



The **ABCs**

of **TRI**

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



A is for ... Acronym

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

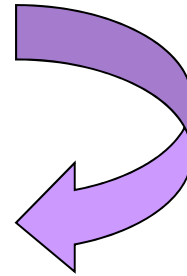


EPCRA created TRI



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 ...

- **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?

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

ABCs



Who must report?

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 ...

- 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?



- 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***

ABCs

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?



- “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

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?

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

– or –

- **Form A** – chemical name only

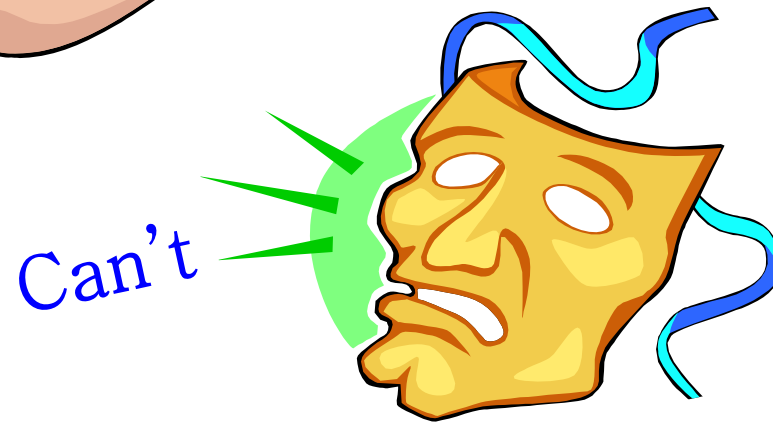
ABCs



Where Can I find TRI Data

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

C is for ...





TRI Can give you...

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



TRI Can't give you...

- 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

- ✓ 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?

- 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)
 - Barbara A. Thomas (thomas.barbaraa@epa.gov)