

**STATE  
EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE  
COMMISSION**

**2020 Annual Report**  
Oct 2019 - Sept 2020



**STATE EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE COMMISSION  
2020 Annual Report**

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Governor of New Mexico

**Bianca Ortiz Wertheim**  
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bureau/hazmat-program/](https://www.nmdhsem.org/preparedness-bureau/hazmat-program/)



Cover photos  
(top) Farmington Fire Department Training  
(bottom) Albuquerque Fire Department Fire Engine  
(back cover) Hazardous Materials Placards on Tanker

*Photographs used in this report are courtesy of the  
Local Emergency Planning Committees and Risk  
Management Planning Program facilities.*

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*Funding provided by: U.S. Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant*

**STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION  
2020 COMMISSION MEMBERS**

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Chair

**Mark Rowley, Captain**  
New Mexico State Police  
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**James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary**  
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Public Health

**Dr. Paul D. Felsher, Nuclear Physicist and Engineer**  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Federal Facilities

**Michael Wismer**  
Retired  
Public Health

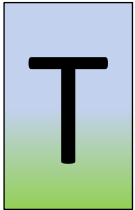
**Leo Jaramillo**  
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# 2020 SERC ANNUAL REPORT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The SERC 2020 Annual Report highlights the preparedness measures that hazardous material facilities, emergency planners and first responders utilize to protect New Mexico resident's and guests.

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) is part of Title III of the 1986 Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. This law enables the Governor of each state to appoint a SERC. The SERC is composed of seven members selected by the Governor to represent private industry, federal facilities, public health and public safety. Appointments are made for four year terms.

The SERC:

- (1) exercises supervisory authority to implement Title III within New Mexico;
- (2) prescribes all reporting forms required by the Hazardous Chemicals Information Act [74-4E-1 to 74-4E-9 NMSA 1978];
- (3) provides direction to the Hazardous Materials Safety Board;
- (4) reports periodically to the Radioactive And Hazardous Materials Committee; and
- (5) reports annually to the Governor and the legislature (this document).

The SERC's primary focus this year was to ensure New Mexico's first responders were provided with adequate training on updated guidelines, procedures and curriculum. The COVID crisis prevented many planned activities, while other activities were

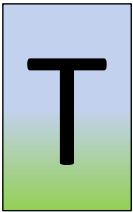
completed using such tools as Zoom and Google Teams.

The SERC also continued to provide technical assistance to hazardous material facilities for individual reporting requirements. The SERC focused primarily in 2020 on updating the New Mexico Hazardous Materials Emergency Response (HMER) Plan. Additionally, the SERC continued its efforts to work with Local Emergency Planning Committees LEPCs and Tribal Emergency Response Councils (TERCs) in order to provide a more accurate model of Tier II reporting (see page 8) throughout New Mexico. This was accomplished by creating and implementing DHSEM hosted webinars and 'LEPC 101' which welcomed 49 industry representatives through the conference software ZOOM. LEPC 101 is presented to facilities that store hazardous chemicals and file reports under the EPCRA (Tier II forms). The workshop helps facilities plan for chemical emergencies.

The Updated 2020 Emergency Response Guide (ERG) was also released this year. The SERC ensured that this very important hazardous materials reference manual was distributed to all first responders throughout the State.

A complete summary of the current landscape of hazardous materials in New Mexico is included in this Report.

# HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SAFETY BOARD



The Hazardous Materials Safety Board (HMSB), is comprised of the training officers of the responsible state agencies, which include the NM Fire Academy, the NM

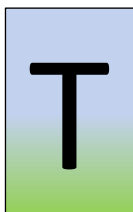
Department of Health, NM State Police, NM Department of Transportation, NM Environment Department, NM Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and all applicable local fire departments.

The HMSB is facilitated by the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Administrator, Julie Jolly. The Board is convened at the direction of the State Emergency Response commission, at least quarterly, to;

- (1) Review training needs of each responsible state agency;
- (2) Formulate a plan to meet those needs;
- (3) Establish state-wide hazardous materials training standards;
- (4) Conduct an annual comprehensive training course for all appropriate personnel from responsible state and local agencies; and
- (5) Prepare and submit to the SERC a budget for statewide training needs.



# LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEES (LEPC)



The SERC is charged to create Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) with members to be drawn from fields of public safety, health care and local industry.

