



Chemical Emergency Preparedness & Prevention

UPDATE

Alan Brown

U.S. EPA, Region III
Chemical Emergency
Preparedness Coordinator

Dear Readers:



Well if you missed our little HAZMAT Transportation Seminars in Erie and Wilkes-Barre, PA, you've still got one chance, one strike left to not miss out on one of the best training opportunities to come down the pike in a long time. Our last one is November 28-30 at the Waterside Marriott Hotel in beautiful, downtown Norfolk, Virginia. This is what you get: a chance to network and rub elbows with some of the best experts in the field of hazardous materials transportation and pick up on the latest, state-of-the-art technology from numerous exhibitors at our kick-off on Tuesday afternoon (did I mention free refreshments?). On Wednesday, you get eight hours of lectures, workshops, and how to's from these same experts and a free lunch, (that's right, I said free). On Thursday, it's two dynamite interactive, tabletop scenarios with "Terror Town" plus (for those of you who can't handle the excitement) a repeat of some of the lectures you may have missed the day before. Did I mention it's at the Waterside Marriott? Did I mention that rooms are only \$55? Did I mention Norfolk has an airport? Did I mention the "Terror Town" scenarios would include a military aircraft crash and a maritime accident? Did I mention the registration fee? How about 35 bucks! 35 bucks and it's your last chance. The telephone number to call is (410) 676-0882. Enough said. Well almost. If you are a sales rep or marketing pro and somehow this is all news to you, we still have three or four empty exhibit spaces. First come, first serve. Call Jerry Heegan at (410)-235-9510 and see if you're too late.

Just in case some of you more skeptical readers think all we do is put on meetings and educational seminars....check out our new audiotape for LEPCs on RMPs, e.g., how to find out if a facility in their jurisdiction did one, how to get a hold of it, and what to do with it when they do get their hands on it. It's free of course while supplies last. Be on the look out for our LEPC promotional video, "What is an LEPC?" as well as a two part, educational video on how to understand and apply NRT manuals 1 and 1A to your emergency plans. See.

And, for those of you who still think all we do is plan and put on the nation's best meetings, conferences, and seminars.....Get ready for "CEPP 2001," our super, biennial conference being held December 10-13, 2001 at the brand, spanking new Marriott Waterside Hotel in Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

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EPA CONFERENCE COMING TO BALTIMORE

Mark your calendars, add it to your budget, and get ready for the biggest and the best...EPA's Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Conference will be December 10-13, 2001 at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Joining forces with EPA Region III this year will be the EPA Headquarters CEPP Office who previously presented the International Hazmat Spills Conference. Working together, we are planning an outstanding roster of internationally recognized speakers on the most critical topics to emergency responders and planners as we enter the next millennium.

Last year, more than 1,100 individuals from 43 states and 7 foreign countries attended this dynamic conference. Our hosts this year will be a group of LEPCs from the Baltimore area who are very excited about bringing this conference to Baltimore's scenic Inner Harbor.

We will be at the new Marriott Waterside Hotel and will have a beautiful exhibit hall overlooking the harbor. As always, the registration fee will be very low (\$150 or less) so plan now to not miss this one.

A Planning Committee is forming and will be meeting before the end of this year. If you're interested in helping, let us know; contact Katrina Harris by phone at (410) 676-8835 or by e-mail at kharris@genphysics.com.

Watch your mail for more information!

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RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM NOTES

FINAL RULE ISSUED ON OFF-SITE CONSEQUENCE ANALYSIS INFORMATION

EPA and the Department of Justice issued a final rule on August 4, 2000 regulating public access to off-site consequence analysis information. The rule grants public access to paper copies of the information through a minimum of 50 Federal reading rooms across the United States and its territories, and Internet access to limited information considered unlikely to pose a criminal threat.

Under section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act, industrial facilities that store, use, or process extremely hazardous chemicals above established thresholds are required to submit a Risk Management Plan to EPA. An important component of the Risk Management Plan is the off-site consequence analysis information, which details the potential impact of an accidental release. Section 112(r) also requires that this information be made available to the public for review.

The 1999 Chemical Safety Information, Site Security and Fuels Regulatory Relief Act charged the EPA and the Department of Justice with assessing the benefits of providing unrestricted public access to the information against the concern that this information could make sites vulnerable to terrorist

attack and criminal activity. Based on these assessments, the final rule allows public access to the off-site consequence analysis information in ways that minimize the likelihood of chemical accidents as well as the risk of terrorist and criminal activity associated with Internet posting.

(More information on these assessments can be found on the Department of Justice Web Site at www.usdoj.gov and the EPA Web Site at www.epa.gov/ceppo).

