding the months of June and July. These meetings average approximately 50 attendees from county and city agencies, industries, schools, state agencies, and other organizations within the county. Laurens County incorporates an all-hazards approach to the LEPC meetings, which brings together a diverse group of individuals who share knowledge and information to enhance preparedness, response, and recovery. A broad range of topics are presented and discussed at each meeting, varying from mental health programs, industry information, weather updates, DHEC concerns, upcoming events within the county, and other topics helpful for planning purposes.

Total LEPC Membership	50	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	6
Number of Exercises Conducted	1	Number of Meetings Conducted	6
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	1	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. Applied for and received a HEMPG Grant.
2. Conducted functional exercise at the Whitten Center.
3. Conducted outreach to new industrial facilities in area.

### Goals

1. Increase attendance at meetings.
2. Continue outreach to new industries.
3. Conduct annual exercise.



### Lee County

Lee has recently joined with Sumter and Clarendon to form a regional LEPC. This group’s plan is to meet quarterly. This regional group is in its organizational stage.

Total LEPC Membership	10	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	0
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	0
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	No

### Accomplishments

1. Planning to get Clarendon County, Sumter County, and Lee County back together again in January 2021 because of COVID-19 during the past year.

### Goals

1. The LEPC will work on its bylaws.
2. The LEPC will continue work on COVID-19 response and recovery activities.
3. The regional LEPC will focus on electing a chairperson.



### Lexington and Richland Joint LEPC



Lexington and Richland counties collaborated to revitalize a regional Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) in 2019. The Executive Committee of the regional LEPC continue to discuss the structure of the committee. Meetings will be conducted quarterly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in February, May, August, and November. Meetings will be held at various locations throughout Lexington and Richland counties. Two of the quarterly meetings will focus on training and the other two meetings will focus on exercises and resource inventory. Membership will require attendance of at least two quarterly meetings annually.

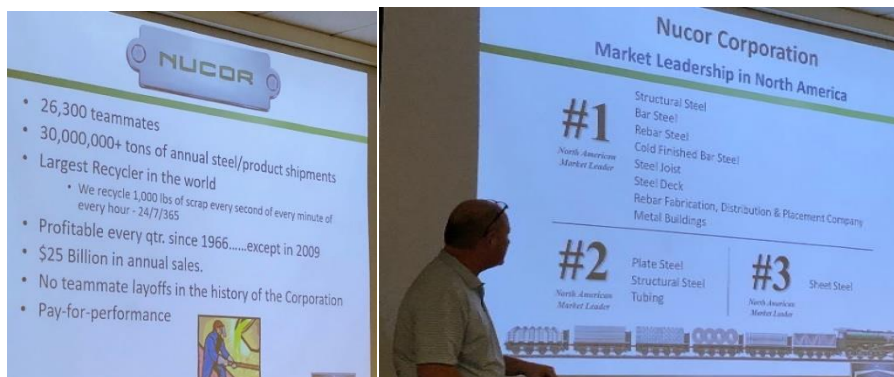
Total LEPC Membership	93	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	0
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	2
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	4	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. The LEPC has increased its membership.
2. The February 6, 2020 meeting was well-attended and prompted many other businesses to inquire about hosting future meetings.
3. Good feedback was received from businesses regarding topics they would be interested in having the LEPC cover at future meetings.

### Goals

1. Continue to expand the LEPC membership.
2. Conduct (4) quarterly meetings (1st Thursday- Feb., May, Aug., Nov.).



LEPC meeting with briefing by Nucor Corporation



### Marion County

The Marion LEPC is in a reorganization phase. The LEPC had planned to meet quarterly. After a preliminary meeting in January 2019, the LEPC suffered the following set-backs: coronavirus response; COVID-19 impacted county functions; and retirement of the County Emergency Manager in June 2020. So far, the LEPC has not scheduled a meeting. It is hopeful that it can reenergize the process in January of 2021.

Total LEPC Membership	14	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	1
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	1
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	No

### Accomplishments

1. The LEPC conducted a reorganization meeting attended by government and local industry partners.
2. Draft bylaws were written and coordination begun by the county EMD and Regional Emergency Coordinator.

### Goals

1. The group will begin the process with the new County Emergency Manager as they are able.





### Marlboro County

Marlboro LEPC is chaired by Emergency Management Director, Steve Akers, and meets quarterly at the Marlboro County Library Building. It met in September and December of 2019 before canceling in person meetings due to COVID-19. The LEPC is working remotely to give input to the county as it remodels and expands the current county EOC.

