

## RETA Chapter Meeting Schedule

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### MINNESOTA

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

### N/S CAROLINA

CAROLINAS  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday; time varies  
No meeting in June, July or August

### NEW YORK

WESTERN NEW YORK  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday; 6 pm

### OREGON

WILL H. KNOX  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday

### 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  
Not scheduled

### 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  
YAKIMA  
Not scheduled  
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

Check out the Chapter News section of the RETA website for additional information on Chapter events and activities: [www.reta.com](http://www.reta.com)

## PSM/RMP Compliance

### RELEASE REPORTING — WHO TO CONTACT AND WHY

— Lee Pyle, SCS Tracer Environmental

Everyone has heard that facilities that release ammonia need to contact the National Response Center. You have probably also heard that there is a federal reporting quantity of 100 pounds and you probably understand that there are state and local agencies that require release notification.

But why?

The release reporting requirements come from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). These Acts require federal, state, and local authorities to prepare for and respond to chemical accidents (40 CFR Part 302). While both Acts require release reporting, their focus and criteria are slightly different. CERCLA requires the *person in charge* of a vessel or facility to *immediately* notify the National Response Center when there is a release of a hazardous substance in an amount equal to or greater than the reportable quantity (RQ) for that substance (CERCLA Section 103(a)). For ammonia, the federal reporting quantity (RQ) is 100 pounds.

To ensure immediate responses to potential chemical hazards, EPCRA expanded on the CERCLA reporting criteria to require facilities to notify State Emergency Response Commissions (SERC) and Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) of releases of hazardous substances and extremely hazardous substances when the release equals or exceeds the RQ (EPCRA Section 304(a)).

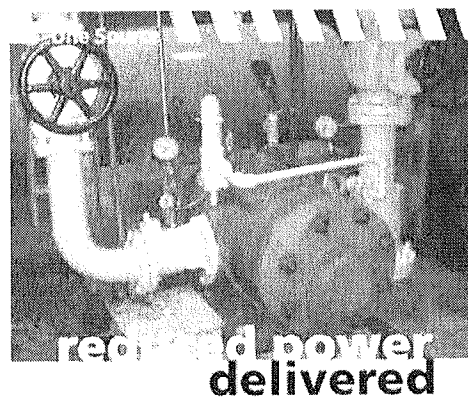
Who is this *person in charge*? EPA does not mandate who the person in charge should be as it would be impractical for a government agency to try to define this for the various types of facilities that are applicable. So, the management of facilities that handle hazardous materials (aka ammonia) need to designate the individual(s) or job title(s) responsible for reporting releases to National Response Center.

Further, EPCRA requires that the *owner or operator* of a facility be held responsible for notifying the SERC and LEPC in the event of a release. Being that EPCRA allows either the owner or operator to make the notification, when these are different parties, coordination should be made to ensure it doesn't fall through the cracks.

*In California, the Safe Drinking Water Act and Toxic Enforcement Act mandates that "all significant releases or threatened releases of a hazardous material, including oil and radioactive materials, require emergency notification to government agencies."*

In other states, EPA has identified Federal Reportable Quantities (e.g., 100 pounds in 24 hours for ammonia). Reportable Quantities are listed in the

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# Education Committee

John Sherrill, CIRO, RAI  
RETA Education Chairman

I bring greetings from your Education Committee and introduction to what we've been up to for the past 10 months. We have been working hard on completing the review and updating of the RETA materials. Several years ago, the RETA Board of Directors established a policy that all RETA material would be reviewed and corrected/updated, as needed, on a five-year schedule. Because RETA has such a large library of materials available to those seeking to learn more about industrial refrigeration, this review and update process is a serious undertaking. The fact that the review and update is done by volunteers donating their time and talents to RETA adds immeasurably to the value of the work done. It also tends to slow down the process because the volunteers have only so much time to give.

Industrial Refrigeration Book 1 (IR1) review is nearly done; Industrial Refrigeration Book 2 (IR2) is well underway, the long awaited revision of Industrial Refrigeration Book 3 (IR3) has been delayed while IR1 is completed, but is scheduled

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## RELEASE REPORTING — WHO TO CONTACT AND WHY

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manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). A release is defined as "any spill, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing into the environment, unless permitted or authorized by a regulatory agency."

### Verbal & Written Notifications

Organizations which require immediate **verbal** notification are listed below:

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

Agency	Timing	Written Follow-up Required
Fire Department	Immediate	No
National Response Center (Within 15 minutes)	Immediate	Yes See Below
California Certified Unified Program Agency Outside California Local Emergency Planning Committee	Immediate	Yes
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) Outside California State Emergency Planning Committee	Immediate	Yes
United States Coast Guard (if federal water-ways are at risk)	Immediate	No
OSHA District Office (if there are injuries)	Immediate if injuries occurred	Yes
Contractor	As needed	No
Department of Fish and Game (if water-ways are at risk)	Contact at the time of the spill	No
Air Quality Management District (if you are a Title V facility or an odor complaint may arise)	Immediate	No
Sanitary Sewer System Controller (if the system is at risk)	Immediate	No

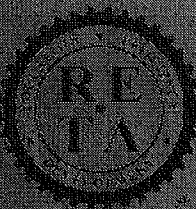
NOTE: This list was not meant to be all-inclusive. Many cities, counties, and states have very specific reporting requirements and **all** companies should investigate the required contacts, telephone numbers and written follow-up criteria. This should then be validated annually.

The National Response Center is now allowing facilities to report releases on line at - <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/nrchp.html>

The On-Line Reporting Tool will allow easy submittal of release reports with a tool that will transmit an email with the tracking number back to the reporting party. The questions required for written follow-up reporting are included at the above referenced website.

### What is my liability for non-reporting?

If the person in charge with knowledge of a release fails to comply with the CERCLA notification requirements there may be fines, per offense, of up to \$500,000 and prison sentences of up to three years (or up to five years for second and subsequent convictions). Failure to notify per EPCRA (notification to the SERC and LEPC) establishes criminal penalties, per offense, of up to \$25,000 and prison sentences of up to two years.



# RETA BREEZE

Refrigerating Engineers & Technicians Association

2010 Issue #5 (September/October)



RETA past National Presidents in attendance at RETA's National Conference in New Orleans (left to right) Quinton O. Phelps, Additon E. Wegener; Alex P. Gooseff, Stuart V. Smith. Leo J. Vivien, John G. Muller; Herbert Rosen, Louis W. Howat, Earl J. McMichael and George Koehne.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWEST RETA AUTHORIZED INSTRUCTOR (RAI)



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www.ModestoTechCollege.com

If you're interest in becoming an RAI,  
contact Scott Henderson at RETA HQ, (831) 455-8783.

### CARO and CIRO Exams

Please take a moment to complete the Job Analysis and Practices Surveys posted on the RETA website, [www.reta.com](http://www.reta.com). The information we glean from your answers helps keep the examinations current.

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