

Community Interaction and Emergency Response (CAER) Programmes

The Responsible Care® commitment to sustainability is a commitment made by CAIA's signatories to promote the longevity of the environment, people and the socio economic well-being in all areas it impacts upon. However, this is only possible through open communication that harnesses an ethical climate for industry and community to work together

Signatories are reminded of the importance of their responsibility toward the communities in which they operate to inform them of safety, health and environmental risks associated with the storage and handling of their products and of advising their neighbours of the safety precautions they have taken to ensure not only public safety but also the safety of their own employees and the environment. Responsible Care® signatory companies are required to operate a Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER) committee.

Establishing a CAER committee advances community safety through communication, education and awareness. The efforts of CAER include assisting the community in becoming better prepared for all kinds of emergencies – whether they are chemical, transportation related or otherwise. The CAER committee should meet regularly and keep detailed minutes of each meeting for the community representative to share with their constituency

Signatory sites have to decide on the format that they will use to relay safety, health and environmental risk information to the public. The communication of the information could take place via a brochure, newsletter or regular meetings with representatives of the community or neighbouring industries or businesses. Such communication could invite neighbours to contact the respective site managers with questions or requests to visit a signatory's facilities. A company's CAER should openly communicate and respond to the public's concerns about the safety and environmental impacts of their operations. Credible facts should be offered to the public and they should be assisted with appropriate emergency response preparedness.

Responsible Care® signatory companies should strive to continuously promote the confidence of the community, employees and other people on-site, through open communication of the hazards and risks which could have an impact on them, by raising awareness that the necessary precautions are in place to minimize risk to themselves and the environment.

Responsible Care® is the commitment to communicate and promote sustainability to all.