In accordance with EPCRA, LEPCs are required to annually submit an emergency response plan to the SERC. Among other things, this plan identifies hazardous chemical storage and transportation, along with the procedures for emergency response, public notification, and evacuation in the event of accidental release, spill, or other chemical emergency.

EPCRA mandates that the hazardous chemical industry make information publicly available about its chemical processes, storage, emissions, and safety procedures. Facilities are required to report their hazardous chemical inventory each year to the SERC. Thus, the crucial element in LEPC data management is the annual facility chemical inventory data (EPCRA data).

New Mexico LEPCs are set up by county or are multi-county. Currently there are 33 counties

covered by 30 active LEPCs. The LEPCs are comprised of leaders from local fire, law enforcement, medical, media, government representatives, and business. From this collaboration, emergency response plans that outline local threats and vulnerabilities are constructed. These emergency plans describe how the local emergency response will be handled. Through planning and routine exercise, these plans are validated.



Las Cruces Fire Department Hazardous Materials Training

# LEPC CONTACT INFORMATION

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mpropp@tcnm.us  
Mat Propp, 505-544-4727

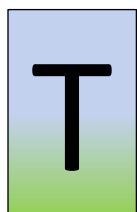
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emergencymgr@unionnm.us  
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Sarah Gillen, 505-866-2043

Albuquerque Fire Department  
Hazardous Materials Response Team



# HAZARDOUS MATERIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS



he responsibility of implementing the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Act (EPCRA) lies with the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) Hazardous Materials Program (HMP).

The HMP Coordinator is responsible for the management of the SERC, the Hazardous Materials Safety Board (HMSB), Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III compliance, and the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) program.

In an ongoing effort, the HMP Coordinator assists in managing outreach to LEPCs to ensure compliance programs are established and that training needs are addressed. Future plans for 2021 include updating the Tier II reporting process, through an online reporting alternative, and offering Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) training.

Facilities storing or handling chemicals are covered by (EPCRA) Sec 311. This means the facility must report if the chemical is 500 pounds or more for an Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS). All other hazardous chemicals must exceed 10,000 pounds or more. A listing of all other chemicals can be found on the EPA website under 40 CFR Part 355 appendices A & B.

Submission of a Tier II form is required under Section 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA). The purpose of this form is to provide State and local officials and the public with information on the general hazard types and locations of

hazardous chemicals present at a facility during the previous calendar year. Companies not found in compliance risk fines of up to \$5000 for each finding.

The Tier II inventory form used to report inventories provides the following information for each chemical:

- The chemical name or the common name as indicated on the Safety Data Sheet (SDS);
- An estimate (in ranges) of the maximum amount of the chemical present at any time during the preceding calendar year and the average daily amount;
- A brief description of the manner of storage of the chemical;
- The location of the chemical at the facility; and
- An indication of whether the owner elects to withhold location information from disclosure to the public.

New Mexico requires section 312 information be submitted by March 1<sup>st</sup> each year for information on chemicals present at the facility in the previous year. The information submitted under sections 311 and 312 is available to the public.