The federal reading rooms will permit individuals to access paper copies of off-site consequence analysis information for all facilities near their home or office (defined as within the jurisdiction of their Local Emergency Planning Committee). Individuals can also obtain access to the information for any facility that has a "vulnerable zone" that extends into their Local Emergency Planning Committee's jurisdiction. A vulnerable zone is an area likely to be impacted by an accidental release. In addition, individuals can access the information for up to 10 facilities per month regardless of the facility's location.

The federal reading rooms will be designated by December 31, 2000. Some of the reading rooms will operate on a walk-in basis, while others will operate on an appointment only basis. Local Emergency Planning Committees, State Emergency Response Commissions, local government agencies such as fire and police, and other agencies involved in chemical emergency

response and planning are also permitted to provide read-only access to off-site consequence analysis information. However, the facilities must be within their jurisdiction or have a vulnerable zone that extends into their jurisdiction. These agencies can obtain the information by requesting it from EPA Headquarters, EPA Regional Offices or the RMP Reporting Center.

(In Region III, questions about RMP can be directed to Mikal Shabazz at (215) 814-3281.

In order to gain access to the information, individuals will be required to provide photo identification and to sign a certification that they have not received off-site consequence analysis information for more than 10 facilities outside the local jurisdiction within the last month. Individuals are also required to provide documentation of their home and work addresses to obtain the information on local facilities. Reading room personnel will maintain records of reading room use.

Information about the location of the federal reading rooms and access to Risk Management Plans, including off-site consequence analysis information that is not considered to pose a security risk, will be posted on the Internet by December 31, 2000 at www.epa.gov/ceppo/. Individuals can also access an Internet-based Vulnerable Zone Indicator System at this web site to find out if a particular address (such as their home or office) is within the vulnerable zone of a facility that submitted a Risk Management Plan.

ASSISTANCE FOR RESPONDERS

RUNOFF FROM MASS DECONTAMINATION: ARE YOU LIABLE?

The Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office at EPA Headquarters recently issued an alert addressing the question of whether first responders would be liable for spreading contamination while attempting to save lives during a weapons of mass destruction incident.

According to the alert, the answer can be found in the "Good Samaritan" provision. Before you reach for your Bibles, the provision is in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, Section 107(d), *Rendering Care or Advice*. The provision states: "No person shall be liable under this subchapter for costs or damages as a result of actions taken or omitted in the course of rendering care, assistance, or advice in accordance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP) or at the direction of an on-scene coordinator appointed under such plan, with respect to an incident creating a danger to public health or welfare or the environment as a result of any releases of a hazardous substance or the threat thereof." Section 107(d)(2) provides that state and local governments are not liable "as a result of actions taken in response to an emergency created by the release or threatened release of a hazardous substance."

However, these provisions do not apply to costs or damages caused by "gross negligence or intentional misconduct."

EPA's alert states that first responders should undertake any necessary emergency actions to save lives and protect the public and themselves. Once any imminent threats are addressed, first respond-

ers should immediately take all reasonable efforts to contain the contamination and avoid or mitigate environmental consequences. First responders should involve state and federal officials as soon as possible to reduce potential liability concerns.

EPA's alert also emphasizes the importance of pre-planning and being prepared which will help minimize the environmental impacts from such incidents.

EPA cannot prevent a private citizen from filing suit; however, the Good Samaritan provision could be used as a defense. First responders could also be subject to actions under other laws, including state tort laws, and should consult legal counsel in their state.

A full copy of the alert can be obtained through EPA's Web Site at www.epa.gov/ceppo/ or by calling the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Hotline at (800) 424-9346.

Delaware County LEPC Honored

Congratulations to the Delaware County Local Emergency Planning Committee of Pennsylvania for receiving the honorable mention award from the Chemical Educational Foundation. The Foundation's Community Chemical Product Stewardship Awards honor community-based emergency planning agencies that have exemplified the goal of chemical safety.

The Delaware County LEPC was commended for its extensive education and outreach efforts to the community and its ongoing training program for emergency response personnel. Several other emergency response programs in EPA Region III were finalists for the award:

- Bucks County LEPC (PA)
- City of Danville Department of Emergency Services (VA)
- Harford County Division of Emergency Operations (MD)
- Philadelphia LEPC (PA)
- York County Emergency Management (PA)

Hats off to all these outstanding programs!

