

Local Government Hazardous Materials Control --
A Program That Works

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ABSTRACT

Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky has a comprehensive program for hazardous materials control based on realistic regulation and outstanding cooperation between industry and local government agencies. The success of the program is more noteworthy because the area of 700,000 population covered involves the major city of Louisville, a heavily populated unincorporated County area, and 93 small incorporated cities.

The political support for the program was generated after a series of hazardous materials incidents including a runaway chlorine gas barge, a sewer explosion and chemical contamination of the communities' major wastewater treatment plant.

Louisville and Jefferson County have the following elements in the program:

- o A totally integrated emergency response program which features outstanding coordination and cooperation between police, fire and other emergency response agencies which has resulted in uniform incident reporting (911), coordinated response to hazardous materials incidents through dispatched response teams, and annual training exercises.
- o In 1985, a hazardous materials ordinance was developed by a joint industry/government task force which provides for immediate spill reporting to local government, submission of spill plans for all hazardous materials users (over 1,600 submitted and approved), responsibility for clean-up, inspection of facilities and appropriate penalties for violations.