



When every second counts...

Hello, E-Plan™ Users and friends,

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



## Honor Veterans and Active Military Service Personnel on Veterans Day

November 11, 2004

### BREAKING NEWS!!!

#### E-Plan™ Database of Tier II Facilities Will Triple Soon.

1. The **Louisiana State Police**, who manages the Louisiana Right-to-Know program, has providing its Tier II data for the State of Louisiana for incorporation into E-Plan™. This will add 9,987 more Tier II Facilities to the E-Plan™ database.
2. The **New Mexico State Police** is providing their Tier II data for the State of New Mexico for incorporation into E-Plan™. This will add another 4,600 Tier II Facilities to the E-Plan™ database.

When the new Tier II facilities are fully integrated into the E-Plan™ database, there will be over **21,000** Tier II Facilities in E-Plan™.

E-Plan™ training for New Mexico and Louisiana will begin in January 2005, after the Tier II data has been incorporated into the database and fully tested.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

## **Facts About Railroad Security**

Since Sept. 11, 2001, freight railroads have been on heightened alert. Under a comprehensive security plan developed by the industry with the assistance of counter terrorism experts, the freight railroads established a progressive series of counter terrorism measures based on the level of threat against the industry.

The railroad industry is one of the few private sector industries to receive an “A” for its security efforts in a recent independent analysis by The Washington Post.

Some of the actions taken since Sept. 11 include increased cybersecurity, restricted access to railcar location data, spot employee identification checks, increased tracking and inspection of certain shipments, new encryption technology for selected data communications, increased security at physical assets, and increased employee training to ensure that the industry’s more than 200,000 employees serve as the “eyes and ears” of the security effort. The industry also created a DOD-certified, 24/7 operations center that links the railroads with the appropriate national security intelligence officials. This allows the railroad industry and the intelligence community to immediately share information and respond to threats.

The industry has taken additional security steps including real-time monitoring and additional surveillance of designated trains, increased security at certain rail yards, increased inspection of priority track, tunnels and bridges, and working with customers to tighten control of supply chain logistics.

## **Rail is the safest mode of Hazardous Materials Transportation**

According to the September 1, 2004 issue of “Railway Age”. Rail cars pose 16 times less of an accident risk than trucks. The tank cars used to haul Hazardous Materials are specially designed to minimize the possible release of these commodities, undergo rigorous quality assurance programs, field testing and fall under stringent U.S. Department of Transportation regulations. Training for Emergency responders and employees handling Hazmat and its transport is comprehensive. DOT’s Research and Special Programs Administration requires in-depth security training for Hazmat handlers.

Shortly after 9/11 rail carriers implemented a Terrorism Analysis and Security Management Plan to evaluate the potential impacts of terrorist attacks and vulnerabilities of railroads. As a result, they developed a set of actions to be applied based on the threat level, which includes the Railroad Alert Network to share intelligence from government sources to the railroads and vice-versa.

*Thanks to Tim Butters, Assistant Fire Chief, Fairfax City Fire Department, Fairfax, VA for bringing this to our attention!*

## **Emergency Responders Complete UP-Sponsored Tank Car Safety Course**

Twenty-five emergency response personnel from across the western two-thirds of the nation have completed a tank car safety course sponsored by Union Pacific Railroad. The five-day, 40-hour course was held May 18-23, 2004 at the Association of American Railroad's Transportation Technology Center near Pueblo, Colorado.

Since 1986, Union Pacific has sponsored 34 five-day training programs at the Transportation Technology Center for emergency response personnel from communities served by Union Pacific.

## **E-PLAN™ TRAINING NEWS...**

- ✓ **As of October 31, 2004, E-Plan™ has 6,539 facilities and 21,053 chemicals in its database. Total number of E-Plan™ Registered Users is now 560.**
- ✓ Trained key personnel at the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health in Little Rock, AR October 5, 2004.
- ✓ Reviewed E-Plan™ enhancements and improvements with the Arkansas Environmental Federation (AEF) Board in Little Rock, AR October 13, 2004. The AEF, which represents major manufacturers in the state, was one of the first major organizations to endorse E-Plan™.
- ✓ Presented E-Plan™ at the Hot Zone Conference in Houston, Texas on October 13-16, 2004.
- ✓ New Mexico is beginning the process of adopting E-Plan™ for state wide use by First Responders. We met with key personnel on October 19, 2004 in Albuquerque to plan the E-Plan™ training in major cities throughout the state in January.

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## **LOOK FOR E-PLAN™ AT THE...**

- **Clean Gulf 2004, November 17-19, 2004, at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Florida.**

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## **FEEDBACK...**

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

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