PREPAREDNESS IN PRINT

■ Title: Joint Information Center Model: Collaborative Communications During Emergency Response

■ Publisher: National Response Team (a national planning, policy and coordinating body consisting of 16 Federal agencies with the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard serving as co-chairs)

A well-organized and detailed publication for conducting crisis communication during emergency responses. Also useful for other situations in which multiple organizations need to collaborate to provide timely, useful, and accurate information to the public and other stakeholders. The authors of the document also intended for the model to be able to accommodate a response conducted under a weapons of mass destruction or other type of terrorist incident. The publication includes a number of useful sample documents, worksheets, checklists and forms.

■ You can download a copy of the publication from the National Response Team Web Site at www.nrt.org.

NEW REGULATION STREAMLINES ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING FOR SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS

EPA recently issued the Consolidated Federal Air Rule to combine 16 existing Federal air rules that apply to the synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry. This new rule provides flexibility to these manufacturers by offering a choice of compliance options. A source owner or operator can comply with the Consolidated Federal Air Rule or continue complying with existing applicable requirements. The new rule simplifies the regulatory language, combines similar requirements, and eliminates duplicative compliance activities while maintaining at least the current level of environmental protection. The regulation is expected to significantly reduce the monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting burden associated with compliance.

Further information can be obtained through EPA's Web Site at www.epa.gov

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES DISCLOSE AND CORRECT VIOLATIONS

Five telecommunications companies have voluntarily disclosed and promptly corrected 3,457 environmental violations that occurred at 1,122 of their facilities in 45 states and the District of Columbia. These settlements commit the companies to comply with right-to-know requirements that help identify potential environmental hazards, protect emergency personnel responding to accidents, and to take steps to prevent accidental spills of oil or hazardous chemicals.

The proposed settlements were reached under EPA's Audit Policy, which allows EPA to reduce or eliminate penalties for companies that voluntarily audit, promptly disclose, and correct violations. The policy does not cover criminal violations by a company or violations that resulted in actual significant harm to public health or the environment.

Under the proposed settlements, the companies will pay a total of \$329,426, which is the amount they saved by delaying compliance with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure requirements, the Clean Air Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The companies include AirTouch Communications, Inc.; AT&T Corp.; AT&T Broadband, LLC; NEXTLINK Communications, Inc.; and QWEST Communications.

Remedial actions for these companies' violations include notifying Local Emergency Planning Committees of the presence of hazardous chemicals, preparing spill prevention plans, applying for permits to construct or install standby generators, maintaining records for appliances containing more than 50 pounds of refrigerant, repairing refrigerant leaks from heating, ventilation and air conditioning units, and obtaining a letter of financial assurance demonstrating financial responsibility for corrective action or damage caused by sudden accidental releases from underground storage tanks.

More information on EPA's Audit Policy can be found on EPA's Web Site at www.epa.gov/oeca/ore/apolguid.html.

Regional Response Teams Contact List

Region I

Dennisses Valdes
U.S. EPA
(617) 918-1261

Capt. Gordon Marsh
USCG
(504) 589-6271

Capt. John Grenier
USCG
(617) 223-8447

Region VIII

Doug Skie
U.S. EPA
(303) 312-6827

Region II

Bruce Sprague
U.S. EPA
(732) 321-6656

CDR Michael Drieu
USCG
(504) 589-3656

Capt. John Grenier
USCG
(617) 223-8447

Region IX

Michael Feeley
U.S. EPA
(415) 744-2199

Region III

Dennis Carney
U.S. EPA
(215) 814-3241

Capt. Frank Whipple
USCG
(510) 437-2940

Capt. John Schrinner
USCG
(757) 398-6637

Region X

Chris Field
U.S. EPA
(206) 553-1674

Region IV

Myron Lair
U.S. EPA
(404) 562-8721

Capt. John Veentjer
USCG
(206) 220-7210

Capt. William H. Fels
USCG
(305) 415-6861

Alaska

Carl Lautenberger
U.S. EPA
(907) 271-4306

Region V

Richard Karl
U.S. EPA
(312) 353-9295

Capt. Ed Page
USCG
(907) 463-2199

Capt. Randy Helland
USCG
(216) 902-6046

Caribbean

Bruce Sprague
U.S. EPA
(732) 321-6656

Region VI

Charles Gazda
U.S. EPA
(214) 665-2270

Capt. William H. Fels
USCG
(305) 415-6861

Capt. Gordon Marsh
USCG
(504) 589-6271

Oceania

Michael Feeley
U.S. EPA
(415) 744-2199

Region VII

Bob Jackson
U.S. EPA
(913) 551-7952

Capt. Terry Rice
USCG
(808) 541-2114

Preparedness and Planning Resources

NEW LEPC AUDIOTAPE AVAILABLE

Just released and already climbing the charts...the next hit in the EPA Region III LEPC audiotape collection, "RMP's And Your LEPC."

