



The **ABCs**

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of **TRI**

*EPCRA Section 313  
Presentation Feb. 17, 2011  
Given by Michael Ardito, U.S. EPA*



# A is for ... Acronym

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**TRI = EPCRA 313**  
EPCRA = SARA TITLE III  
SERC LEPC TERC  
la la la la



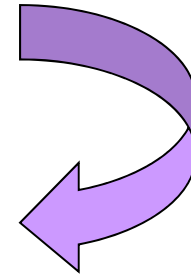
# EPCRA created TRI



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Emergency Planning Community  
Right-to-Know Act

Toxic Release Inventory  
(Section 313)



ABCs

# T. R. I.

- **T**oxic chemicals released by facilities
- **R**eleases reported by facilities to EPA
- **I**nventory publicly-available online



# TRI is also ...

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- **A** rich source of data
  - Ex. State of Arizona
    - 268 facilities
    - 884 chemical release reports

**A** starting point for analysis



**B** is for ...

Who? What?  
How? Why?  
When? Where?  
So what?

Break - it - Down





# Why TRI?

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It is **our right** to **know**  
what  
**toxic chemicals**  
are released  
in our **neighborhoods**.

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# Who must report?

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Any facility that meets all three criteria:

- ☑ TRI-listed industry
- ☑ 10 or more employee equivalents
- ☑ Above threshold for TRI chemicals



## When a facility meets all criteria ...

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- It must report TRI releases to the U.S. EPA and State.
- Deadline: July 1 (for prior calendar year)
- Failure to report or inaccurate reporting is enforceable.

# Which Industries?

- **Manufacturers** reporting since 1987
  - *Non-metal mining; chemical, food, drink, tobacco; wood, petroleum, plastics, etc.*
- **Federal facilities** started reporting in 1994
- **Seven industries added** in 1998.
- **No industries added** since 1998.

# Which Industries? (cont.)

- Seven industries added in 1998:
  - metal and coal mining
  - electricity generation
  - commercial hazardous waste treatment
  - solvent recovery
  - petroleum bulk terminals
  - wholesale chemical distributors
- Note: There is a petition process to *add* or *delete*

ABCs

# What chemicals are included?



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- Original list (1987) = 300 chemicals
- ↓
- More chemicals were **added** (or **deleted**)
- ↓
- Current list (2010) = almost 700 chemicals

■ *Note: There is a petition process to **add** or **delete***

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# What are the Thresholds?

- "Manufacture" 25,000 pounds
- "Process" 25,000 pounds
- "Otherwise use" 10,000 pounds
  
- Lower thresholds for PBTs
  - Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs)
  - Ex. Dioxin (1 gram); Mercury (10 pounds); Lead (100 pounds)

# What is a Release?



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- “Spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping or disposing into the environment ... of any toxic chemical”
- On-site and Off-site



# Releases

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On-site (at facility) releases of TRI chemicals to:

- Air
- Surface water
- Underground injection sites
- Land (e.g. landfills, piles)

Off-site “releases” = transfer of hazardous waste to disposal sites



# How Are Releases Reported?

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- **Form R** – detailed chemical release information

– or –

- **Form A** – chemical name only

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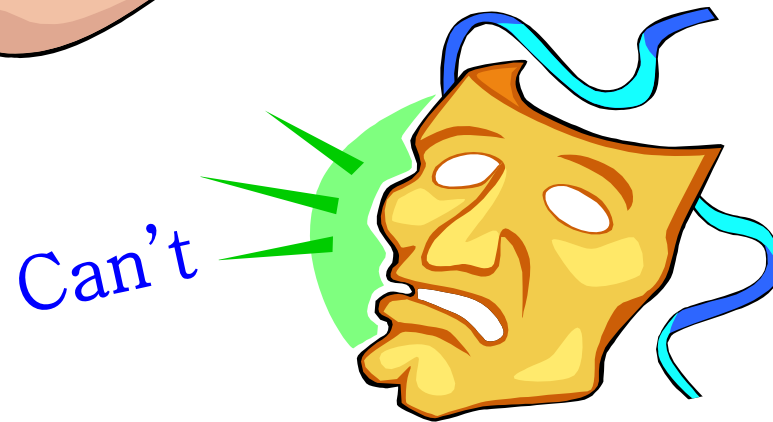


# Where Can I find TRI Data

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- To find TRI data, go to any of these links:
  - TRI data tools - [www.epa.gov/tri/tritools/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/tri/tritools/index.htm)
  - Envirofacts - [www.epa.gov/enviro/](http://www.epa.gov/enviro/)
  - TRI Explorer - [www.epa.gov/triexplorer/](http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer/)
  - TRI.net - [www.epa.gov/tri/tridotnet/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/tri/tridotnet/index.html)
  - TRI CHIP - [www.epa.gov/tri/tri-chip/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/tri/tri-chip/index.html)
- For information about the data, visit
  - [www.epa.gov/tri/tridata/indexdata.htm](http://www.epa.gov/tri/tridata/indexdata.htm)

# C is for ...





## TRI Can give you...

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- Publicly-available data online
- Tools and maps for analysis
- A starting point



# TRI Can't give you...

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- Information needed for **risk assessments**
  - Does not include exposure, toxicity, site conditions, high release days, demographic and external monitoring data.
- Toxic releases from **mobile** sources
- Facilities **below** threshold criteria



# Closing Points on TRI

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- ✓ Provides public with information and tools
- ✓ Available online
- ✓ Releases calculated by industry
- ✓ Enhance stewardship – “sunshine” effect
- ✓ Enforceable
- ✓ A starting point – combine with other data



# Who can help you at EPA?

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- TRI located in Region 9 Community and Ecosystem Division, Toxics Office
- TRI Team in Region 9:
  - Pat Maravilla, Team Leader, (maravilla.pat@epa.gov)
  - Russ Frazer ([frazer.russell@epa.gov](mailto:frazer.russell@epa.gov))
  - Barbara A. Thomas (thomas.barbaraa@epa.gov)