



When every second counts....

E-PLAN NEWS

April, 2005

<http://csepi.utdallas.edu/>

Hello, E-Plan Users and friends,

Welcome to your April, 2005 Newsletter to update you on E-Plan events and news in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and around the country. The month of March has roared in like a lion and gone out like a lamb!



SPRING IS COMING!



DID YOU KNOW THAT...

E-Plan is a feature article in the March, 2005 issue of "Fire Chief" Magazine

"Fire Chief" Senior Editor, Pat West, interviewed Jim Staves, Director of The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) Emergency Preparedness Center, Chief Greg Rohr, Hickory, NC Fire Department and Chief Phil Hamilton, Plano, TX Fire Department.

The comprehensive article on E-Plan starts on page 62 of the March issue of "Fire Chief" Magazine. The story traces the humble beginnings of E-Plan in 1998 by EPA Region 6 and traces its evolution into the slick, sophisticated "point and click" tool for First Responders that it is today.

Chief Greg Rohr, Hickory, NC, discusses how he completed a comprehensive review of five different electronic tools to aid First Responders and selected E-Plan as the best. Hickory, NC will start E-Plan training in May 2005.

Chief Phil Hamilton, Plano, TX describes how he plans to use E-Plan and its advantages for his Fire Department.

Jim Staves, UTD Emergency Preparedness Center, describes the plans for E-Plan national roll-out in this article. Besides EPA Region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas), E-Plan is branching out to North Carolina, New York, Ohio and Minnesota.

D.C. Hazmat Transportation Ban Up-Date

- The U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) has issued an order preempting (overruling) the District of Columbia's ban on rail shipments of certain hazardous materials through the city. STB stated that Washington D.C.'s legislation "would unreasonably interfere with interstate commerce, and if permitted to exist, would likely lead to further piecemeal attempts by other localities to regulate rail shipments." The American Chemistry Council and a number of other companies supported CSX Transportation, Inc., and urged STB to preempt the District's ban. In addition, a federal court is still considering CSX's request for a permanent injunction against the District's ban on transporting hazardous chemicals through the city.

NEW E-PLAN FEATURES ARE COMING SOON...

- **The Simple Drawing tool** will be available in May 2005. Fire inspectors and individual companies can draw simple maps and floor plans of their facilities in E-Plan with a simple "click and drag icon" format. The drawing tool is undergoing beta testing in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- **Specific chemical search feature** will permit selected individuals to list all the facilities in their area that house a specific chemical. This will be a significant aid in planning fire and security event exercises. Access to this feature will be coordinated with state implementation officials. It should be available for beta testing in April 2005.
- **E-Plan on-line training** will be available for initial testing and refining in April 2005. This exclusive On-line Training module will allow new E-Plan users to fill out and submit registration forms on-line and learn to use E-Plan in a simple, step-by-step manner at their own computer. We are excited about this new development!

LOOK FOR E-PLAN AT THE ...

- **International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference** (www.IAFC.org), June 2-5 at the Marriott Hunt Valley Inn, Hunt Valley, MD
- **IAFC Fire-Rescue International** (www.IAFC.org), August 11-14, 2005 in Denver, Colorado
- **Fire-Rescue International Southwestern Division Annual Conference**, October 15-18, 2005 in Metairie, Louisiana - Best Western Landmark Hotel (Tel: 504-888-9500)

SUCCESS STORY – Wireless E-Plan Access in Corpus Christi, Texas

Assistant Fire Chief Michael Hernandez reports that the city of Corpus Christi, Texas currently has wireless access to E-Plan via two methods. First is the dial up method (much like a wireless phone call) Although a little slow, when transmitting or receiving data with a PDA, this system is satisfactory. Negative is that you may have to pay for your air time. This service is offered through Sprint PCS, Cellular One, Cingular, Alltel and most other major cell phone carriers.

Currently the city is moving towards a complete WiFi system. This is wireless high

speed internet access no matter where you are in the city. The capability to access high speed internet is a truly limitless bounty. Now, instead of one E-Plan access point during an emergency, we can have multiple access points: one at our field command post, one with entry teams, one at the main EOC, etc. Chief Hernandez says, "I can even access E-Plan while driving to the emergency scene. The possibilities are limitless!"

For more information and details about this article, contact Chief Michael Hernandez at MHernandez@cctexas.com

E-PLAN TRAINING NEWS...

- ✓ **E-Plan Statistics** (as of March 31st, 2005):
 - Number of Facilities: 22,280
 - Number of Unique Chemicals: 21,051
 - Number of Registered Users: 734

- ✓ **E-Plan Presentations:**
 - Texas Emergency Management Conference - March 21-24, 2005, Waco, TX
 - Weslaco, Texas, June 5
 - Minnesota SERC, June 14, 2005 Brighton, Minneapolis

- ✓ **E-Plan Training:**
 - Van Buren, AR – April 13, 2005
 - Corsicana (Navarro County), Texas in April, 2005
 - New Mexico: Training sessions will start in April 2005
 - Pasadena, Texas -Tier 2 Submit assistance
 - Hickory, North Carolina, May 2005
 - Louisiana: The first training sessions are planned for the Louisiana State Police Hazmat Unit and Baton Rouge Fire Department.

- ✓ **E-Plan Online Training Development:**
 - On-line training module will be available for beta testing in April 2005



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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Remember our troops fighting for our security and freedom