

# PSM/RMP Compliance

## RETA Chapter Meeting Schedule

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### N/S CAROLINA

CAROLINAS

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday; time varies

No meeting in June, July or August

### NEBRASKA

OMAHA

To be determined

### NEVADA

SOUTHERN NEVADA

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday; 5 pm

### NEW YORK

WESTERN NEW YORK

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday; 6 pm

### OREGON

WILL H. KNOX

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

### OKLAHOMA

TULSA

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday; 6:30 pm

### PENNSYLVANIA

NORTHEASTERN (NEPA)

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday; 6 pm

SOUTHEASTERN (SEPA)

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday; 6:30 pm

No meeting in June, July or August

PHILADELPHIA

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday; 6 pm

No meeting in June, July or August

### TEXAS

HIGH PLAINS

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday; 7 pm

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday; 7 pm

HOUSTON

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday; 6:30 pm

No meeting in July, November or December

### WASHINGTON

CONNELL

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday; 6 pm

TRI CITIES

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday; 6 pm

PUGET SOUND

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday; 6 pm

### WISCONSIN

MADISON

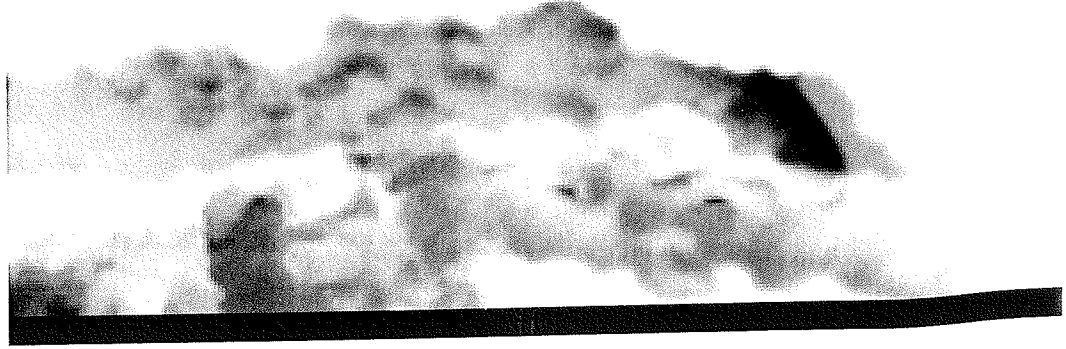
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday; 6 pm

No meeting in June, July or August

MILWAUKEE

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday; 6 pm

No meeting in June, July or August



## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS – MAKING THE RIGHT CALL IN TIME

— Jennifer Green, SCS Tracer Environmental

It's 3 pm on a Friday afternoon and an alarm sounds. Maintenance personnel alert you that there is an ammonia release. Are you prepared? Do you know who to call and when?

Facilities are obligated to report any significant releases or potential releases of a hazardous material. A release is defined as "any spill, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing into the environment, unless permitted or authorized by a regulatory agency." CERCLA § 101(22)

There are two types of notifications that need to be made during a release: verbal and written.

### Verbal Notifications

During an emergency, the first notification that should be made is to the local fire department, since they will provide the immediate assistance you need during a release. In addition to contacting the fire department the law states that additional agencies must be notified. Per the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103 (a) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) Section 304 (a), there are three key notifications that need to be made immediately during a release.

- National Response Center (NRC): Any release that meets or exceeds the Federal Reportable Quantity (RQ: 100 pounds of ammonia in a 24 hour period) CERCLA § 103(a)
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) for any area likely to be affected: Any release that requires CERCLA notification and for releases of EPCRA Section 302 substances EPCRA § 304(a)

*Note: In California this notification will be made to the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA).*

Other notifications may be required based upon the release and if anyone was injured (e.g. US Coast Guard – if release enters a waterway, Air Quality Management District – if release has potential to cause odor complaints, OSHA – if injuries occurred, etc.). Many states have specific criteria and should be contacted directly when developing your call list.

# EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS – MAKING THE RIGHT CALL IN TIME

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## What is immediate notification?

All three agencies require *immediate* reporting. State and local agencies allow for evacuations and any measures to prevent exposure of employees to be addressed first before making the notification.

