

**From:** [Larry Sloan](#)  
**To:** [Berg, Eric@DIR](#); [Neidhardt, Amalia@DIR](#)  
**Cc:** [Chris Laszcz-Davis](#); [Laura Cilano Garcia](#); [Glenn Millner](#)  
**Subject:** AIHA Guideline Foundation - Request for State of CA Funding for its Emergency Response Planning Guide  
**Date:** Friday, May 17, 2019 4:31:06 AM

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Good morning, Eric and Amalia --

*As recommended by Chris Laszcz-Davis, and on behalf of the AIHA Guideline Foundation, we would like to submit the following request to the State of California. If there is an alternative process we should follow, please advise. Thanks!*

Pursuant to the new proposed CA state emergency regulation to protect workers from wildfire smoke, we would like to make you aware of and request funding to support ongoing efforts to produce and update the AIHA Guideline Foundation's Emergency Response Planning Guide (ERPG). This critical resource provides credible risk assessment information for emergencies involving the general population which may result in unhealthy airborne chemical exposures. **The AIHA Guideline Foundation is the ONLY organization responsible for establishing and publishing up-to-date airborne levels for risk assessment of a single brief exposure to chemicals** (the former US EPA AEGL committee is NO longer active).

Our ERPG™ values and reference documents are critical resources that help end-users find credible and globally well-respected data and guidance they need for risk assessment of chemical emergencies. Application of ERPG values in this process helps to ensure that the community-wide protections you put into place will be not questioned by local and national authorities. The State of California, its business and civic communities have likely relied on the ERPG values already and be aware of their applicability and status.

What makes ERPG levels special is that they cannot be overly conservative: no emergency responder wants to evacuate a downtown area to protect a population from a very mild health effect. This is quite a different approach from other groups setting population guidelines, for example: drinking water, residue tolerances in food, air quality guidelines, etc. ERPG values need to be exactly on target to support emergency responders to predict the frequency and severity of health effects that may result from the emergency exposure.

The North American ERPG (NAERPG) provides first responders with a critical go-to manual to help deal with hazardous material transportation accidents during the critical first 30 minutes and is used every day within the United States and Canada. To date, nearly 14.5 million copies have been distributed to the emergency response community through state emergency management coordinators.

Keeping the NAEPRG up to date each year takes significant time and money. The reality is that we need funding to defray the costs of this important work, and we are asking for the State of California's financial assistance.

An annual donation of \$100,000 will support literature searches, document retrievals, and annual

meetings of the ERPG committee as they prepare each year's handbook.

In addition, and relevant to the worsening wildfire conditions affecting the State of California, we propose developing a new community airborne contaminant standard for "wildfire smoke" (contingent on ERPG committee approval, which we do not see as an issue).

Thank you in advance for your financial support enabling the AIHA Guideline Foundation to continue this important work. For more information and to contribute, contact AIHA's Laura Cilano Garcia at [lgarcia@aiha.org](mailto:lgarcia@aiha.org) (703-846-0748) or me.

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**Lawrence Sloan, CAE**

*Chief Executive Officer*

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