



Hello, E-Plan Users and friends,

This is your January, 2006 Newsletter to update you on E-Plan events and news across the country.



2005 was a big year for E-Plan

E-Plan brought the Emergency Response Community nation-wide coverage with Tier II report/Risk Management Plan (RMP) data in all 50 states.

1. E-Plan database has coverage in 50 states and 4 U.S. territories.
 - December 2004: 7,000 facilities in 250 counties
 - December 2005: 70,537 facilities in 2,608 counties
2. The use of E-Plan system continues to increase.
 - December 2004: 597 registered users
 - December 2005: 1,160 registered users
3. E-Plan team members have been actively supporting the First Responders in identifying and recovering hazmat containers lessening the danger to First Responders and the Katrina/Rita impacted communities. E-Plan data is also being used by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in identifying hazmat potentially encountered by health care workers as they re-establish presence in the disaster area.
4. E-Plan has added on new features.
 - Enhanced Google maps with schools and hospitals locations around a facility
 - Enhanced Chemical search function resulting on a map with a specified chemical in specified county/state
 - Tier 2 batch zip file download of searched facilities
5. E-Plan system continues to run very well.
6. The online E-Plan registration and training launched in June 2005. This online system makes training and registration easier for an agency or facility to utilize E-Plan for all its members.
7. The E-Plan's Tier 2 Online Reporting Module was developed and Alpha tested. This system is ready for nationwide trial in March 2006.

E-Plan Tips...

Forget your password:

If you have an E-Plan account and forget your password, contact us by email: jenny.wall@utdallas.edu or by phone 972-883-2631. We will provide you with your current password.

Speaking of Google Maps:

You may occasionally get a message with Google Maps that says, *"We are sorry, but we don't have maps at this zoom level for this region. Try zooming out for a broader look."*

If this happens to you, try two things:

1. Zoom out by clicking on the minus sign (-) on the zoom bar located on the upper left edge of the map. You may have to click on the minus sign (-) a couple of times to get Google Maps to respond properly.
2. Try logging out and logging back in. This problem is not consistent and sometimes the problem comes and goes.

If this does happen to you, please report it to E-Plan:

- **By e-mail:** jenny.wall@utdallas.edu
- **By phone:** 972-883-2631
- **By Fax:** 972-883-4441

Thanks in advance for your help and cooperation!

E-Plan Statistics and Outreach...

E-PLAN STATISTICS (as of December 31, 2005)

- ❖ Number of Facilities: **70,537**
- ❖ Number of Unique Chemicals: **21,057**
- ❖ Number of Registered Users: **1,160**

E-PLAN PRESENTATIONS LAST MONTH

- EPA Region III Hazmat Conference - Baltimore, MD December 7, 2005

E-PLAN PRESENTATIONS SCHEDULED

- EPA Region 6 LEPC Conference, January 23-26, 2006 in Little Rock at the Doubletree Hotel
- Texas A & M University, College Station, TX – First week of January, 2006
- Bryan, TX Council of Governments – First week of January, 2006

E-PLAN TRAINING SCHEDULED

- Pasadena, TX
- Corsicana, TX
- Humble TX
- Greensboro, NC
- City of Dallas, TX

Mitigation Maestro - James Lee Witt

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina struck, Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco asked former FEMA Director James Lee Witt, who is highly respected in the Emergency Response Community, to advise the state on overall response and recovery efforts. He was hired to offer organizational advice to the governor's cabinet on the roles and responsibilities of state agencies and to assist with coordination between the state and federal governments.

On Dec 1, 2005, James Lee Witt was interviewed by "Fire Chief" Magazine for their December 2005 issue.

Highlights from the interview:

What were your priorities when you arrived in Louisiana? How much authority did you have?

In any emergency, the first priority is always to help the people who are suffering most from the disaster. In New Orleans, the suffering was on a massive scale, and helping to organize the response would mean getting help to the people who needed it faster. The biggest priority was to help organize a chain of command among workers as they arrived on the scene. The governor gave me the authority to help implement an incident command system.

What was the most frustrating aspect of dealing with Katrina's impact on Louisiana? Could it have been prevented?

Hurricane Katrina posed unusual challenges in Louisiana in that it was the worst catastrophic disaster that this nation has ever faced.... Due to the flooding, the most frustrating aspect was quickly getting supplies, medical help and volunteers into the city and to the people who needed them so desperately....

Note that the opinions expressed in this article are those of Mr. Witt and do not necessarily represent E-Plan or its management.

To read the entire article, go to http://firechief.com/preparedness/firefighting_mitigation_maestro/.

Emergency management is comprised of preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery, and we deal with all of those aspects in our clientele....

As a former director of FEMA, what is your opinion of what the agency can do to meet future disasters?

... I and many others in the emergency management community here and across the country are deeply concerned about the direction FEMA and the all-hazard mission are headed. I firmly believe that in order to efficiently respond to future disasters, FEMA should be re-established as an independent agency, reporting directly to the president, but allowing for the secretary of Homeland Security to task FEMA to coordinate the federal response and perform its historical duty of consequence management following a terrorist or any other kind of disastrous event....

I think that with the right leadership, the right resources, and if FEMA is re-established as an independent cabinet-level agency, the system can and will work.

Based on your experience the past couple years and headline disasters, what advice do you have for our readers?

I have a deep level of respect for the first responders in our country. The advice I would give to your readers, as well as all of the respected leaders in our communities, is to set a good example for emergency preparedness and prevention. Reach out to your friends and neighbors and teach them about the importance of emergency preparedness. This includes not only fire prevention, but all disasters both natural and manmade. Together we can be more informed and prepared for the next disaster.

New Development in E-Plan...

E-PLAN/TIER II ONLINE REPORTING MODULE – Pilot testing in progress

The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) is developing a new web-based tool for E-plan that will help facilities electronically report Tier II information for Section 312 of the Emergency Planning Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). This exclusive Tier II online reporting module allows facilities to report their chemical data in an online form that mimics the outline and format of the Tier II Chemical Inventory Form. By filing Tier II reports online with E-Plan, a facility will quickly be able to fulfill its statutory responsibilities for Tier II filing. We will be testing the online reporting tool in Mesquite, Texas, Dallas, Texas and Greensboro, North Carolina.

Did you know ...

FACILITY MAPS ON E-PLAN

It is important for you to check the Google Maps in your county for accuracy. There were a few incidents, in which multiple facilities were located at the same place, even though they had different street addresses. It was due to an error in latitude and longitude data supplied to E-Plan. Please check your county to make sure E-Plan has your facilities in the right place on Google Maps.

If you find any discrepancies or errors, please contact us immediately so we can fix it for you.

Contact Us ...



Send your comments and questions and suggestions to:

- **By e-mail:** jenny.wall@utdallas.edu
- **By phone:** 972-883-2631
- **By Fax:** 972-883-4441
- **By mail:** University of Texas at Dallas
CyberSecurity & Emergency Preparedness Institute
Attn: E-Plan
P.O. Box 830688 EC-34
Richardson, TX 75083-0688

Read more from previous issues of the E-Plan Newsletter at
http://csepi.utdallas.edu/epc_center.htm

Forward your E-Plan success stories to us so we can share them with all First Responders!

Remember our troops fighting for our safety and security