Looking for a copy of a risk management plan? Wondering how other LEPCs are using data from risk management plans? Want to know how to improve your emergency response planning for chemical incidents? This new audiotape will not only give you these answers but much more. You'll also hear how other LEPCs are achieving better communication between industries and with the public and how safety is being increased in various communities.

Included on the tape are Mark Scott of the National Institute for Chemical Studies; Mark Wolford, Mikal Shabazz, and Bill Finan of EPA; Jim Bailey of Union Carbide; Mary Moses of the Harford County Division of Emergency Operations; Gene Reynolds of FMC; Chief Steve Hardman of the Nitro, West Virginia Fire Department; and Pat Conlon of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

A copy of the tape is being sent to each LEPC in Region III with responsibility for facilities that submitted risk management plans.

If you don't receive a copy and you would like one, send an e-mail (brown.alan@epa.gov) or fax (215-814-3254) to Al Brown at EPA Region III.

NEW PRODUCTS

Sala Rollpump®

Megator Corporation is introducing a new spill response system for oil and chemicals. The Sala system is designed for rescue and cleanup of oil spills and other high viscous and polluted liquids. The extremely strong suction and debris tolerance

For more information, contact Megator Corporation at (800) 245-6211.

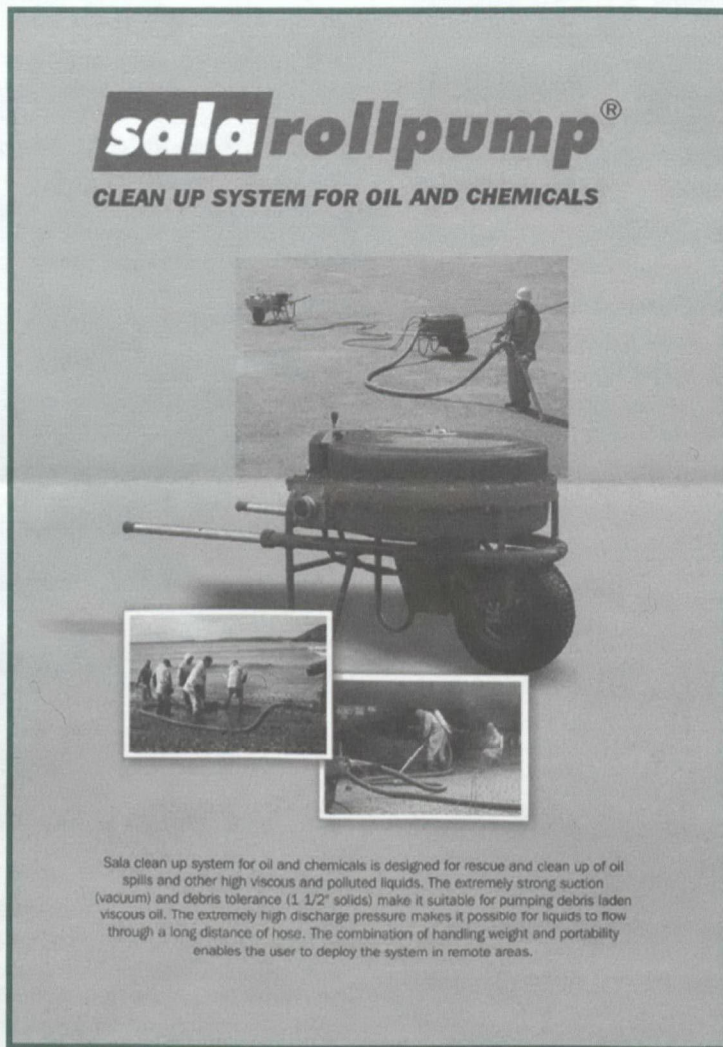
Sea Scan®PC

Manufactured by Marine Sonic Technology, Ltd., the Sea Scan® PC is a high-resolution towed side scan sonar system. Sea Scan® PC is used for a variety of underwater

search and survey applications. Its performance has been repeatedly demonstrated to be useful in locating underwater objects, large and small, from submerged wrecks to drowning victims and weapons. Small and lightweight, the entire system is completely portable and can be towed behind nearly any size boat. The system can be installed and in operation in just a few minutes. Some of its unique features include acoustic transducers that employ patented medical technology and extremely low noise electronics to produce a precise, clean pulse and extremely high resolution acoustic beam which produces an almost picture quality image. The system is being used worldwide in the fields of law enforcement, search and rescue, surveying, geological research and the military.

