



Hello, E-Plan Users and friends,

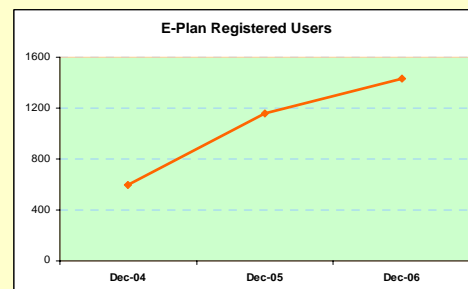
**Happy New Year!** This is your January, 2007 Newsletter to update you on E-Plan events and news across the country.



## 2006 was special for E-Plan

**1. The use of E-Plan system continued to increase.**

- December 2004: 597 registered users
- December 2005: 1,160 registered users
- December 2006: 1,429 registered users



**2. E-Plan operations ran 24/7 with 99.999% availability.**

- The new E-Plan system was launched in August 2006. It was re-designed and developed using the Java Enterprise Edition (J2EE) for robustness, security, scalability, dependability and manageability.

**3. E-Plan has added on as features.**

- Facility search enhanced to search for facility by names, states, counties, cities, or street addresses
- The Chemical search function can now show a specified chemical in a set of facilities on a map or find facilities with a particular chemical in a range of quantities
- “Forgot Password” feature allows users to retrieve their passwords in a secure manner
- “Contact Us” function for suggestion/error reporting

## Did You Know

### You can personally subscribe to NIOSH Updates on personal protective equipment (PPE) Testing and Activities

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory has established a new service to automatically send information relevant to personal protective equipment documents and meetings to subscribers.

NPPTL focuses expertise from many scientific disciplines to advance federal research on respirators and other personal protective technologies for workers, including a number of projects and programs for firefighters and emergency medical personnel. Individuals interested in receiving announcements from NIOSH relevant to personal protective equipment can subscribe to the service online. To register to receive your announcements on personal protective equipment please go to <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/sub-NPPTL.html>

### Compressed gas cylinders are still a serious hazard for First Responders

A recent incident with a liquid nitrogen cylinder in a university laboratory demonstrated once again how dangerous compressed gas cylinders can be if improperly handled, maintained and stored.

A Liquid Nitrogen cylinder (Dewar) catastrophically exploded in a university chemistry laboratory due to over pressurization, according to the Center for Chemical Process Safety.

Fortunately, the explosion took place at 3:00 AM when the building and lab were unoccupied. There were no injuries, but damage to the lab was extensive. The over pressurization to 1000 psi blew the bottom out of the cylinder and drove it upward with a force of 250,000 pounds!

The cylinder's relief valve and rupture disk had been replaced with two brass plugs sometime in the past. A leaking gasket that went unrepaired for a long time probably relieved overpressure in the past. About 12 hours before the explosion, the leaking gasket was finally replaced and the cylinder refilled with liquid nitrogen. The cylinder was now completely sealed with no way to vent excess pressure. Pressure built up to over 1000 psi and the cylinder exploded.

Lessons to be learned (and to be checked when doing Facility Fire Inspections):

1. Cryogenic storage of compressed gasses, such as liquid nitrogen require some type of cooling to prevent overpressure – either refrigeration to maintain low temperature and pressure, or gas must be slowly bled off as vapor to maintain a safe pressure and to cool the remaining liquid.
2. An incident this powerful can damage other nearby equipment, piping and vessels causing an even more severe incident.
3. NEVER modify any equipment containing hazardous materials or energy without a qualified engineering evaluation and ALWAYS conduct a Management of Change Review before modifying such equipment. (Contact the American Chemistry Council at 703-741-6254 or [www.americanchemistry.com](http://www.americanchemistry.com) for more information on Management of Change Reviews).
4. Ensure that cylinders are properly maintained and periodically inspected, including their pressure relief devices.
5. If you observe a high pressure or liquidized gas cylinder that appears to have been modified, is corroded or otherwise damaged, report it to management immediately, so that it can be removed from service.
6. Ensure that everyone handling pressurized gas cylinders is properly trained and that the training is documented.
7. **Read the Texas State Fire Marshal's Alert on this incident at <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/fire/documents/fmred022206.pdf>**

Feel free to add any or all of these "Lessons Learned" to your Fire Inspector Check Lists.



## E-Plan Best Practices

We have begun a new feature in the November, 2006 E-Plan Newsletter that we call “E-Plan Best Practices”. This feature includes the good experiences from First Responders all over the U.S. in using E-Plan for emergency response, pre-planning and training.

### The Use of E-Plan for Training.

E-Plan has a number of built-in training features that you can use. You can access these E-Plan training features as follows:

#### 1. Training to use E-Plan –

Go to the E-Plan home page (<http://erplan.net>) and click on the “Training and Registration” button on the left side bar. You then have the choice to sharpen your skills in using E-Plan by clicking on the following link:

***If you wish to take Training on how to use E-Plan system, Click here.***

By clicking on this link, you can take the built-in training to sharpen your skills in using E-Plan on your computer at your own pace.

#### 2. Practice on pre-written accident scenarios –

Go to the E-Plan home page (<http://erplan.net>) and click on the “Training and Registration” button on the left side bar. You can then sharpen your dispatch and emergency planning skills by working through the two “Accident Scenarios” built in to E-Plan. Choose one or both scenarios listed below and compare your skills with the computer!

