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News Release

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DEQ Unveils New Tool for Residents to Learn More about Chemical Storage in Communities

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) encourages all Oklahomans to be involved in their community and have an emergency preparedness plan. In an effort to help citizens make informed decisions about emergency planning, DEQ is now providing an online tool, available at <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/lpdnew/saratitleiii/ChemicalsStoredinyourCommunity.htm> to make it easy for the public to search by address or zip code for locations that store chemicals.

Using the new tool, residents can find oil and gas wells, cell towers that have large acid batteries, water plants, manufacturing facilities, and other types of facilities that are required to report storage information to DEQ. Not every facility that stores chemicals is required to report that information to the agency. It is only those that house over a certain amount.

DEQ collects information on approximately 50,000 chemical storage locations in Oklahoma under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. This information is provided to first responders in each county for use in emergency planning, management, and response.

“It is important to note that if there are chemicals stored in your community, that does not mean that you are in danger,” said DEQ Executive Director Scott Thompson. “However, the public has a right to know where and what kinds of chemicals are being stored.”

Residents can look up specific facility locations and then request chemical information for that facility by filling out an online form and submitting it to DEQ.

To get started using this new tool, visit <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/lpdnew/saratitleiii/ChemicalsStoredinyourCommunity.htm>. If you have any questions, contact Monty Elder at (405) 702-5100.

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