



When every second counts...

<http://www.utdallas.edu/research/dfepi/>

Hello, E-Plan™ Users,

Here is the July, 2004 Newsletter to update you on E-Plan™ happenings and news in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and around the country.



EMERGENCY READINESS CONFERENCE at The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) in Richardson, Texas August 9-12, 2004

- ❖ Mark your calendars now for August 9th to 12th for the First Annual **UTD Emergency Readiness Conference: Promoting An All Hazards Approach to Homeland Security**
- ❖ You should have received your Conference notice by e-mail. If you have not, go to: <http://som.utdallas.edu/erc/index.htm>
- ❖ For directions to UTD, go to <http://www.utdallas.edu/directionstoutd-index.html>

E-PLAN™ TRAINING NEWS...

- ✓ **Total number of E-Plan™ Registered Users is now 462.**
- ✓ Fort Smith and Sebastian County Arkansas are now on E-Plan™. The first six training sessions for their Fire, Police and EMS departments were held at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith June 21 and 22. A total of 61 people were trained.
- ✓ El Paso County Texas is scheduling its initial E-Plan™ training session in July.
- ✓ We are continuing our work with the International Association of Fire Chiefs Hazmat Committee on E-Plan™, to offer Fire Fighters and First Responders the tool they really need – a fast, reliable Hazmat Information System.



Transportation is the next big challenge for HAZMAT First Responders.

Let's take a look at **port security** – a specialized area of Transportation that many Fire Fighters and First Responders in Texas and Louisiana must deal with.

Although many “land-locked” Fire Fighters and First Responders have little contact with port security, there is still much to be learned by examining the changing role of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) in its new home – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The USCG has changed significantly since September 11, 2001. After September 11, the USCG completely refocused from law enforcement in the Caribbean (drug interdiction) to port security in New York and every other major U.S. port. The transformation took only eight days, but left the USCG with 25% more work to do.

The USCG combines military power with law enforcement ability required to combat terrorism. Just like many public agencies, perhaps, including yours, the USCG has more work to do without a commensurate increase in funding. Coasties joke to themselves that they are constantly being asked to do more and more with less and less until they will have to do everything with nothing!

The Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 gave the USCG broad authority to manage port security and protect us from terrorists. Prior to 9/11 the USCG spent about 2% of its time and resources on security. Immediately following 9/11 it jumped to 60%, but now has settled down to about 20%, according to Captain Daniel May, commanding officer of Group Boston. The USCG has been pretty successful in both its mission and transformation, so far. The lessons to be learned from the USCG experience can be helpful to all of us.

1. The experience of 9/11 refocused and revitalized the Coast Guard. Every Coastie was reminded by 9/11 that some people were willing to die to kill Americans, and their job was to prevent that from happening.
2. The Coast Guard focused on the important stuff – in their case, both port security and pollution control.
3. Their new home in the DHS gave them, at least theoretical access to increased funding.

You can apply these lessons to your own agency or department.

- a. Remind everyone that we are in a war with people who want to kill us and don't forget that. It sure gets my attention!*
- b. Concentrate on what is important to protect your community from all hazards, including terrorism.*
- c. Keep tabs on DHS grant programs to fund the new people and equipment you need to meet the threat of terrorism.*

Many of you may have seen pictures or heard about the Global Positioning System (GPS) sensor now found on some Hazmat tank cars. With its wires and shape, it might look like an IED - Improvised Explosive Device to the casual observer, but it can trigger phone calls to 9-1-1 or the railroad police, etc. Here is, as they say, “the rest of the story”...





BP Petrochemicals' Railcar Telemetry

Although the pictures you may have seen show a Dow Chemical tank car of Acrylonitrile, inhibited, (UN 1093), the GPS transponders are part of **BP Petrochemicals' Railcar Telemetry** system. When you call the 1-800-321-8642 number on the GPS equipment tag, you are connected to BP's emergency center.

For your convenience, a 2-page BP Petrochemicals' Railcar Telemetry brochure is attached to this E-Plan™ Newsletter. The BP brochure points out that this system is more than just a GPS tracker. It is solar powered, so that it does not need batteries or a generator. In addition to tracking the location of the rail car, the telemetry system can monitor the temperature of the rail car and changes in rail car weight (indicating a leak/product loss). That is why there are wires running all over the car – from the temperature and load sensors to the GPS unit.