Total LEPC Membership	12	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	0
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	0
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	No

### Accomplishments

None were accomplished as the LEPC halted meetings due to the pandemic.

### Goals

Schedule and resume meetings even if they require virtual meetings.



### **Midlands Regional LEPC – (Newberry, Saluda, and Fairfield)**

Fairfield, Newberry, and Saluda counties formed the Central Midlands LEPC in 2016. The Central Midlands LEPC continues to focus on growing the membership to include more business and industry. Examples include Samsung and school partners. Building partnerships remains a key mission of the Central Midlands LEPC. Partner organizations bring a vast knowledge of different areas that continue to expand the knowledge base of the LEPC. The LEPC hosts meetings in September and February. The discussion topics included updates from members and presentation on a variety of topics.

Total LEPC Membership	30	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	0
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	2
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	No

### **Accomplishments**

1. Expanded membership.
2. Received grant for development of confined space team in Newberry County.
3. Improved communications with industries.

### **Goals**

1. Continue to expand membership.
2. Host an exercise.
3. Explore electing a chairman.



### Oconee County:

The Oconee County LEPC consists largely of response operations and is working with its outreach committee to gain partners in the private sector. The committee currently is an all-hazard and all-inclusive group that welcomes participation for government, industry, and the public. Through the years, exercises and various strategic partnerships have sustained this group. The new vision among the executive committee for 2021 promises to provide opportunities for outreach and growth in areas that will carry through the future and provide improved planning and preparedness for Oconee County.

Total LEPC Membership	90	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	5
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	2
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	4	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. Planning for exercise / COVID-19 caused delay of execution.
2. LEPC members supported emergency services during COVID-19 response with PPE and other needed items.
3. Membership recruitment and sustainment of current committee.

### Goals

1. Revisit the concept of an exercise for LEPC when routine meetings are established.
2. Recover normal LEPC activities post-COVID-19 response.



### Orangeburg County



The Orangeburg County LEPC has actively engaged healthcare and industry to provide resources for the county within the COVID-19 environment. The LEPC has seamlessly woven virtual training and exercises into its activities and is working to further establish partnerships with healthcare facilities. The LEPC continues to meet twice a year and anticipates a growth in membership in the next year.

Total LEPC Membership	28	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	4
Number of Exercises Conducted	1	Number of Meetings Conducted	1
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. The LEPC conducted partner outreach during COVID-19 planning and preparedness with extensive outreach to healthcare facilities within Orangeburg County.

### Goals

1. The LEPC will implement virtual meetings in the pandemic environment.
2. The LEPC will continue to collaborate on COVID-19 related issues.
3. The LEPC will continue training for hazmat response situations.



### Pickens County

The Pickens County LEPC is composed of members from government, local industry, fire, hazmat, law enforcement and volunteers. The LEPC maintains all reporting of hazardous chemicals used by industry or other operations within the County under the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III Federal program.

Pickens County has a growing LEPC and hosts quarterly meetings around the county to provide partners visibility of various public and private stakeholders' operational capabilities. Currently, executive positions are filled with plans to grow subcommittees that will promote outreach and planning. The committee has discussed a

fee-based system for Tier II participants and will bring ideas before county council for consideration to develop policy on this initiative.

Total LEPC Membership	55	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	1
Number of Exercised Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	3
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. Completed a Hazardous and Capability /Gap Assessment.
2. Incorporated the Commodity Flow Study done in 2018 into the Hazardous Materials and Capability /Gap Assessment to create standard operating guidelines for the hazmat team.

### Goals

1. Hazmat team training utilizing the new standard operating guidelines and incorporating training with Tier II facilities.



### **Photo**

On March 10, 2020, Pickens County Special Operations Team (hazmat, technical rescue, water response, field communications and medical special operations group (paramedics) conducted a meet-and-greet recruiting meeting with firemen and EMS around the county. Each team consisted of five groups of 10 personnel, spending 20 minutes with each team to learn the dynamics of what they do and the equipment they have. The Special Operations Team incorporates all teams together for training and responding to incidents around the county.