***To obtain training on how to deal with an accident scenario, Accident on Railroad Grade Crossing, Click here.***

***To obtain training on how to deal with an accident scenario, Accident in a Rubber Molding Plant, Click here***

#### 3. Develop your own accident scenarios –

Go to the E-Plan home page (<http://erplan.net>) and log on to E-Plan. Then select a company or facility in your area and create your own “Emergency Incident” with one or more Hazardous Chemicals and work through the incident with the input of other Hazmat Specialists in your station.

#### 4. Sharpen your knowledge on specific chemicals –

Go to the E-Plan home page (<http://erplan.net>) and go to the “Chemical Search” button on the left side bar. You now have access to all 22,000 chemicals in the E-Plan database. You can now check on such chemicals Ammonia, Propane, Chlorine, Caustic Soda, Sulfuric Acid, Hydrochloric Acid, Bromine, Siloxane, etc. by name or UN Number. You can study each chemical and become more familiar with its properties, personal protection equipment required (from the “Profile” information), how to attack a spill or leak, etc.

**If you have an “E-Plan Best Practice” that you would like to share with others, please send us your “E-Plan Best Practice” to UT Dallas’s CyberSecurity & Emergency Preparedness Institute.**

**By e-mail:** [erplan@utdallas.edu](mailto:erplan@utdallas.edu)

**By fax:** 972-883-4441

**By phone:** 972-883-2631

**By mail:** The University of Texas at Dallas  
Attn: E-Plan WT-11  
2601 N. Floyd Road  
Richardson, TX 75080

## A New Format for the E-Plan Newsletter

We will be transmitting the monthly E-Plan Newsletter to you over the Internet in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, only.

We used to send you two copies of each monthly Newsletter – one in Word and one in PDF format. This really caused two problems.

First, we sent you the same Newsletter twice and cluttered up your “In Box”.

Second - as you may know - Microsoft Word does not handle graphics very well and the transmission and receiving of the E-Plan Newsletter in Word was cluttering up everyone's computer.

Since Adobe Acrobat PDF is a well-recognized format (and you need PDF anyway to read CHRIS Data on E-Plan), we decided to send out the E-Plan newsletter in PDF format only. If you do not already have Adobe Acrobat Reader PDF on your computer, you can get a free copy of Acrobat Reader at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

Also, you can refer to our CyberSecurity and Emergency Preparedness Institute website at <http://csepi.utdallas.edu> to read our previous E-Plan Newsletters. You will find the E-Plan Newsletters link located under the Emergency Preparedness Center area.

## E-Plan Online Tier2 Submit

**COMPANIES** - Use *E-Plan Online Tier2 Submit* if you want to save time and money and trouble filing Tier II reports and make sure they get to your local First Responders.

**FIRST RESPONDERS** – Do you want to always have up-to-date Tier II Reports for your facilities? Encourage your facilities to use *E-Plan Online Tier2 Submit*. This is a good reason for you or your Fire Inspector to visit your local facilities, tell them about *E-Plan Online Tier2 Submit*, and look over your pre-plans.

E-Plan is offering managers with responsibility for filing Tier II Reports for a plant or facility an online system that simplifies the process for creating the Tier II submission files. Since the system is online, there is no software to download or install! The user goes to the secure web site on E-Plan, enters their company Tier II data in a secure location that is ID and password protected. The user then creates a set of Tier II zip files that can be written to CDs or printed in hard copy and filed with the appropriate state agency.

You can get started by going to the E-Plan website at <http://erplan.net/>. Click on the “E-Plan Online Filing (Tier2)” link on the left sidebar.

Use the “**Contact Us**” button on the web site with your questions or comments.

## Forgot Your E-Plan User Account Password?



If you have an E-Plan account and have forgotten your password, please go to the E-Plan homepage at <http://erplan.net>

- Click on “Forgot your password? Retrieve Password
- Enter your UserID and click on “Submit” button

We will send your current password to your e-mail address immediately.

## And now, for our monthly humor section

A young monk arrives at the monastery.

He is assigned to helping the other monks in copying the old canons and laws of the church by hand. He notices, however, that all of the monks are copying from copies, not from the original manuscript. So, the new monk goes to the head abbot to question this, pointing out that if someone made even a small error in the first copy, it would never be picked up!

In fact, that error would be continued in all of the subsequent copies.

The head monk, says, "We have been copying from the copies for centuries, but you make a good point, my son."

He goes down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscripts are held as archives in a locked vault that hasn't been opened for hundreds of years.

Hours go by and nobody sees the old abbot.

So, the young monk gets worried and goes down to look for him. He sees him banging his head against the wall and wailing,

"We missed the "R" ! , we missed the "R" !"

His forehead is all bloody and bruised and he is crying uncontrollably.

The young monk asks the old abbot, "What's wrong, father?"

With a choking voice, the old abbot replies, "The word was..."

**CELEBRATE!!!!**

### And, Another one!

There is a monastery in Spain that is very strict. The monks are allowed to speak only two words out loud once every five years to the Abbot. The rest of the time the monks spend their hours praying, meditating and working in the gardens and vineyards. A particular monk came to his five year anniversary and entered the Abbot's office. The Abbot said, "This is your one chance to speak out loud. What do you have to say?"

The monk replied "Room cold." and left the Abbot's office.

Five years later, on his 10th anniversary, the monk returned to the Abbot's office, and when asked to speak, said, "Bed hard."

On his 15th anniversary, he entered the Abbot's office and spoke his two words - "Food bad".

The Abbot jumped out of his chair and yelled "That's It! I have had it with you! You haven't done anything but complain since the day you got here!"

## Contact Us ...



Send your comments and questions and suggestions to:

- **By e-mail:** [eplan@utdallas.edu](mailto:eplan@utdallas.edu)
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**Freedom is Never Free**  
**Remember our troops fighting for our security and freedom!**