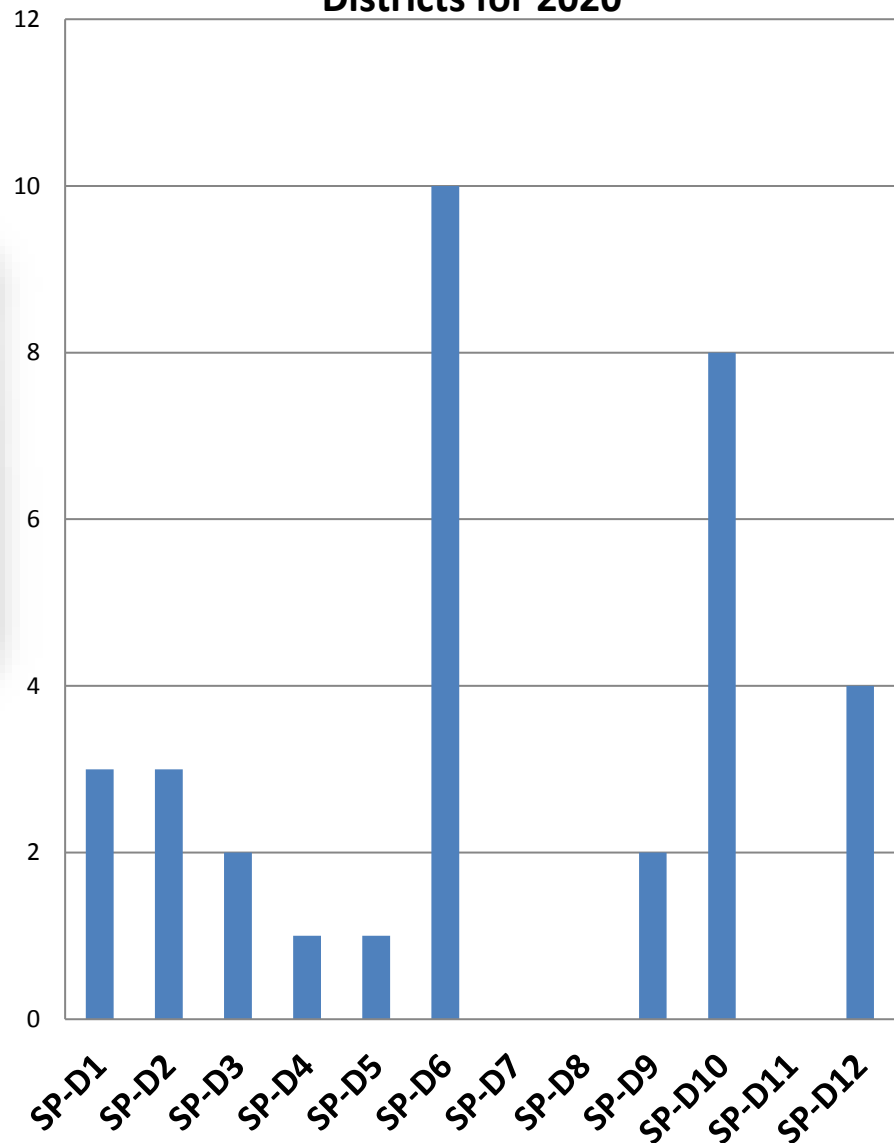
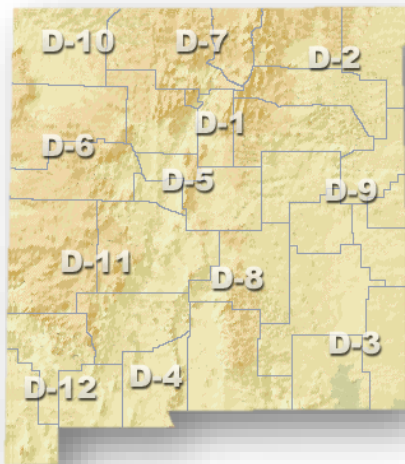