### Spartanburg County

The Spartanburg County LEPC continues to experience growth while carrying out many initiatives. In 2019-2020, the LEPC continued its Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) initiative, contacting all Tier II contacts to encourage membership, assisting with and participating in free training/exercise opportunities with our members (active shooter drill, Stop the Bleed, TEEX courses, etc.), and it continues to play an integral part in the Community Emergency Preparedness Day. As the LEPC continues to grow, it continues to offer training opportunities to LEPC members.

The LEPC continues to witness gradual growth and attempts to keep its membership engaged in preparedness/response training. In addition to the physical HVA site assessments, hazmat teams offer free HVA modeling to every Tier II reporting and LEPC member – a few members of the LEPC have taken advantage of this free service. Overall, Spartanburg County LEPC continues to build good partnerships between private, public, and non-profit entities and looks forward to what the next fiscal year will hold.

Total LEPC Membership	65	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	63
Number of Exercises Conducted	1	Number of Meetings Conducted	2
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	4	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. Other than June, maintained in-person LEPC meetings this year.
2. Despite COVID-19, continued to utilize HMEP funded training supplies in weekly hazmat trainings (63 this year - 7 per month, lost 3 months due to COVID-19, open to LEPC members).
3. Partnered with LEPC members during COVID-19 to address early needs of the county.

### Goals

1. The LEPC plans on meeting every quarter.
2. Plan and conduct enhanced hazmat training and sustain current skills/ capabilities.
3. Continue partnerships and training opportunities with LEPC members.



### Sumter County

The Sumter/Clarendon/Lee LEPC was formed to serve the Tri-County area in 2018. The LEPC meets twice a year and is working on growing its membership by welcoming additional stakeholders in the three counties. The LEPC is exploring new subcommittees and programs to engage the community in its outreach program.

Total LEPC Membership	10	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	0
Number of Exercised Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	0
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	No

### Accomplishments

1. Combined Clarendon County, Lee County, and Sumter County into one group.
2. The combined LEPC will assist the Tri-County region to better serve the community.

### Goals

1. Establish subcommittees.
2. Have more meetings and do more outreach and planning.



### Union County

Union County LEPC’s primary goal for 2019-2020 was to increase community participation, provide public information, and encourage preparedness by utilizing emergency response plans and growing the LEPC. Additional goals included identification of the needs of the community, determining contributions of each member, and providing expectations of the LEPC. Quarterly meetings have been maintained and participation has slightly increased with each meeting. A highlight of the 2019-2020 exercise cycle included FEMA evaluation of Catawba Reception Center/Congregate Care facility plans.

Total LEPC Membership	10	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	2
Number of Exercises Conducted	1	Number of Meetings Conducted	2
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	No

### Accomplishments

Experienced limitations as a result of the COVID-19 ongoing response operations.

### Goals

Resume meetings on a quarterly basis.





### Williamsburg County

Williamsburg County LEPC has engaged local businesses and industry to provide resources for the county. The LEPC continues to meet twice a year and anticipates a growth in membership in the next year. The LEPC is incorporating virtual training in a COVID-19 environment and is working to establish new partnerships to provide a broader span of capabilities across the county.

Total LEPC Membership	19	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	3
Number of Exercises Conducted	2	Number of Meetings Conducted	2
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	1	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. Conducted training for search and rescue teams.
2. Established resource for the county through local businesses mutual aid.

### Goals

1. Build membership.
2. Establish more resources for the county.
3. Incorporate virtual training during the current pandemic response.



### York County

The focus of the York County LEPC is to share resources among members. Members are encouraged to invite other businesses to attend. Meeting objectives for 2019-2020 year were to increase community participation, expand the membership of the York County LEPC, and FEMA evaluation of two Catawba Nuclear Station Emergency Worker Decontamination sites. Finally, an election was held for chairman, vice chairman and secretary this year.

Total LEPC Membership	36	Number of LEPC Training Sessions	1
Number of Exercises Conducted	0	Number of Meetings Conducted	1
Number of Subcommittees active in 2020	0	Does this LEPC Committee have an Outreach and Planning Subcommittee	Yes

### Accomplishments

1. Revitalization of the York County LEPC.
2. Established a base group for the LEPC.
3. Expanded the LEPC beyond the base group status post LEPC meeting via word of mouth. The York County LEPC had planned on meeting at the beginning of 2020, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings have been postponed until it is reasonable for the LEPC to meet again.

