

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act

EPCRA



U. S. Environmental Protection Agency — **Region III**

November 1999



Alan Brown

U.S. EPA, Region III

Chemical Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

I'd certainly be remiss if I didn't thank those of you who journeyed from some 43 states and 7 foreign countries to help us "Make A Difference" at our 1999 CEPP Conference in Washington, D.C., September 20-23. It was a huge success and many felt it the best so far. It was also a lot of work and a definite vote of thanks is owed our Conference Planning Committee that labored long and unsung. One thing is certain, we couldn't have pulled it off at all if it wasn't for the terrific support from our partners, sponsors, and exhibitors. Their contribution was both integral and critical.

Do check out our 1999 CEPP Partnership Award winners elsewhere in this issue. Each one of them has made a difference—a big one. To a large extent, they (and the many other award nominees who give so very much of themselves unselfishly day in and day out) are what our conference is all about.

Once again, I'd like to reiterate and emphasize that we're always looking for ways to make this publication better. If you've got an opinion, an article, a complaint, a success story, an anecdote, etc., please contact my editor, Katrina Harris, at (410) 676-8835 or Kharris@genphysics.com. In addition, look for some interesting changes in our content and format in upcoming issues. We're determined to make this publication the absolute best in its field.

Y2K READINESS

EPA HQ and EPA Region III are ready!

At EPA Region III, On-Scene Coordinators will be available to respond to any year-end Y2K incidents, and some will be standing by at State Emergency Operation Centers. The Regional Response Center will be activated, and the Regional Response Team is prepared to respond if needed.

EPA Headquarters has been working closely with the chemical industry and encouraging testing of computer-related equipment to prevent any discharges to the environment and failure to provide important monitoring information to the government. EPA worked with a number of trade associations in publishing the booklet "Addressing Year 2000 Issues in Small and Medium-Sized Facilities that Handle Chemicals." A copy of this guidance, along with more information, is available at the EPA Year 2000 web site at www.epa.gov/year2000. You can also contact the EPA Headquarters Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Hotline at (800) 424-9346 for more information.

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DELAWARE COUNTY LEPC HOLDS RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING DRILL

Ed Truitt
Director of Emergency
Services
Delaware County, PA

More than 80 representatives from industry and local emergency response organizations in Delaware County, Pennsylvania and the State of Delaware joined together for a risk management planning drill.



Photo by David L. Schlott, On-Site Photography

Industrial and municipal emergency responders gather around a tabletop model of their community in preparation for a Risk Management Planning drill at the 911 Emergency Center in Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

The evening began with small group discussions allowing industry participants the opportunity to review response capabilities to toxic chemical releases. Participants from the Delaware Valley Industry Group including Allied Signal, BOC Gases, Epsilon Products, General Chemical, Rhodia, Stoney Creek Technologies, Sunoco, and TOSCO teamed together with local emergency responders to review release scenarios, chemicals involved, company response, external notifications by

each company, and public emergency response.

Then it happened...railcars from a train traveling through the fictional "Saber GT" petrochemical facility derailed near the facility's propane storage tanks and piping containing highly-flammable materials. Saber GT emergency response personnel were first on the scene. They determined the piping had been damaged, began setting up protective water sprays, tried to isolate the leak, and placed a call to Delaware County-911. Minutes later, Saber GT's emergency responders identified two process heaters in the vicinity of the leak—a possible source of ignition—and called for the railroad

to be shut down. A call went out for additional resources...and it just kept getting worse.

Despite Saber GT's efforts, a vapor cloud ignited, causing severe damage and injuries in the immediate area. Calls began to pour into 911 from area neighbors.

Local emergency responders quickly assessed

drill was held as part of EPA's Risk Management Plan regulation. The Delaware County LEPC and the Delaware Valley Industry Group have been working together for two years in preparation for the Risk Management Plan regulation.

At the conclusion of the drill, participants debriefed to determine which systems worked well, what areas need to be refined, and how participants can maximize their strengths in a real emergency. Participants reviewed the challenges they faced in evaluating the initial situation, handling the constantly-changing variables and working together to make the most of all available resources.

"Drills like this one that bring industry together with local emergency responders to review response capabilities are crucial for preparedness in the event of a chemical release," said Ed Doyle, co-chair of the Delaware County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

For more information about the Delaware County drill or LEPC, contact Ed Truitt at (610) 565-8700.

the situation and reviewed all the variables, including weather conditions and the extent of damage.

