

# Beach Cities CAER

## Community Awareness and Emergency Response

[beachcitiescaer.org](http://beachcitiescaer.org)

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# What is Beach Cities CAER?

- A non-profit public benefit organization, focused on providing a forum for increasing community engagement and awareness of the continuous improvement of coordinated fire department and industry emergency preparedness and response programs.
- BCC is a team of (20) public agency emergency management officials, fire departments, schools, refineries, manufacturing industries in the South Bay region aligned with the goal of enhancing public safety.
- BCC group meets once to twice per month – developing educational flyers, website links, discuss upcoming legislation related to hazardous materials, fire department coordination and incidents

# Brief History of CAER

- In 1985 the Chemical Manufacturers Association (CMA) developed the “Responsible Care” program as a recommended best practice in response to major industry accidents (1984 Bhopal, India).
  - CAER (Community Awareness and Emergency Response) became the code of management practices, initially focused only on emergency response and then expanded to facility = community dialogue to cover safety, health and environmental issues.
- In 1986 U.S. Congress enacted Superfund Amendments also known as the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)
  - Required a significant level of drill coordination between local fire departments, emergency planning committees, regulators and industry
  - Mandated improvements in emergency preparedness, response, and community awareness of facilities hazardous materials inventories

# The History of Beach Cities and South Bay CAER

- 1990-2000 - originally two CAER groups; (BCC) El Segundo and Torrance / (SBC) Carson and Wilmington (once per-month meetings included industry, fire agencies, schools)
- 2000 – the two groups merged in response to EPA’s Risk Management Plan (RMP)
  - Required public outreach regarding a facilities worst-case chemical / explosion scenario
  - Combined CAER group – developed public surveys, training video, held public meetings
- 2005-2007 – in response to a major power outage, SCAQMD asked CAER to help industry and the community develop a refinery flare outreach document
- 2010-2018 – CAER groups nearly dissolved (due to agency / industry downsizing, and reassignments)
- 2018-2021 – in response to new regulatory requirements and changing demographics, the group reunited as Beach Cities CAER. Serving the region from El Segundo / Torrance to Carson-Wilmington-San Pedro

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## Emergency Preparedness Resource to the Community

- Website resources:
  - Shelter -In-Place (SIP) video, (new update in production!)
  - Public education pamphlets, Shelter-In-Place, Refinery Flares – (Spanish / English)
    - Additional topics in production
  - Easy access opt-in links to receive phone text agency emergency notifications
  - Email questions to CAER for communication with emergency response agency and industry representatives
- Our Members
  - Marathon, Chevron, Valero, P66, PBF-TRC, and more to come
  - El Segundo Fire, LA City Fire, LA County Fire, Carson Emergency Services, City Hermosa Beach, Torrance Fire, EMS Safety Partners - Alert South Bay
  - Meet once per month via Zoom

# Beach Cities CAER Website Tour

[www.beachcitiescaer.org](http://www.beachcitiescaer.org)

Questions?