For more information, contact Marine Sonic Technology at (800) 447-4804.

Note: We believe information on new products is of value to our readers. However, such information does not reflect an endorsement, view, position or policy of the Agency.



salarollpump®
CLEAN UP SYSTEM FOR OIL AND CHEMICALS

Sala clean up system for oil and chemicals is designed for rescue and clean up of oil spills and other high viscous and polluted liquids. The extremely strong suction (vacuum) and debris tolerance (1 1/2" solids) make it suitable for pumping debris laden viscous oil. The extremely high discharge pressure makes it possible for liquids to flow through a long distance of hose. The combination of handling weight and portability enables the user to deploy the system in remote areas.

(1-1/2" solids) make it suitable for pumping debris-laden viscous oil. High-discharge pressure makes it possible for liquids to flow through a long distance of hose. The combination of handling weight and portability enables the user to deploy the system in remote areas.

"Hazmat Transportation Incidents -

Last Chance—November 28-30 in Norfolk!

Three days of networking, workshops and hands-on tabletop exercises. Transportation incidents are one of the most common Hazmat responses. From trains and ships to trucks and planes, we'll cover it all and make sure you are prepared and ready to respond. We've got a great location and great rates too!

**November 28-30, 2000
Norfolk, Virginia**

Waterside Marriott
235 East Main Street
Norfolk, VA 2351
(800) 228-929
(757) 627-4200

Special rate: \$55 plus tax

Please call the hotel directly to make your reservations.
Be sure to ask for the U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency conference rates.

SCHEDULE

DAY 1

2:00 – 7:00 P.M. REGISTRATION
4:00 – 7:00 P.M. OPENING RECEPTION
IN EXHIBIT HALL

DAY 2

8:00 – 3:00 P.M. EXHIBIT HALL OPEN
8:00 – 11:30 A.M. GENERAL SESSION
11:30 – 1:00 P.M. LUNCH IN EXHIBIT HALL
1:00 – 4:30 P.M. BREAKOUT SESSIONS

DAY 3

8:00 – 3:30 p.m. INTERACTIVE TABLE TOP
TRAINING SCENARIOS AND BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Plenary Session Speakers

Tom Lasseigne - National Transportation Safety Board

All you need to know—what the NTSB does and how it does it.

Danny Swift - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Who we are and what we do. Where we're going and how we're going to get there.

Ella McNeil - U.S. Department of Energy

As a high-visibility shipper of radioactive materials, DOE has come under intense scrutiny – from Congress to local citizens. Learn about a new program being developed to address preparedness needs nationwide.

Perry Cogburn - Virginia Department of Transportation

We can help! Hear how VDOT can provide assistance when incidents occur and how Virginia transportation Hazmat regulations are enforced.

Brett Burdick - Virginia Department of Emergency Management

Learn what resources are available to you in responding to Hazmat transportation incidents.

Scott Gorton - Transcaer®

TRANSCAER® (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) is an alliance of chemical manufacturers, distributors and transporters. Hear how this alliance provides assistance to communities in developing and evaluating their emergency response plans for hazardous material transportation incidents.

Rene Henry - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III

Learn from the author of the book "You'd Better Have a Hose if You Want to Put Out the Fire" the steps to avoid a communication crisis and what to do if one occurs.

Workshops

Airport Safety

Hank Kim

International Association of Fire Fighters

Too many airports are unprepared to adequately respond to airport emergencies because they lack the necessary aircraft rescue and fire fighting personnel and equipment. Hear from the principal author of the report, *Surviving the Crash*, about these deficiencies and how it impedes the ability of fire fighters to respond to Hazmat emergencies.

Airports/Dangerous Cargos

Janet McLaughlin

Federal Aviation Administration

Highlights of the FAA's Dangerous Goods Program. Find out about the incident trends identified by the FAA and current initiatives for preventing future incidents.

Are You Really Prepared?"

Preparing for Plane Crashes

Neil Krosner - Maxwell Air Force Base

Understand the role of the U.S. Air Force in responding to a major accident both as the primary responder and in support of civilian agencies. View dramatic footage from an Air Force Stealth Fighter crash in a small community in Maryland. Other topics include notification, response and recovery operations, national defense areas and media concerns.

Highway Incidents

Bill MacReady and Carrie Taranta Wayne Jevic Transportation, Inc.

Where does the Responsible Care® program fit in a transportation company's response measures? What role does Transcaer® play? How can industry enhance the knowledge of local responders? Staff from Jevic will answer these questions plus demonstrate all the methods used to mitigate a release.