This table-top drill provided emergency management and response personnel in the public and industrial sectors a terrific opportunity to experience all dimensions of a chemical emergency in a risk-free environment. The



Photo by David L. Schlott, On-Site Photography

Local emergency responders listen attentively as the training scenario unfolds. Eighty representatives from industry and emergency response organizations participated in the drill.

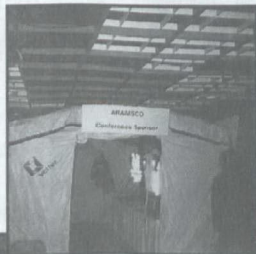
EPA REGION III'S 1999 CHEMICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION CONFERENCE—BIGGEST AND BEST AS PROMISED!

More than 1100 attendees, from 43 states and 7 foreign countries, attended EPA's 1999 Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Conference in Washington, D.C., the largest attendance to date at this conference. We wanted to *Make a Difference* and the numbers show we did it!

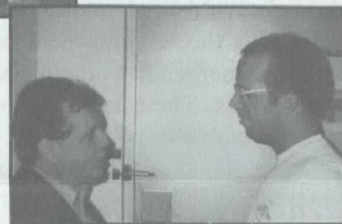
Look for information in upcoming issues of the EPCRA Update on some smaller workshops planned for 2000 and for the next conference in 2001.



Thanks to all our sponsors and exhibitors who contributed greatly to the conference's success.



From the hands-on, interactive experience of Stress City to informative workshops and one-on-one conversations, the conference provided great opportunities for success stories and lessons learned.



Carole Macko of EPA HQ greets one of the special guests and partnership award winners, Captain Sewer.



A special surprise—Aunt SARA was allowed back!



Dave Wright of EPA Region III thanks Dr. Sadayoshi Ohbu. Dr. Ohbu, a lead emergency room physician during the Tokyo subway sarin incident, provided attendees with an excellent incident summary, including dramatic video footage taken at St. Luke's Hospital during the incident.



Dave Wright of EPA Region III presents a plaque to Major General Zeev Livne of the Embassy of Israel, a keynote speaker who discussed how to prepare an entire country for chemical incidents.



Nine volunteers demonstrate if you try, you can Make a Difference.



The Conference Director had to sell a few things—his car, his tie collection, his socks—to pay the final bill—not sure if he's made it back to Philadelphia yet.

Turn the page to learn more about some people recognized for their efforts to Make A Difference...

EPA REGION III PARTNERSHIP

A highlight of the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Conference is the EPA Region III Partnership Awards. These awards recognize exceptional creativity or innovation in chemical emergency preparedness programs. "These awards symbolize the partnership between EPA and the community," said McCabe, EPA regional administrator.

EPA thanks the members of this year's Awards Committee for their hard work in reviewing nominations and selecting winners. Below is a short summary of the recipients' accomplishments and photos showing Dave Wright, EPA Region III Administrator.

U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Policy and Guidance



photo by John Stinson

The Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Policy and Guidance has been a leader in fostering the development and implementation of emergency planning and preparedness programs. Their achievements include partnering with EPA Region III in developing EPCRA training courses, guidance documents, reference books, and innovative emergency planning tools.

Warner Bros. Television (accepted by Ms. Shelly Billik)



photo by John Stinson

Warner Bros. gave permission for EPA Region III to use a scene from its award-winning show "ER" for a training video on medical decontamination and hazardous material preparedness. The footage graphically depicts the dramatic and life-threatening effects that chemical hazardous materials can have on a hospital's emergency room operations. While receiving permission for use of footage is rare, Warner Bros. recognized the educational value that this licensing permission would provide and the tremendous benefit to emergency response efforts.

Mr. Harry Robidoux, Director Monroe County Office of Emergency Services Monroe County, PA



photo by John Stinson

Harry Robidoux has worked to initiate a system of centralized planning and course registration for all fire, rescue and hazardous material training in Monroe County. His work for community safety has included developing a three-phase cooperative plan between the Pocono Medical Center and the LEPC, preparing schools for hazardous material incidents, educating residents and tourists on protective actions and sources of information during emergencies, and overseeing the planning and use of the first fire and safety training facility in the area.