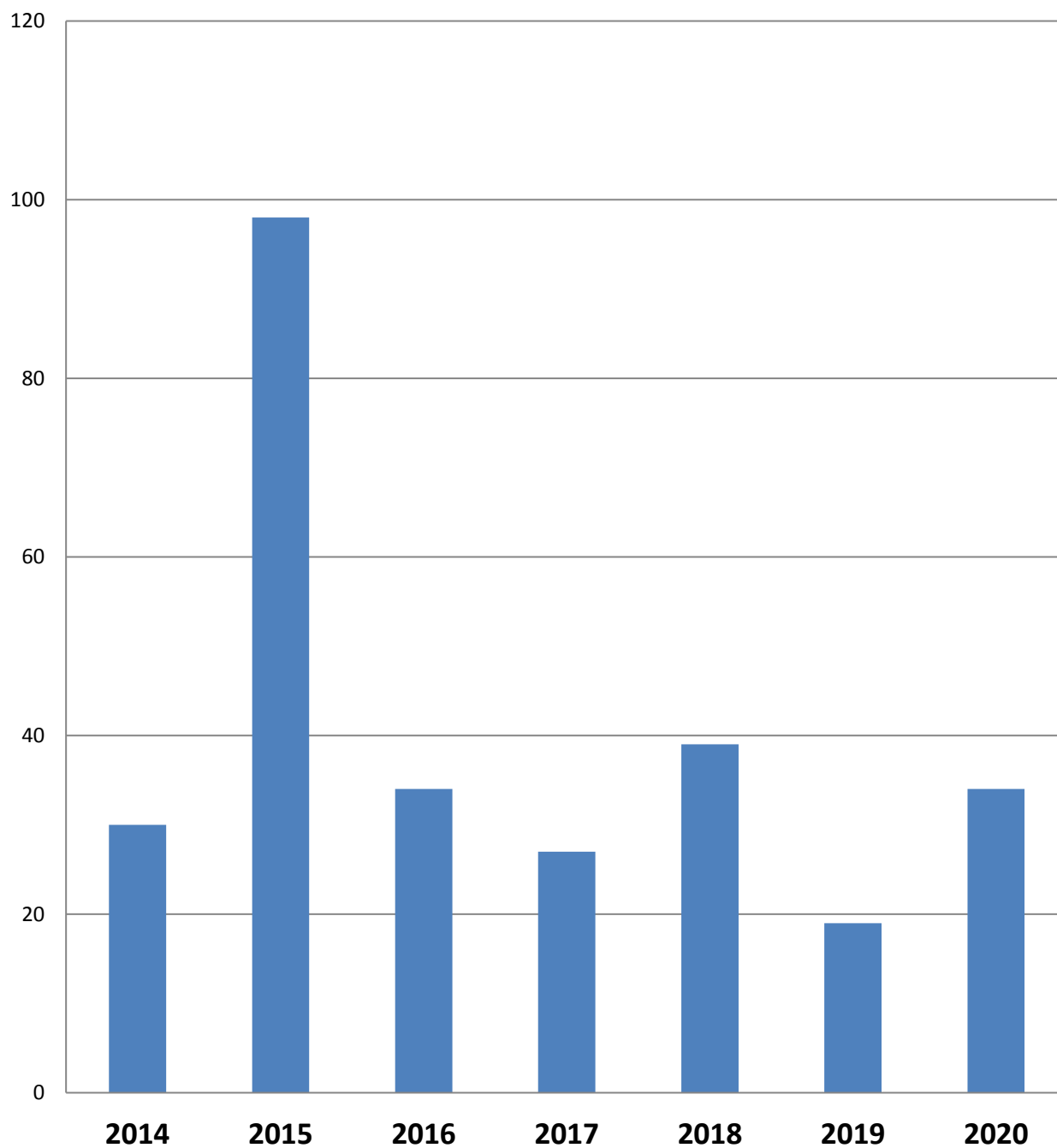
# 2020 REPORTED FIGURES

The charts and graphs on pages 9 through 13 reflect hazardous chemical amounts in Local Emergency Planning Committee Districts and the number of facilities storing these chemicals throughout the state

