

Community Safety

Emergency Planning Response & Outreach

(CS - EPRO)



Introduction

The Community Safety - Emergency Planning Response and Outreach (CS - EPRO) program is designed to create community training in preparing for over the road, rail and pipeline Hazardous Materials (HazMat) and other emergency incidents, especially in rural areas. Communities will collaborate in developing knowledge and capabilities on how to plan for and operate at these events. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) will be the targeted audience. This program will assist this group with education, tools, and resources to actively implement this program within their communities.

The ability of all community stakeholders to have a role in emergency preparedness is a foundation for community resilience and risk reduction. Creating an atmosphere where stakeholders have identified roles, resources, and responsibilities before an emergency is critical.

Mission and Goals

The mission of the CS - EPRO is to prepare communities on how to plan and respond to threatening incidents. For example, there are a growing number of community leaders and residents who do not have the knowledge on evacuation orders, when to shelter in place, evacuation route options and situational/safety awareness practices. The CS - EPRO program will address these concerns and provide adequate education and evacuation resources, uniform and consistent evacuation terminology model practices, notification ability and re-entry procedures that are needed so residents can re-enter evacuated areas as early and safely as possible.

The objective of this program is to improve confidence that community risk reduction will provide a public solution through training by providing evidence-based recommendations to support progressive involvement to meet performance-driven solutions to transport hazards in the community.

CS - EPRO is a public education program with two core focus points:

- Help better educate first responders, local emergency planners, and LEPC's on community hazards and furnish them with the knowledge and tools to interact with members of their community.
- To stress and teach personal responsibility to those people who live within a community and incorporate them into the solution by educating them in the all-hazards approach to preparation, prevention, and action to take based on local authorities.

The Program Goals Include:

- Develop and execute a statistically meaningful sampling strategy that is founded in considerations for ‘known transportation conditions’ (e.g., number and type of hazards moving through the area, HazMat history, etc).
- Provide models for Community Risk Reduction:
 1. Conduct review of current the plan is available to determine if the plan is within the Standard of Practice.
 2. Performance practice: Is the current plan in practice.
 3. Determine the cost benefit using advanced analytical methods.
- Develop a “Whole Community Guide” to meet community needs, with relevant user information that encompasses their needs.
- Examine and interpret results—Check the plan as needed to explore performance capabilities and function of potential change factors (e.g., does plan work for this community to reduce risk vs. no plan or a plan with no rehearsal).
- Facilitate the adoption of research driven-findings (e.g., training classes, rehearsal in the community to reduce risk, establish an approach to Community Risk Reduction through local partners in the community, such as the chamber of commerce.)

Resources

Participants will have free access to: Implementation Guides, Briefing Documents, Best Practices, Webinars, Online Trainings, Risk Assessments, Community Assessment Forms, Action Guide to Provide to Residents, Talking Points to Engage Community Members, PowerPoint Templates for Speaking to the Communities, Case Studies, and Frequently Asked Questions.

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