### Goals

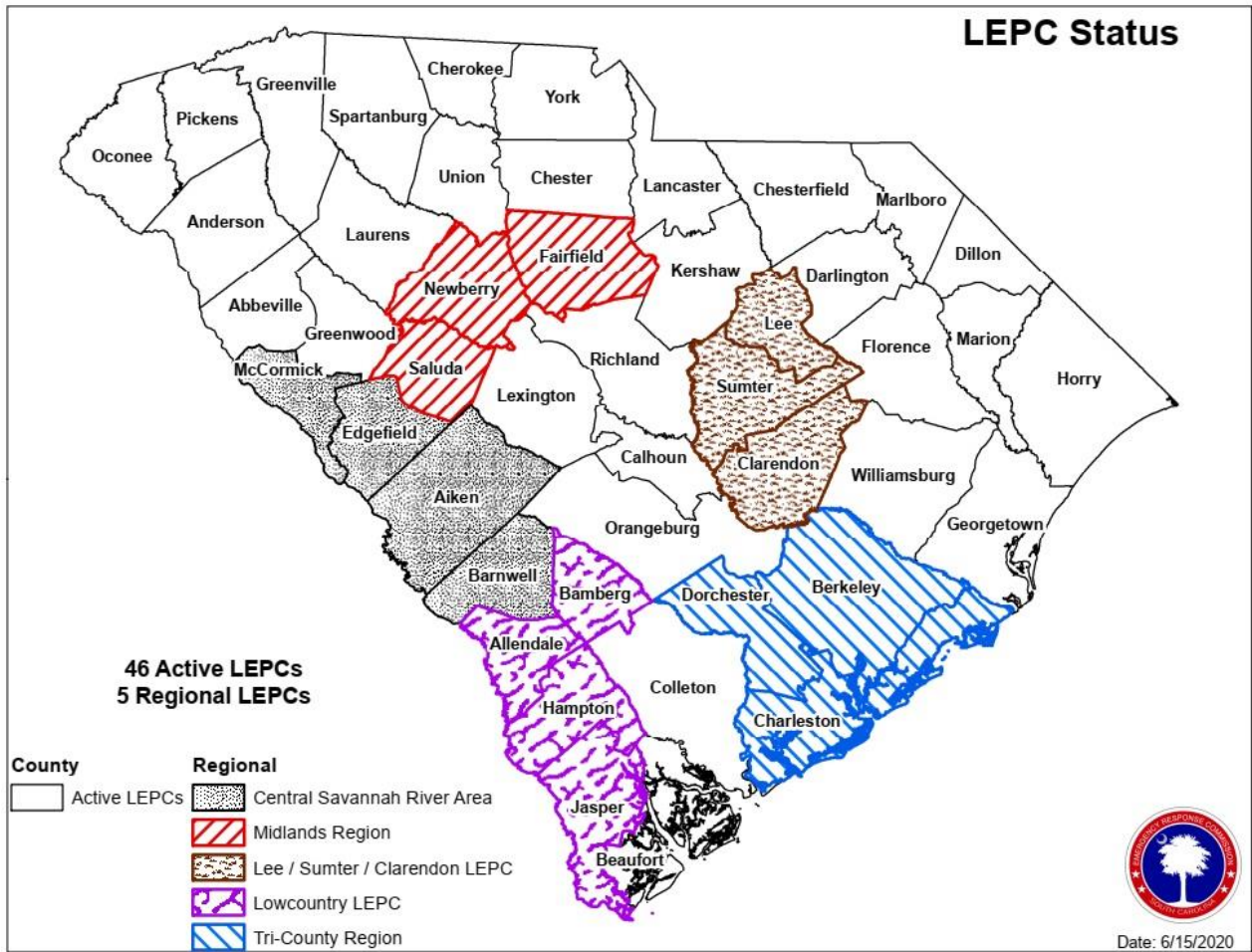
Establish an LEPC Leadership Group that will take ownership of the LEPC and guide the meetings and trainings in a direction that will be beneficial across the multiple vocations involved in the York County LEPC.



## York County LEPC (Continued)



- Word of mouth still works. Numerous organizations took part in the York County LEPC.
- The initial invite list for the York County LEPC was not nearly as extensive as the group that turned out was.
- Officer Blankenship of the Fort Mill Police Department gave an informative presentation on active shooter/active violence incidents.



The South Carolina Emergency Response Commission (SERC) bylaws state that LEPC status and information will be collected in an annual report to the SERC. The reporting period for this report is July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The report preparation process begins in August each year and is presented in draft to the SERC not later than the December meeting.