**FIGURE 1: Total Reported Hazardous Materials Accident/ Incident Investigations by NM State Police Districts for 2020**



**FIGURE 2: NM State Police Accident/Incident Investigations by Year  
(October 2014 - September 2020)**

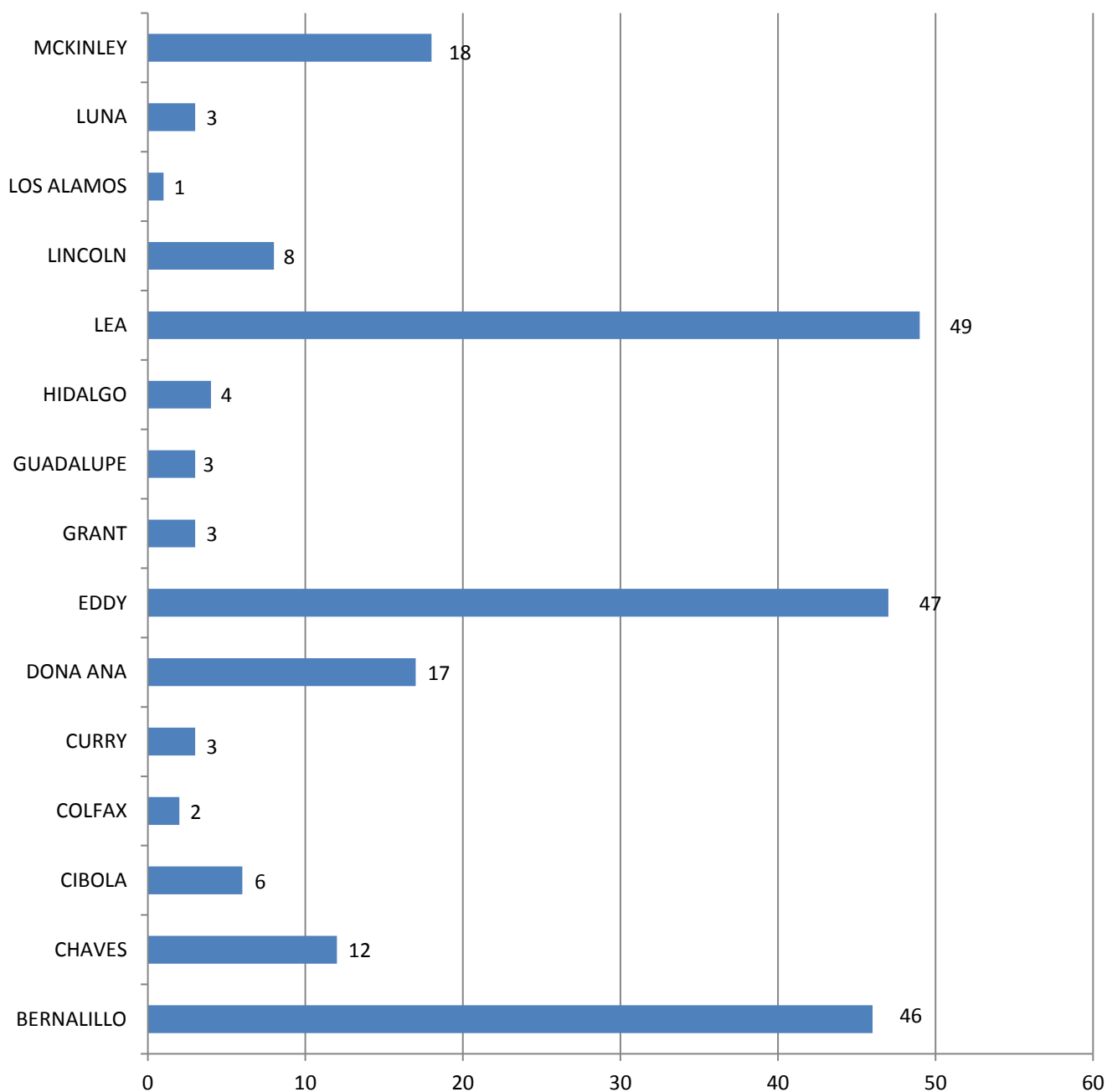


**FIGURE 3: Top Ten Extremely Hazardous Substances\* and Inventory Levels**

<b>Chemical</b>	<b>Inventory Level (lbs)</b>
ASPHALT CEMENT	142293410
CRUDE OIL	73674987
PRODUCED HYDROCARBONS	18043513
SULFURIC ACID	4586615
NATURAL GAS	3022105
UREA SOLUTION (50% SOLUTION)	2377500
LEAD ACID BATTERIES	1912507
CHLORINE	1900784
HYDROFLUORIC ACID	944446
HYDROGEN PEROXIDE, PEROXYACETIC ACID	801138

