

# MISSOURI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN



## Overview

The Missouri Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) plays an important part in protecting the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Through multi-agency cooperation, this plan integrates the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the Area Committee planning responsibilities at the local level. Some exceptional features of the plan include:

- A column in a quarterly newsletter, designed to keep members and the public informed of current initiatives;
- LEPCs working closely with the private sector to promote good relations, and educate the public on response activities; and
- LEPCs and the Missouri Emergency Response Commission updating the MEMP.

## Background

The MEMP encompasses all of Jefferson County, Missouri and adjacent areas of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. Both the rivers are major shipping routes with a high level of commercial and recreational boating activity. Millions of people enjoy recreational activities on these rivers and an incident of small proportions could have substantial implications for the local communities.

The MEMP was organized to protect the natural resources of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers by providing a comprehensive and effective emergency response plan. The plan is specifically designed to meet the needs of Jefferson County. It provides for a comprehensive inland waterway pollution response by combining federal, state, and local resources. Committee members are chosen by the Governor and represent fire fighters, law enforcement, the general public, state senators and representatives, and natural resource department officials.



### Planning Committee Profile

- Twenty-two members from local, state and federal areas
- Includes all levels of government, LEPCs, and industry
- Continuing communication between members of the sub-committees through phone, facsimiles, meetings, and e-mail

## Coordinated Planning Activities

The Missouri Emergency Response Commission (MERC) actively seeks to maintain a complete and effective emergency response plan. The MERC meets monthly, and members communicate frequently. The commission is divided into subcommittees that focus on functional areas of the plan (e.g., law enforcement, fire fighting). The MERC relies on the experience and training of the U.S. Coast Guard for general information and maintenance of the effective emergency response plan.

The MERC maintains a column in a quarterly newsletter that is distributed throughout the State. The group uses this newsletter to distribute information to various commission members and to the public. In addition to this newsletter, a web page is currently under construction, which will contain updated MEMP information. The MERC is also active in educating its members. Commission members frequently participate in LEPC meetings to keep abreast of changes and initiatives in local planning activities. Federal, state, local government, and industry issues are presented. All participants are able to see the overall plan and jurisdictional concerns are eliminated as they work towards a common goal.

**Coordination.** A major reason for the effectiveness of the MEMP is that it relies heavily on involvement from a diverse representation. Industry, law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical services, the forest service, and others actively participate in the plan. Members not only participate in activities and exercises, but also assist in reviewing and improving the plan with lessons learned. LEPCs also provide comments and recommended improvements for the plan. The MERC reviews all comments and suggestions as potential changes to the plan. The committee is also active in the private sector, fostering good relations with the community and educating the public on emergency response activities.

## Training and Exercises

**Exercises.** The MERC is developing a field exercise schedule. By coordinating with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the exercises will help the Committee evaluate potential environmental impacts from various incidents. In addition, hazardous material response teams conduct tabletop and field jurisdictional exercises with the LEPCs.

**Training.** A three-day training class has been developed that will include both classroom and hands-on training. The classroom training will address applicable response laws, equipment and resource availability, and documentation; while the field training will cover damming and diking techniques. The training will be used to evaluate and improve specific aspects of the plan.

**Lessons Learned.** While this plan has not been used in an actual incident to date, past case histories have been used in tabletop exercises, and the MEMP has been applied to solve those scenarios. Findings have been incorporated into the plan.

### Point of Contact



Bob Dopp  
 (573) 526-9237  
 Fax: (573) 526-9261  
 Missouri Emergency  
 Response Commission