Ammonia Incidents

David Binder - Tanner Industries, Inc.

Get prepared to handle ammonia incidents from start to finish, beginning with an overview of anhydrous ammonia properties to various types of transportation packaging to troubleshooting incidents.

Using Commodity Flow Studies

Mark Scott - National Institute for Chemical Studies

Improve your understanding of commodity flow studies and the importance of having one for your community. How to do one and how to use the results.

Pressurized Railroad Cars

Bill Oertly - Association of American Railroads

Everything you need to know about pressurized railroad cars including information available from the railroad to assist emergency responders, types of tank cars, how to distinguish between general service and pressure tank cars, and how to handle derailments.

Chlorine Incidents

Frank Gilmore - PPG Industries, Inc.

What you need to know to respond to chlorine incidents including chemical properties, methods of transportation and protective measures. Find out about CHLOREP, the chlorine emergency response network.

How the Railroad System Really Works

Scott Gorton - CSX Transportation

Gain valuable insight into the internal crisis communications network activated by most railroads during a hazardous

materials emergency, how to obtain critical information on products being carried in a train, and how to contact key railroad officials. Railroads have a wide array of technical expertise available – learn how to contact these resources to manage incidents.

Planning for Pipeline Incidents

Joy Kadnar - Office of Pipeline Safety, DOT

What types of environmental impacts could result from a pipeline failure? What is the most likely cause of pipeline failures? What is the total mileage of liquid and natural gas pipelines in the U.S.? You'll get these answers plus much more including the statutory history, regulatory compliance efforts, and safety initiatives of the Office of Pipeline Safety.

Responding to Railway Incidents

John Smoot - Kanawha County, WV EMS/Teays Valley Fire Department

The real thing. . . lessons learned from the collision and derailment of two trains resulting in the explosion of a tank car of flammables, exposures to other cars of combustibles, fire, rescue of train crew members, and blocking of a community egress. You'll leave knowing how to deal with the full range of response issues, from planning to operational to political.

Planning for Maritime Incidents

Lt. Connie M. Rooke - U.S. Coast Guard Hampton Roads Marine Safety Office

Handle the challenges of a multi-agency response. Form a Unified Command and establish and activate realistic response objectives. Improve your internal planning and exercises for maritime incidents.

Maritime Incident Response

Ed Lewis - Chesapeake Diving Services, Ltd.

Hear what is involved in responding to a maritime incident (underwater) from an experienced Hazmat responder and professional diver.

Pipeline Case Study: PEPCO Oil Spill

Alan Williams - Maryland Department of the Environment

Hear a case study presentation of the PEPCO oil spill incident in Prince George's County, Maryland. This incident released 110,000 gallons of petroleum affecting 10 miles of the Patuxent River. Find out key lessons learned from responding to this incident.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET PREPARED! REGISTRATION IS LIMITED.

REGISTRATION FORM IS ON PAGE 8

CONFERENCE HOTLINE (410) 676-0882

EPA REGION III HAZMAT TRANSPORTATION INCIDENTS SEMINAR

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

NAME FOR NAME BADGE: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

WORK PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

EMPLOYER: _____

POSITION: _____

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$35 per person
(includes opening reception,
continental breakfast, lunch)**

Make check payable to
PA Chemical Industry Council and mail to:
GP Corporation, 500 Edgewood Road,
Suite 110, Edgewood, MD 21040
ATTN: Katrina Harris

**LIMITED EXHIBITOR OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE. CALL THE
CONFERENCE HOTLINE FOR INFORMATION 410-676-0882**

Regional and National Conferences

Domestic Terrorism Conference Being Held in Philadelphia

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia will sponsor *Domestic Terrorism 2000*, a two-day workshop for health professionals and first responders on November 30 and December 1, 2000. Cost is \$150 for registered nurses and physicians and \$75 for EMTs, paramedics, police and fire personnel.

Workshop topics include blast and explosive injuries, chemical and biological agents, federal assets and response plans, terrorism and lessons learned, radiation basics and treatment, hospital response plans, static displays in technology and equipment, and bioterrorism and public health initiatives. Contact hours will be awarded for physicians, nurses and EMTs.

