



CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL TO LA PORTE INDUSTRY

Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA) & Coordination with Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Co DeBorde, Chairman - Chief Officer of Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA) from LyondellBasell Bayport Choate, was invited to speak about CIMA's role in emergency response in the Greater Houston area. CIMA is a non-profit organization that has been providing mutual aid emergency services since 1955, combining firefighting, rescue, hazardous materials, and emergency medical capabilities of the region's vast refining and petrochemical industries.

With over 100 member organizations—including refineries, chemical facilities, municipal fire departments, and government agencies—CIMA operates across four geographic response zones. These members contribute highly trained emergency response personnel and more than 300 pieces of specialized equipment. CIMA also maintains a radio communication network covering 500 square miles to ensure rapid and coordinated responses to both natural and man-made emergencies.

DeBorde emphasized that CIMA responds to industrial incidents regardless of a site's membership status, reflecting its mission to protect neighbors in the surrounding communities. During such events, CIMA provides world-class, rapid emergency response assistance when requested.

The organization is governed by elected officers and zone representatives and is supported by appointed positions such as inspection and communications officers, along with 31 emergency response specialists. Membership requirements include maintaining emergency resources, CIMA network communication capabilities, adherence to CIMA inspection standards, and active participation in annual drills and training sessions.

CIMA conducts regular planning sessions, annual training symposiums, and full-scale exercises to prepare for a wide range of incidents, including mass casualty events. Dispatch center operations are managed through the East Harris County Emergency Communications Center (ECOM). Additional support is provided by reciprocal aid agencies across Texas and Louisiana, ensuring a comprehensive, region-wide emergency response network. CIMA does not take over management of the response; instead, it provides the resources and support needed to solve the problem.

The CAC is a forum for candid and constructive dialogue between those who live or work in La Porte, Morgan's Point, and Shoreacres and the managers of 41 chemical plants in La Porte. The CAC welcomes visitors. It meets again on Tuesday, May 6th at 6:00 p.m. to hear the Texas Electrical Grid. Contact info@laportecac.org if you wish to attend. The CAC shares information about its meetings and presentations at www.laportecac.org.