



## Deer Park Community Advisory Council

**Monday, March 22, 2021**

### **DPCAC Launches New “Chemical of the Month” Series**

To help the average community member understand more about chemicals, the Deer Park Community Advisory Council is returning to a feature of its meeting agendas from the 1990s and early 2000s called “Chemical of the Month.” Members who hear about a chemical release or have read about research on chemical exposure requested this agenda item to improve their knowledge of specific chemicals.

The series began at the March DPCAC meeting with an overview of the contents of Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) tool for communicating hazards to workers who handle hazardous materials. Anyone may access SDSs and find 16 sections of detailed information about a chemical’s properties and hazards as well as protection measures and safety precautions for handling, storing, or transporting the chemical.

Also featured will be documents from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), written for a public audience and thus less technical than SDSs. Altogether, these materials address questions such as what the chemical is, how it is used, how exposure may occur, how your health might be affected from high level or long term exposure, and how to protect yourself. The first Chemical of the Month will be Benzene.

At the Apr. 26, 2021 meeting, DPCAC plants will summarize their experiences in the big freeze, lessons learned, best practices and any changes they will make to prepare for a future sustained, deep freeze. Visitors are welcome to attend the Zoom meeting. Contact DPCAC at [info@deerparkcac.org](mailto:info@deerparkcac.org).

*Read about DPCAC meetings and see summaries of our most recent presentations as well as Chemical of the Month at [www.deerparkcac.org](http://www.deerparkcac.org).*