As part of the workshop, instructors from EPA's Region III will be presenting a four-hour course in "Hazardous Materials Response Training for Hospitals." This

course meets OSHA requirements for an awareness level training. Course attendees will gain an understanding of hazardous materials, associated risks and potential outcomes, learn to recognize and identify the presence of hazardous substances in an emergency, understand the role of an individual trained at the awareness level, become familiar with the U.S. DOT's Emergency Response Guidebook, and receive a brief overview of terrorist biological and chemical threats and responding to mass casualty incidents.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Arthur Blackshaw at (215) 955-6161 or Linda Wilson at (215) 955-8215

New Jersey Emergency Management Association Holds Annual Workshop

The New Jersey Emergency

Management Association will be holding its 40th Annual Workshop/Seminar, "Plan for the Worst - Pray for the Best," November 17-19, 2000 at the Holiday Inn in Atlantic City.

Workshop topics include EPA's training and outreach programs, successful mitigation tactics to reduce community loss, the RACES Program, debris management, and how to obtain federal grants to purchase equipment for paid and volunteer fire departments. Representatives from the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management will present a FEMA professional development course on the decision making process in crisis situations, and course attendees will receive credit and a state certificate. There will also be sessions presenting outcomes from actual disasters, and an opportunity to tour the New Jersey Transit Mobile Command Center.

For additional information, contact Shirley Baker at (201) 935-2268.

SERCs and LEPCs: Are They Really Effective?

This is the second in a series of articles looking at State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs) and Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and examining whether they are accomplishing their purpose and achieving the goals originally envisioned by Congress. In the first article, we looked at the history of why SERCs and LEPCs were established and their regulatory responsibilities. In this issue, we take a closer look at some indicators of how SERCs and LEPCs are functioning.

The National Governors' Association recently issued a report entitled "Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know: State Profiles, 1999-2000." Funded by a grant from EPA Headquarters' Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office, this report provides a concise summary of the characteristics of each state's emergency response commission. The state profiles include information on the state laws or executive orders that formally established the commission, SERC membership, approaches to funding, status of the formation of LEPCs and their submission of plans, and the potential liability of SERC/LEPC members.

The report shows a broad variance in SERC membership. Some SERCs are made up of one or two state agencies while others include a spectrum of stakeholders, such as members of state legislatures, media representatives, environmental and consumer groups, and members of the general public.

Approaches to funding of SERC and LEPC activities also

varies. Approximately 20 states have created a fee system. Most states are assuming the costs within state budgets, and some are taking advantage of federal grants. The report shows a wide range of budgets for chemical emergency planning and community right to know activities. Obviously, factors such as the amount of industry and the size of the state impact the need for such planning, and there may have been some differences in how the information was reported. Also, some states did not provide budget information. A few states reported budgeting as little as \$14,000 (Wyoming), many are budgeting in the \$100,000 to \$400,000 range, and a few reported budgeting in the \$1,000,000 to \$4,000,000 range (Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Ohio, Oregon and Alaska). These ranges were reported for states with fees as well as states without fees.

The report also summarizes the number of LEPCs in each state and the basis for delineating planning districts. As mentioned in the first article in our series, most states used city and county boundaries to delineate planning districts and to form LEPCs. A few states have organized by smaller geographic boundaries, such as municipalities; New Hampshire and New Jersey are two such states. New Jersey has the largest number of LEPCs (587). Several states, such as Florida and California, have created regional planning districts and similarly organized LEPCs, with Florida having 11 and California having 6.

The majority of states reported

that each LEPC has submitted an emergency response plan to cover chemical incidents, with a few states reporting that some planning districts are still developing plans.

A few SERCs have implemented interesting approaches to ensuring LEPCs are functioning effectively. Indiana is one of the states with a fee system and it distributes a base amount to each LEPC, plus an additional sum based on the number of reporting facilities in each district. However, the SERC can withhold funding from an LEPC if it does not perform certain activities such as updating and exercising its emergency preparedness plan, providing the SERC with an updated membership list, conducting LEPC meetings at least quarterly, and providing the SERC with minutes of LEPC meetings. Wisconsin, also a state with a fee system, awards grants to LEPCs; however, to be eligible for the grant program, the LEPCs are required to perform activities similar to those mentioned for Indiana.

A copy of the report is available from the National Governors' Association Web Site at www.nga.org.

Once again, we ask: How is **your** SERC/LEPC?

If you have an opinion on SERCs and LEPCs, if you think your SERC or LEPC is successful, if you think your SERC or LEPC is not as effective as it should be, let us hear from you. Send your thoughts, opinions, or stories to Katrina Harris by e-mail (kharris@genphysics.com) or by fax (410) 676-8545.

Drills, Exercises and Training

Lehigh County Tests HAZMAT Response Plans

Catherine Pomerantz
FEMA Region III

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III partnering with the Environmental

private businesses, and FEMA. Volunteer organizations included the American Red Cross and RACES, a ham-radio group that handled communications.