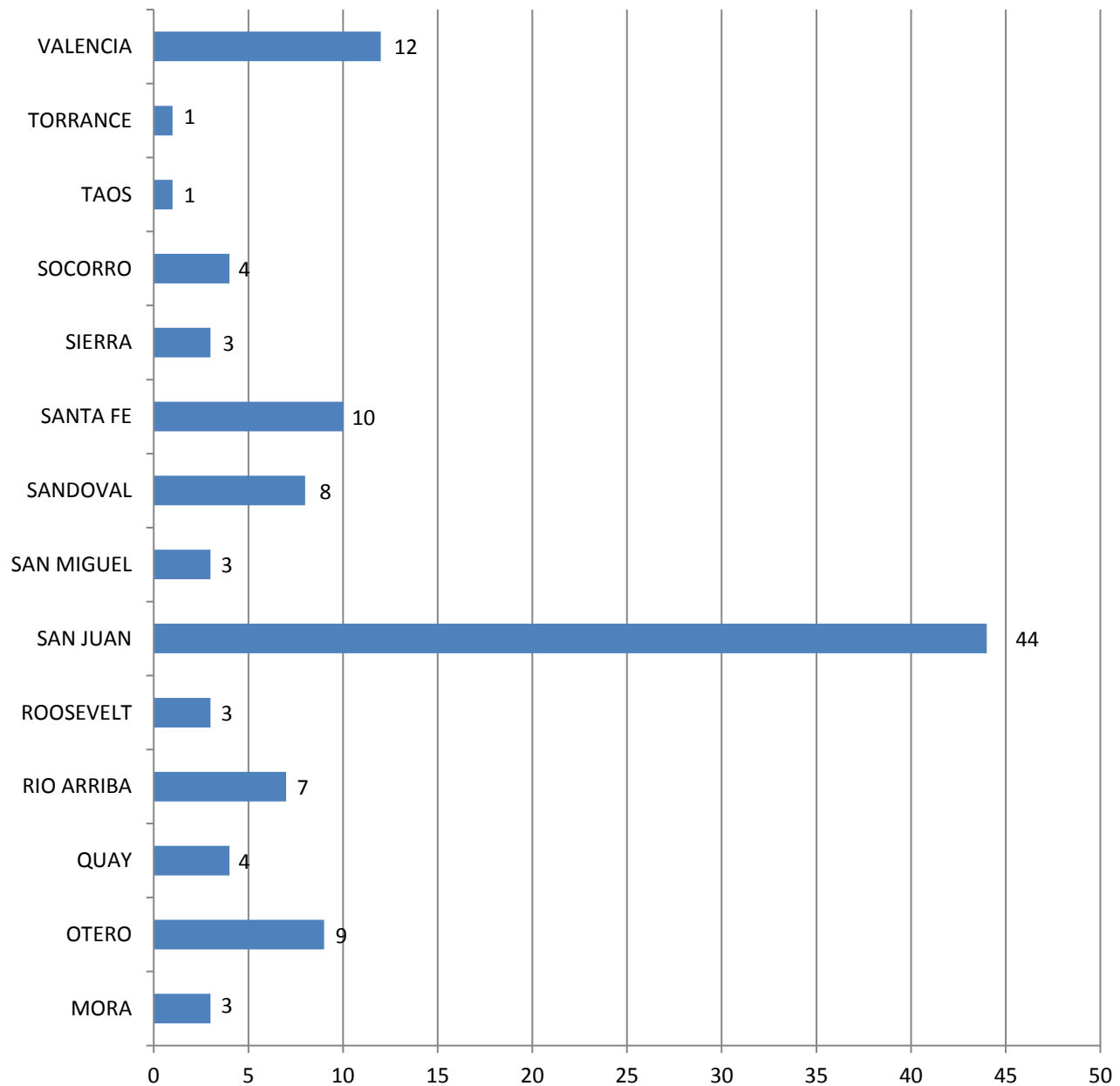
\* Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS) includes any chemicals or hazardous substances identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the basis of hazard or toxicity and listed under Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA).

**FIGURE 4: Material Release\* Notifications for the top counties spanning the last four years: *Based on EPA Region 6 ERNS\*\* release Data (January 2014-December 2019)***



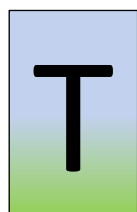
\*"Release" means any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping or disposing into the environment (including the abandonment or discharge of barrels, containers and other closed receptacles) per Emergency Response Planning and Community Right To Know Act (EPCRA).

**FIGURE 4: Material Release\* Notifications for the top counties spanning the last four years: *Based on EPA Region 6 ERNS\*\* release Data (January 2014-December 2019) continued...***



\*"Release" means any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping or disposing into the environment (including the abandonment or discharge of barrels, containers and other closed receptacles) per Emergency Response Planning and Community Right To Know Act (EPCRA).

# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANT



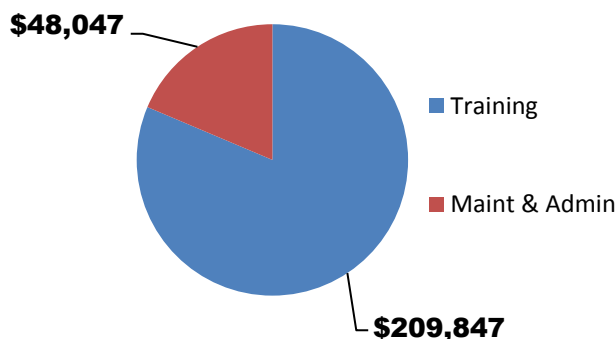
The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant is awarded annually in October. The HMEP grant program, sponsored by U.S. Department of

Transportation (DOT), is intended to provide financial and technical assistance as well as national direction and guidance to enhance State, Territorial, Tribal, and local hazardous materials emergency planning and training.