Cpl. Clarence Ross Harford Co. Sheriff's Office, Environmental Crimes Unit Harford County, MD



photo by John Stinson

Corporal Clarence Ross has participated in many LEPC projects that were beyond his required duties, including preparation for risk management planning. While responsible for investigation and prosecution of environmental crimes, Corporal Ross also

serves as Crew Chief on the Hazardous Materials Response Team, providing leadership for any type of incident. On his own time, he prepared several simulated devices for use in training programs. He has developed dynamic education programs for schools and training programs for local responders.

Ms. Martha Anderson Chair, Philadelphia LEPC Philadelphia, PA



photo by John Stinson

Martha Anderson has led the Philadelphia LEPC for seven years. Under her leadership, the LEPC has made tremendous progress in forging community partnerships and developing consensus-based solutions with the public. The LEPC created a mobile fair and held community fairs to educate the public about emergency procedures. Ms. Anderson also facilitated discussions with the community near a refinery to select an effective public notification system.

Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council Harrisburg, PA (accepted by Nancy Arnold and Dave Patti)



photo by John Stinson

The Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council has partnered with EPA Region III on a number of initiatives to improve chemical

AWARDS — 1999 RECIPIENTS

Partnership Awards. EPA presents these awards to companies, organizations or individuals who demonstrate a special brand of dedication to environmental health and safety in our local communities," said W. Michael and selecting individuals, organizations, and businesses that *Make A Difference*. Region III, Chief, Preparedness and Program Support Section, presenting the awards.

emergency preparedness across the region. For three years, they have played a critical role on behalf of the EPA Region III CEPP conference by securing financial support from the Chemical Manufacturers Association, manning exhibit booths, assisting with planning, and providing speakers. In 1999, PCIC arranged a special briefing on EPA's Chemical Safety Audit Program for representatives from over 15 different businesses. They are proactive and innovative in their conferences and training programs and have made significant contributions to improving response programs in Pennsylvania.

Captain Sewer Public Affairs Division Philadelphia Water Department



photo by John Stinson

Captain Sewer is the mascot for the Philadelphia Water Department and Philadelphia's own "grime fighter." His mission is to convey to the youth of Philadelphia why individual behaviors are so important in keeping land and water clean. For more than 10 years, Captain Sewer has devoted his energy, his weekends, his life to appearances at community events, fairs, parades and festivals. He provides programming at schools, camps, libraries and day care centers on conservation, pollution, and even fire hydrant abuse.

Mr. Howard Girer, Chair Carbon County LEPC Carbon County, PA



photo by John Stinson

Howard Girer has volunteered numerous hours to develop an invaluable resource for the Carbon County LEPC—a new members orientation guide. The guide explains to new members the LEPC's purpose, duties, subcommittees, and membership. It also describes meeting format, explains finances, defines terms relevant to hazardous materials, and contains a self-exam to test program knowledge. The guide has been instrumental in familiarizing new members with the LEPC and getting them involved quickly and effectively.

Ms. Marie Johns Outreach Subcommittee Chair Carbon County LEPC Carbon County, PA



photo by John Stinson

Marie Johns is the media representative for the LEPC and also an anchor person for a local television show. She has developed highly-successful contests and educational programs to involve school students throughout the County in hazardous material issues and the LEPC. Under her leadership, the LEPC held a logo contest that culminated in a calendar utilizing the art work of students.

The calendar also contained emergency contacts, LEPC information, and emergency instructions. Ms. Johns has visited local schools to educate students and teacher on Shelter-in-Place and other emergency procedures.

Mr. Alan Lynch Pocono Medical Center East Stroudsburg, PA

Alan Lynch is the medical facility representative on the Monroe County LEPC and has spearheaded planning efforts to help the hospital be ready to receive and treat contaminated patients. He also ensured hospital staff had appropriate training by arranging for EPA Region III to present several awareness courses followed by



photo by John Stinson

operations level courses conducted by the LEPC. Mr. Lynch has proven that a smaller hospital can establish a successful and cost-effective chemical emergency preparedness program.