According to John Conklin, Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency Director, "This was the first large-scale, mass casualty exercise for most of the hospital and EMS participants and will do a great deal to boost their capabilities in handling chemically-contaminated victims."

For information on the CHER-CAP program, please contact your FEMA regional office. In Region III, please contact Catherine Pomerantz at (215) 931-5610.



One of the lessons from the exercise is that more labor needs to be directed toward getting the decontamination operation up and running immediately.

Protection Agency Region III, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, and Lehigh County emergency response organizations held a hazardous material incident exercise on September 16, 2000 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The exercise was the final phase of FEMA's Comprehensive Hazard Emergency Response - Capability Assessment Program (CHER-CAP) and was the first CHER-CAP exercise in Pennsylvania. CHER-CAP is part of FEMA's preparedness training program and helps coordination and communication among various responding organizations in any type of incident.

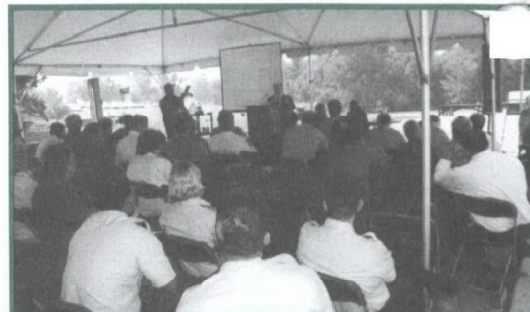
The exercise was held at Puritan Products, Inc. (the owner of Puritan is an LEPC member). Participants included fire, police and HAZMAT responders from Bethlehem, Allentown and Lehigh County, as well as medical and other support personnel from Lehigh County, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency,



The exercise provided several HAZMAT teams with the opportunity to work together and get to know each other's capabilities.

Anhydrous Ammonia Response Plans Tested at Annual Exercise

LEPCs from Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Anne Arundel County joined with the South Baltimore Industrial Mutual Aid Plan (SBIMAP) to put their emergency response plans to the test. This 16th annual Hazmat drill involved three



Buzz Melton of FMC, drill coordinator, facilitated the extensive planning prior to the exercise and kept attendees informed as the scenarios unfolded.

separate anhydrous ammonia release scenarios: a tank truck involved in a rollover traffic accident releases a cloud of ammonia which moves towards populated areas, a farmer applying anhydrous ammonia as a fertilizer develops a tank leak and is overcome, and a leak from a frozen food facility's refrigeration unit overcomes a worker trying to stop the leak.

In addition to the involvement of many local, state and Federal agencies, a nearby school was the site of an actual shelter-in-place exercise which could be observed by drill spectators.

EPA Region III provided professional sound equipment and staff for the exercise which allowed the large number of attendees to hear the exercise as it evolved.



Hundreds of representatives from local, state and Federal agencies, as well as many community groups participated in, evaluated and observed the exercise.

Drills, Exercises and Training

EPA Transportation Seminars a Success

EPA Region III's first two presentations of the "HAZMAT TRANSPORTATION INCIDENTS—ARE YOU REALLY PREPARED?" seminars were well received in Wilkes-Barre and Erie, Pennsylvania. Emergency managers, Hazmat chiefs and technicians, industry health and safety personnel, government staff and others have benefitted from the wide variety of transportation workshops presented by experts in the field and a full day of interactive tabletop scenarios. Suggestions from attendees in Wilkes-Barre were incorporated into the Erie seminar and suggestions from



Exhibitors have been a tremendous asset at the seminars and provided attendees with cutting-edge information on new products and services.

Erie attendees will make the Norfolk seminar the best yet. Last chance—Norfolk, Virginia on November 28 through 30!



Workshops have been well rated by attendees and provided an excellent forum for the exchange of ideas.

Lock Haven Prepares for Transportation Incidents



EPA Region III recently supported a classroom training program and field exercise in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. The field exercise utilized a bulk liquid trailer to simulate a transportation incident. Attendees found the instruction and exercise beneficial to improving their emergency response skills.

EPA Region III staff are available to support drills, exercises and training within Region III. Even if you don't need support, we'd like to know about exercises and your other events. Give Al Brown a call at (215) 814-3302 or e-mail him at brown.alan@epa.gov.

Sign Up For Our Mailing List

Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Update will be published periodically on an irregular basis by the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention folks at EPA Region III under the direction of Al Brown.

Our goal is to provide interesting, informative, and often timely information to hazardous materials emergency planners, responders and stakeholders. If you have a story you would like to tell, a point you would like to make, or want to join the mailing list, fill out this form and mail it to:

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