According to Brad J. Byczynski, BP Director, Crisis Management in Naperville, IL, BP has been testing these devices since last year. They are now installed on about 250 rail cars. Brad has fielded many calls from railroad police, Emergency Responders and 9-1-1 dispatchers wondering what these devices are. There is a yellow tag on the devices that gives the 1-800-321-8642 number for more information. Brad Byczynski can be reached directly at his Naperville, IL office at 630-420-5055, if you have further questions or need more info.

Notes from All Over...

Chemical-detecting dog just wants to play



Assistant Chief Tim Butters, Fairfax Virginia sent us this note about Norm, the chemical detecting dog from Australia on loan to New Zealand. Norm is being used to train other dogs to find pesticide residue in New Zealand. A dog's nose is so sensitive that it can detect chemicals in the range of 5 parts per billion. Note: A part per billion is equivalent to 1 inch in the total distance of a round trip from the Earth to the Moon and back, repeated 37 times.

Norm might be a good staff addition for a Hazmat unit. He does not use much sick leave, doesn't complain, and will be happy on any shift. For more details on Norm, you can go to URL: www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=3571009&thesect ion=news&thesubsection=general.

Norm and his human colleague Greg Horrocks are spending 10 days sniffing out chemical residues in the Waikato. Picture / Greg B

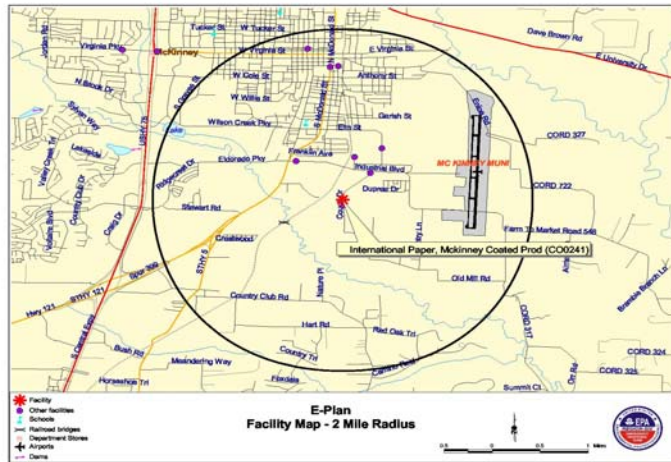
To see past issues of the E-Plan™ Newsletter, go to our web site at http://www.utdallas.edu/research/dfepi/epc_center.htm and click on the **“Click Here to View E-Plan Newsletters”** red box.



E-PLAN™ FEATURES UP-DATE...

- ✓ We now have **4,705 facilities** and **21,053 chemicals** in the E-Plan™ Database.
- ❖ Encrypted CDs with a facility sort option are available for counties and LEPC's that prefer this particular format. The data on the CD can only be accessed with a proper, secured **password**, which will be different from the one you use on <http://erplan.net>.

- ❖ **MAP function - For Planning Your Response:** The "map" function is now functional for more than half of the facilities in the E-Plan™ database in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas since February. By clicking the "**Simple Facility Map**" link of one of the facilities in E-Plan™, a two-mile diameter map around that facility will appear. This map shows the important landmarks such as schools, hospitals, utilities, other facilities storing/using hazardous materials, tank farms and major roads in that neighborhood.



Try the "Map" link on your facilities in your county. You will find that this is a good tool for:

1. Checking your local Tier II records to make sure that your list of Tier II facilities agrees with your State Tier II reported facilities. It helps you to see if you have missed any Tier II facilities (or if your State Agency has!)
2. Developing Pre-Plan scenarios. You have the locations of all the sensitive facilities around Tier II facilities on the map to help with your **Emergency Pre-Planning**.

FEEDBACK...

- ❖ **Tell us what you think about E-Plan™** – We welcome all of your questions and suggestions about E-Plan™ System, E-Plan™ Website, and the E-Plan™ Newsletter.

Please forward **your success stories** to Jenny Wall at UTD.

- **By e-mail:** jenny.wall@utdallas.edu
- **By phone:** 972-883-2631
- **By mail:** The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD)
Digital Forensics & Emergency Preparedness Institute (DFEPI)
Emergency Preparedness Center
Attn: Jenny Wall
P.O. Box 830688 MS-EC32
Richardson, TX 75083-0688



Stay Safe!!

Remember our troops fighting for our security and freedom!