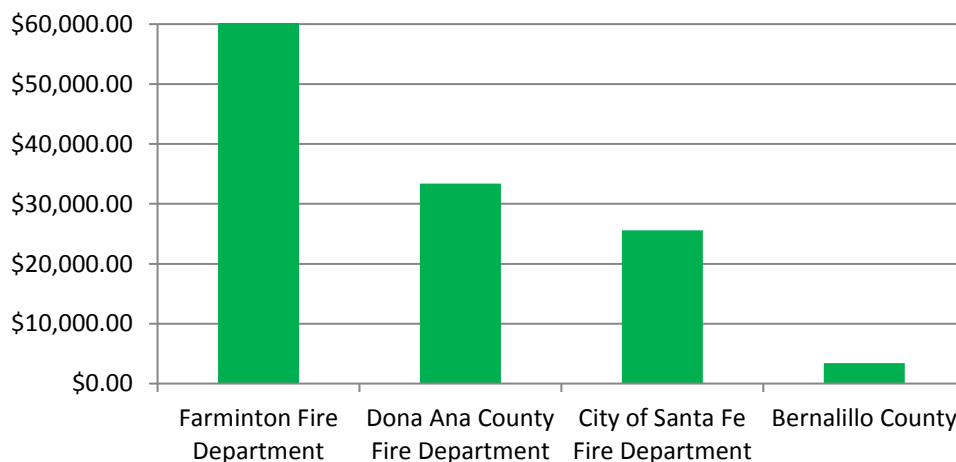
The HMEP Grant Program distributes fees collected from shippers and carriers of hazardous materials to Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and/or emergency responders for hazardous materials training and planning in preparation for hazardous materials incidents.

As a result of the COVID crisis, left over funds from FY19, have all been reallocated to FY20.

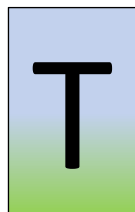
## 2020/21 HMEP Grant Budget Distribution \$322,300



## 2020/21 HMEP Grant Flow Through Allocation \$260,968.20



# Hazmat Challenge 2020



The 24th Annual Hazmat Challenge was scheduled for August of 2020 at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The challenge was canceled for this year due to COVID-19.

For more than 20 years, Hazmat teams have joined the challenge for a chance to network with one another, practice technical skills and learn new techniques under realistic conditions.

Vehicles, trucks, railcars and a variety of other props are used to mimic real-life hazardous material situations. Past scenarios have included drug laboratory or chemical hazard identification, confined space rescue, gas leaks, a pressurized drum opening and an exercise involving an overturned tanker.

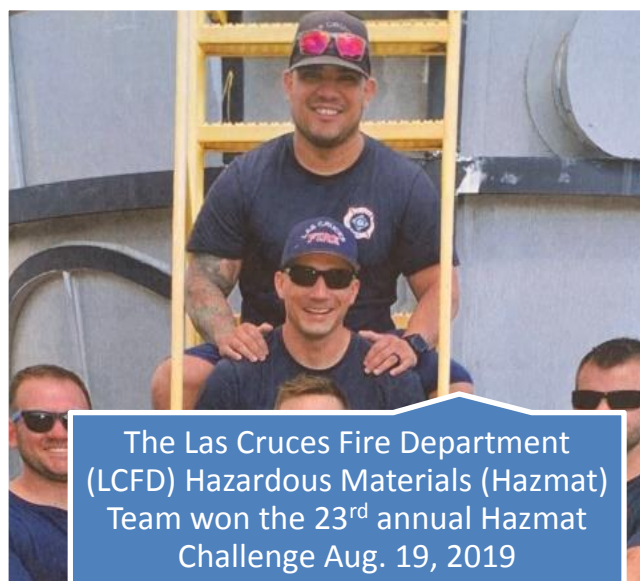
The Laboratory began the Hazmat Challenge in 1996 to hone the skills of its own hazmat team members. The event now offers a comprehensive training opportunity in a competitive format that is open to all hazardous materials response teams in New Mexico and across the nation. Recent expansion and improvements to the LANL Emergency Response Training Center allows an increase to the variety and complexity of

the response scenarios during the challenge and other training events. Training structures were added to include a grocery store, a medical clinic, a gas station, and a motel. The rail yard was expanded and four railcars were added.

The winning team receives a traveling trophy and top-scoring teams in the technical categories were awarded permanent trophies.

Funding for New Mexico teams is provided through the DOT HMEP grant offered through NM DHSEM.

We look forward to participants in August 2021.



The Las Cruces Fire Department (LCFD) Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Team won the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Hazmat Challenge Aug. 19, 2019



**STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION**