The EPA states that the National Response Center must be notified as soon as the person in charge has knowledge of a release equal to or greater than the reportable quantity. Recent case law has defined this to be within 15 minutes.

## Written Notifications

In addition to verbal notification, per EPCRA 304(c), emergency notification must be made in writing to the LEPC and SERC if the release equals or exceeds the Federal Reportable Quantity - RQ (100 pounds of ammonia). The NRC will receive a copy of the written notification provided to the SERC.

*Note: Some states have less criteria than the 100 pound RQ defined by the Federal EPA (e.g., California).*

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## Conference Countdown

### RACING FOR EDUCATION & SAFETY

RETA 2011 NATIONAL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 19-22 - GREENSBORO, NC

What's the ROI or return on investment for attending a RETA national Conference?

- Ongoing education
- Increased knowledge
- Greater understanding and
- Infinite opportunity to connect with your peers in the industry.

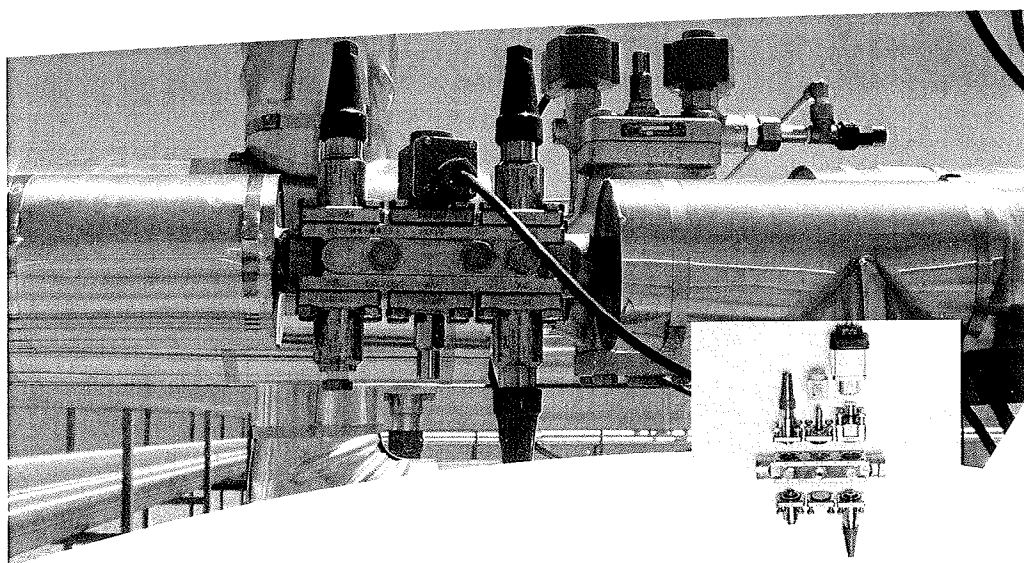
That's why you should attend. Here are some thoughts on how to convince your employer:

- 1) Put your request in writing in a letter to your supervisor
- 2) Include a breakdown of Conference costs: airfare, transportation, hotel, meals, Conference fee
- 3) Indicate what you will bring back to your company as a return on this investment in you
- 4) Suggest that you will give a brief presentation to co-workers on what you learned
- 5) Share all Conference materials with coworkers
- 6) Highlight that attendance is a good way to earn professional development hours (if RETA certified)
- 7) Identify how your work load will be covered while you're off-site
- 8) Offer to be frugal

This year's program is chockfull of information for those looking to earn PDH for maintenance of the RETA CIRO or CARO. Join us as we wave the green flag in our race for education.

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# This is How It Goes

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Verify that all the ammonia has been removed.

Put on a full face respirator and appropriate protective clothing (both persons).

Open the equipment to the atmosphere (remember to stay out of the line of fire).

Verify there is no ammonia present with the electronic detector.

If the ammonia is not present, remove the PPE and continue with the work. (If ammonia is present, leave the PPE on and proceed cautiously).

The bottom line is to protect yourself at all times and **never** assume the ammonia is gone. When you make that assumption, you can get hurt. Work safely and work smart!