Mr. Pat Rivoli Warren County, Department of Public Safety Warren County, NJ (award received post-conference)

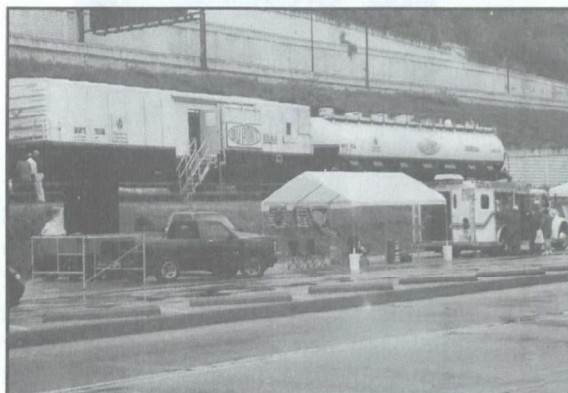
Pat Rivoli is a supportive and active member of the Warren County LEPC and has been a leader in their risk management program. Mr. Rivoli accepted the new challenges posed by Risk Management Plan requirements and worked to ensure cooperation and compliance. Through his efforts, a consortium of industrial facilities was formed to work together on compliance and to share insights and approaches.

TRANSCAER® WHISTLE STOP TOUR TRAINS HUNDREDS

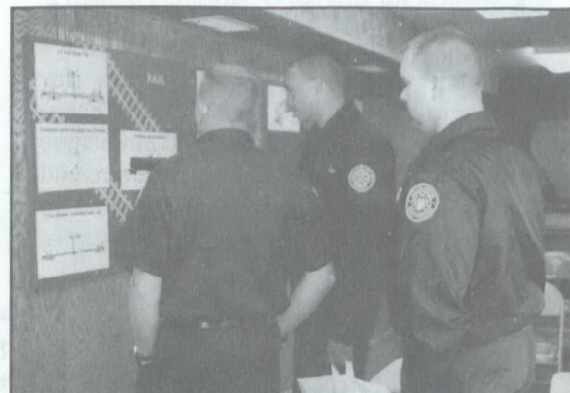
The 1999 TRANSCAER® Whistle-Stop Tour was a great success in its October tour through Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. Hundreds of community members and local emergency responders benefited from the information and demonstrations provided at each stop.

According to Mike Steiner, Assistant Manager of Hazardous Materials for Norfolk Southern Corporation, "The tour is a successful part of an overall commitment to ensure the safe transport of hazardous materials through communities".

TRANSCAER® (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) is a nationwide outreach program of the Chemical Manufacturers Association. It addresses community concerns about the transportation of hazardous materials through assisting emergency responders in planning, encouraging partnerships between citizens and industry, and training responders in handling transportation-related incidents.



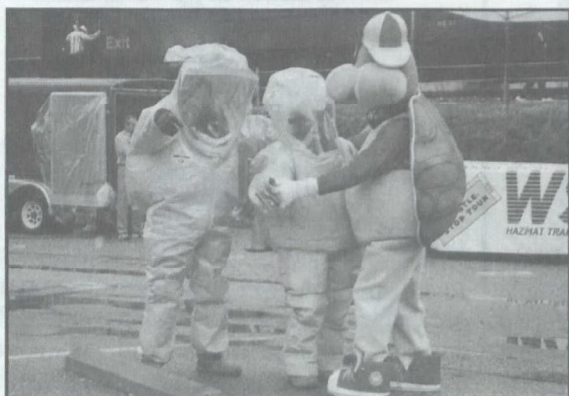
The special train of railcars provided by Norfolk Southern, Rohm and Haas, and DuPont are designed to provide first responders with hands-on experience with every valve, flange, piping and on/off loading system they might encounter during a rail emergency.



At each stop, the train was joined by special training trucks including roll-over tankers, providing first responders with an opportunity to drill with the equipment.



Rainy weather didn't stop these responders (and a potential future responder!) in Charleston, West Virginia from taking advantage of the great opportunities offered by the Whistle Stop Tour.



Wally Wise Guy showed up to help teach the shelter-in-place procedures.



Here's Al...still trying to find his way back to Philadelphia!

PUBLIC MEETINGS REQUIRED ON RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS

Facilities required to submit Program 2 or Program 3 Risk Management Plans must announce and hold a public meeting by February 1, 2000 under a new law signed by President Clinton in August 1999. Facilities meeting the definition of "small business stationary source" may opt to publicly post a summary of their information instead of holding a public meeting. Program 1 process facilities are exempt from these requirements.

