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### Technical Bulletins: Cities and the Hazardous Right to Know Law

Harold R. Yungmeyer  
*Municipal Technical Advisory Service*

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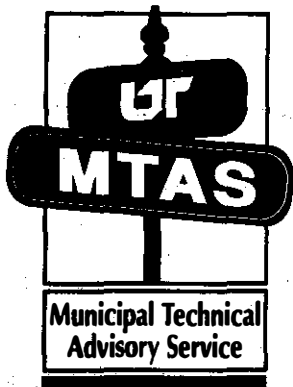
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# Technical Bulletin

Bulletin 32

October 23, 1990

## CITIES AND THE HAZARDOUS RIGHT TO KNOW LAW<sup>1</sup>

by Harold Yungmeyer

*Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) 50-3-2001-2019*, the *Hazardous Chemical Right-To-Know Law*, became a law in 1985. The stated purpose of the law was to "provide access to information regarding hazardous chemicals to enhance the ability of manufacturing and non-manufacturing workers to minimize hazardous exposure to such chemicals; to provide information to emergency personnel to protect the public health, safety and welfare; and to provide information to citizens to enable them to make informed decisions regarding their safety, health, and welfare."

This law is specifically applicable to cities and, although you may be under the impression that none of your employees work with, or are exposed to *hazardous chemicals*, such is probably not the case. The odds are that you do have some hazardous chemicals on the premises. If you do, you must comply with requirements of the law. The law also has implication for your fire department even if it is determined that no hazardous chemical exposures exist.

Generally, the law requires that you must:

1. Develop a hazardous chemical inventory list and submit it to the State Department of Labor by January 1, 1987. This same list should also be provided to your fire department. (If you store less than 55 gallons or 500 pounds of any hazardous chemicals, this list is not required.)
2. Maintain and make available to employees complete information on any hazardous chemical to which they may be exposed.
3. Make sure that all hazardous chemicals are properly labeled.
4. Develop an education and training program to make employees aware of the precautions to be taken when working with hazardous chemicals. This program must be underway during calendar 1987.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the State Department of Labor is charged with the enforcement of this law. Contact Cynthia West, OSHA, 615/741-0888, for additional information.

<sup>1</sup>Reprint of technical bulletin dated September 15, 1986.

The Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) is a statewide agency of The University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service. MTAS operates in cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League in providing technical assistance services to officials of Tennessee's incorporated municipalities. Assistance is offered in areas such as accounting, administration, finance, public works, ordinance codification, and wastewater management.

MTAS TECHNICAL BULLETINS are information briefs that provide a timely review of topics of interest to Tennessee municipal officials. The BULLETINS are free to Tennessee local, state, and federal government officials and are available to others for \$2.00 each. Contact MTAS for a list of recent BULLETINS.

Municipal Technical Advisory Service  
The University of Tennessee  
600 Henley Street, Suite 120  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4105  
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