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS – MAKING THE RIGHT CALL IN TIME

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The written emergency report must be submitted as soon as practical after the release and/or spill. EPCRA § 304(c). This notification is required to be made within seven days of the release. The follow-up report must contain the following information:

- a. Actual response actions taken.
- b. Any known or anticipated data or chronic health risks associated with the release.
- c. Advice regarding medical attention necessary for exposed individuals.

Contact your state response agencies for specific emergency notification forms.

### What if notifications take longer than 15 minutes?

The Federal EPA has prepared an Enforcement Response Policy for EPCRA Section 304 and CERCLA Section 103. This policy outlines the potential penalties that may be associated with failing to report a release.

The base penalty is determined by considering the following factors surrounding the violation (or release):

- Nature: Failure to notify the NRC, SERC and LEPC. Failure to provide a written follow up report to SERC and LEPC.
- Extent: The timeliness of the required notifications and submission of required reports.

Level 1: No immediate notification within two hours

Written notification provided 14 days following the release

Level 2: No immediate notification within one hour but less than two hours

Written notification provided more than 14 days following the release but prior to the discovery of the violation by a regulatory agency

Level 3: Immediate notification within one hour but after 15 minutes

Written notification provided seven days but less than or equal to 14 days following the release

- Gravity: The amount of chemical involved in the violation.

Level A: Greater than 10 times the RQ

Level B: Greater than five times, but less than or equal to 10 times the RQ

Level C: Greater than one, but less than or equal to five times the RQ

- Circumstances: The actual or potential consequences of the violation.

Federal EPA has developed the table below showing a range of the base fines depending on the level of these four categories.

Extent	Level A	Level B	Level C
Level 1	\$27,500 - \$20,626	\$20,625 - \$13,751	\$13,750-\$6,876
Level 2	\$20,625 - \$13,751	\$13,750 - \$6,876	\$6,875 - \$3,439
Level 3	\$13,750 - \$6,876	\$6,875 - \$3,439	\$3,438 - \$1,718

Note: There may be additional penalties associated with your state and/or local agencies.

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS – MAKING THE RIGHT CALL IN TIME

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### How can these notifications be made in time?

According to OSHA 29 CFR 1910.38 all facilities are required to have an action plan detailing the procedures to follow in the event of a release. This not only includes evacuating/responding to the release but also making notifications. As part of this plan, determine who will be responsible for calling the NRC, SERC and LEPC. A phone call to each agency can be time consuming, so consider dividing the responsibility between two employees.

Also, it is difficult to determine within the first 15 minutes whether a release has exceeded the reportable quantity. This is why it is always good practice to make your notifications regardless of the release quantity. A follow up call can always be made to clarify the amount released.

The best way to prepare is to have a plan for making the notifications in the event of a release and to practice. Remember a phone call in time, can save you from fines!

### References

- Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA).
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).
- Enforcement Response Policy for Sections 304, 311, and 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) and Section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).
- 29 CFR 1910.38 Emergency Action Plans

### Industrial Refrigeration Service Technician – Multiple Locations, US.

Minimum 3 years experience with ammonia refrigeration applications. Troubleshoot, repair and perform maintenance services on ammonia refrigeration systems. Strong knowledge of electrical and mechanical processes required. RETA certification preferred. Company looking for immediate hire.

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## RETA BREEZE

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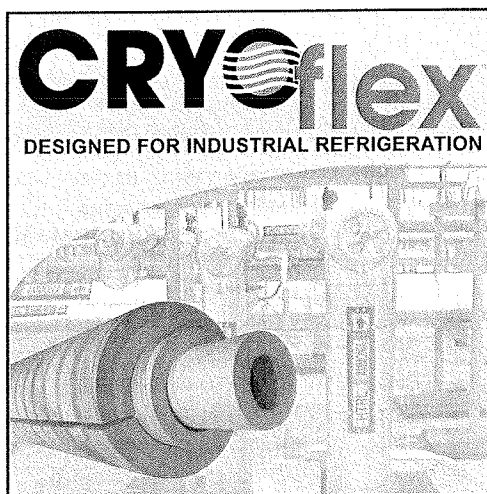
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