The Chemical Safety Information, Site Security and Fuels Regulatory Relief Act limits the public's access to off-site course analysis sections of the plans by prohibiting government officials from disclosing this information, pending further evaluation over a one-year period. The act delays EPA's plan to make the information available over the Internet;

however, the law allows facilities to share this information with the public, and requires most facilities to provide the public with at least a summary of the off-site course analysis information by February 1, 2000.

Under the law, the facility must provide reasonable notice of the public meeting; joint meetings with other facilities are allowed. The facility must discuss its off-site course analysis sections. If a facility held a public meeting between August 5, 1998 and August 5, 1999, provided reasonable notice of the meeting, and discussed off-site course analysis information as submitted in its Risk Management Plan, they may not be required to hold another meeting.

Certification stating that a public meeting has been held or a summary has been posted, whichever is applicable, must be sent to the FBI.

For more information or a sample certification, visit EPA's Chemical Preparedness and Prevention Office web site at www.epa.gov/ceppo or call the Hotline at (800) 424-9346.

CAMEO SUPPORT CHANGES

The National Safety Council, EPA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are making changes in their support of the Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) software.

The National Safety Council is no longer selling CAMEO, MARPLOT or ALOHA. EPA and NOAA will be distributing the latest version of CAMEO at no charge. The National Safety Council will maintain its Web Site (www.nsc.org) for CAMEO users containing general information, detailed CAMEO/ALOHA FAQs, and back issues of *CAMEO Today*.

EPA and NOAA remain committed to the CAMEO program and are putting a tiered system of support in place:

Tier I: Users should first go to the following places for support:

1. User Manuals – distributed on the program CD;
2. New EPA/NOAA CAMEO Web Site (www.epa.gov/ceppo/cameo);
3. State or regional user groups.

Tier II: If an answer is not obtained through the Tier I sources, the user should contact the regional support person. For EPA Region III users (states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia), this person is Al Brown, 215-814-3302, brown.alan@epa.gov.

Tier III: If an answer cannot be obtained at the regional level, the regional contact will provide headquarters contact information.

Tier IV: For major system problems or other specialized support, the user should contact a third party consultant. The EPA Web Site will contain a list of third parties; however, EPA's listing does not imply any endorsement or recommendation by EPA.



EPCRA MAIL BAG

Dear Mr. Brown:

Although at my age I don't much care what folks think about me, I certainly do know how to mind my manners (if it suits me) so I'm taking pen to paper to say thank you for inviting me back to your CHEEPP conference, which it wasn't. I won't say it's the least you could do (considering the caliber of the rest of your banquet entertainment) but if the shoe fits.... While I'm on that subject, I'd like to know why I wasn't asked to join Mr. Stinson's chorus line if that's what it was meant to be. I could've added some much needed pizzazz and maybe showed a little leg to boot. Tell them for me not to quit their day jobs.

Your Mr.

Wright was very nice and a compleat gentleman which was too bad. I didn't get an award again and still didn't even win a door prize. Probably don't need a new door anyhow.



While I'm at it, your Mr. Brennan promised me a little something for all the excitement I stirred up with the fire. Tell him I didn't mean to hurt his feelings but the little something I was looking for was supposed to be in an envelope.

I don't know if the hotel ever did find my luggage but somehow I'm not surprised seeing as how I had to pay in advance for soap and shampoo for my room. Still, it wasn't a total loss as I did earn a few dollars training the Hilton staff on the important difference between a fire exit and the fire. Unfortunately, it wasn't quite enough to cover all my Christmas card postage costs so I'm just sending you my latest glamour shot that I'll be using this year. I'm sure you'll find a use for it.

Well, I've got things to tend to and my fingers are starting to stiffen up so this will have to do.

Aunt Sara III

P.S. Don't forget you can e-mail me now—whatever that means—at auntsarall@netscape.net.

Sign Up For Our Mailing List

EPCRA Update is published periodically on an irregular basis by the Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (CEPP) folks at EPA Region III under the direction of Al Brown. Our goal is to provide interesting, informative, helpful, and often timely EPCRA and CEPP information to hazardous materials emergency planners, responders and stakeholders across EPA III Region and beyond. If you have a story you would like to tell, a point you'd like to make, or simply want to have your very own copy of *EPCRA Update*, just fill out this form and mail it to: Al Brown, EPA Region III (3HS33), 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029. You may also fax this form to 215-814-3254 or e-mail to brown.alan@epa.gov.

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