

## Emergency Planning

Small quantity generators (SQG) and large quantity generators (LQG) have specific requirements placed on them under RCRA so that they are prepared for emergencies involving hazardous waste. These requirements are recommended for conditionally-exempt small quantity generators but not required.

First, they must have an adequate internal alarm or communication system in place. Voice is Ok for small facilities.

Second, they must also designate an emergency coordinator and an alternate who is on the premises or on call at all times. Thus if an inspector shows up at your door when your emergency coordinator is on vacation and no one can answer his questions, you will be in violation of this requirement of RCRA.

Third, they must post emergency information by the phone. Employees should not have to go searching through a bunch of papers for the number of the local fire department when there is a chemical fire looming in the background. It should be right by the phone. This emergency information should include the name, office, and home phone numbers, and address of the emergency coordinator. Particular attention should be paid to outside hazardous waste sheds to make sure that employees can call for emergency assistance quickly and easily since in many cases there is no phone in the shed.

Fourth, SQGs and LQGs must ensure adequate aisle space for emergency response, adequate water for fire fighting, and have available properly maintained fire extinguishers and alarms, spill control material, and decontamination supplies.

Fifth, they must make advanced emergency arrangements with the police and fire departments, emergency response teams, equipment suppliers and emergency contractors, and hospitals.

Finally, LQGs only are required to prepare a written contingency plan which is designed to minimize hazards from fires, explosions, or any unplanned release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents into the environment. It is recommended for SQGs but not required. SQGs are only required to establish basic safety guidelines and response procedures. This written contingency plan must be kept on-site and an additional copy must be submitted to all local emergency service providers.

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