



When every second counts...

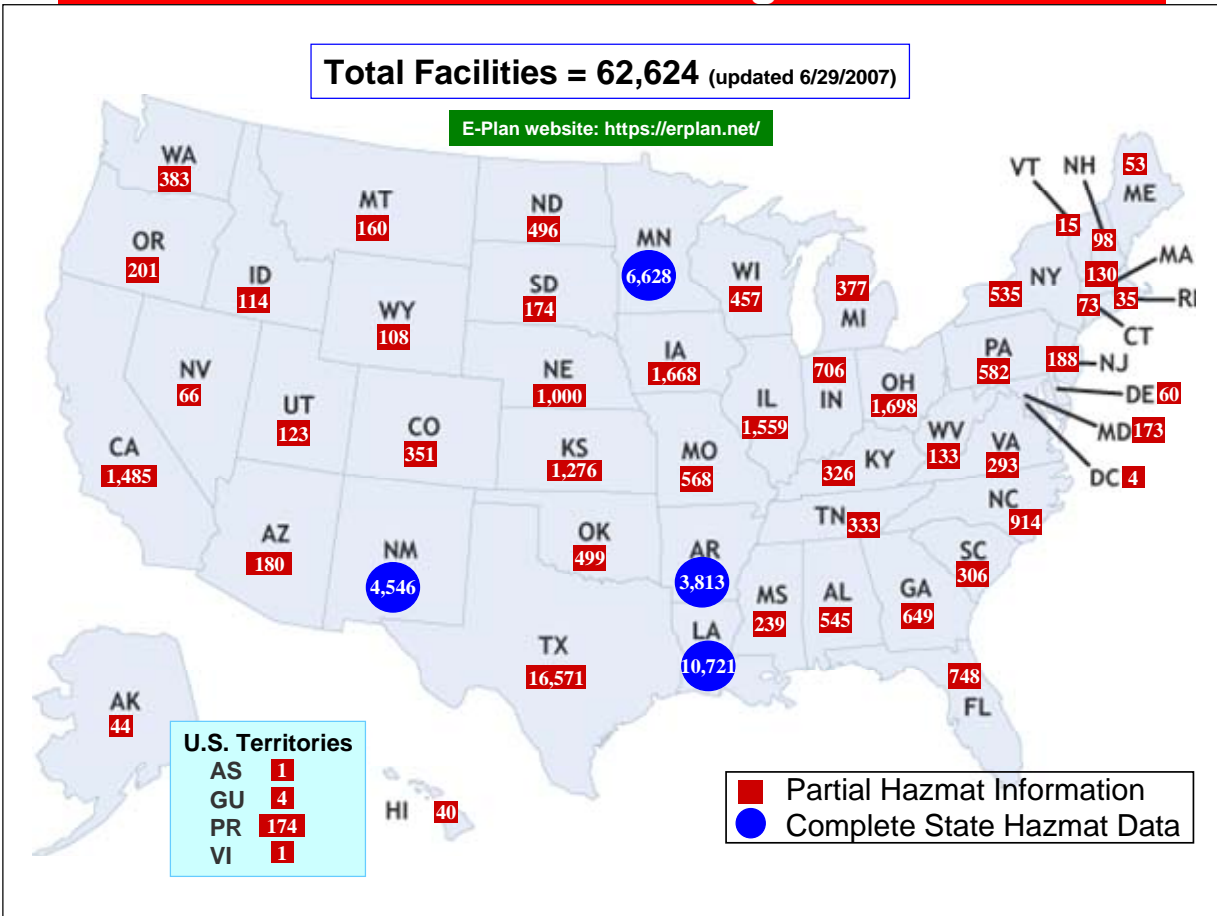
Website: <http://csepi.utdallas.edu/>

Hello, E-Plan Users and friends,

E-Plan events and news from across the country.



E-Plan has nationwide coverage in all 50 States.



- ❖ E-Plan Database - Number of Unique Chemicals: **22,759**
- ❖ Number of E-Plan Registered Users: **1,667**
- ❖ E-Plan Website - Number of Visits in June 2007: **1,160**

(E-Plan statistics as of June 29, 2007)

E-Plan Use for New Madrid Earthquake – Spills of National Significance Drill (June 19 – 21, 2007)

During June 19th through the 21st, dozens of Federal and State agencies joined together to participate in a massive exercise designed to increase the preparedness of the entire national response organization, from the field level to agency heads in Washington, D.C. The Exercise was one in a series of “Spill of National Significance” (SONS) exercises that have been conducted since 1997. A SONS event, is described in the National Contingency Plan (40 CFR part 300) as “a spill that, due to its severity, size, location, actual or potential impact on the public health and welfare or the environment, or the necessary response effort, is so complex that it requires extraordinary coordination of federal, state, local, and responsible party resources to contain and clean up the discharge”. The 2007 exercise was based on a catastrophic earthquake scenario involving the New Madrid fault line.

Not as well known as its western cousin, the San Andreas fault, the New Madrid Seismic zone lies within the central Mississippi Valley, extending from northeast Arkansas, through southeast Missouri, western Tennessee, western Kentucky to southern Illinois. Historically, this area has been the site of some of the largest earthquakes in North America. Between 1811 and 1812, 4 catastrophic earthquakes, with magnitude estimates greater than 7.0, occurred during a 3-month period. Some of these quakes were so severe that they caused the Mississippi River to flow backwards for three days and rang church bells in Boston!



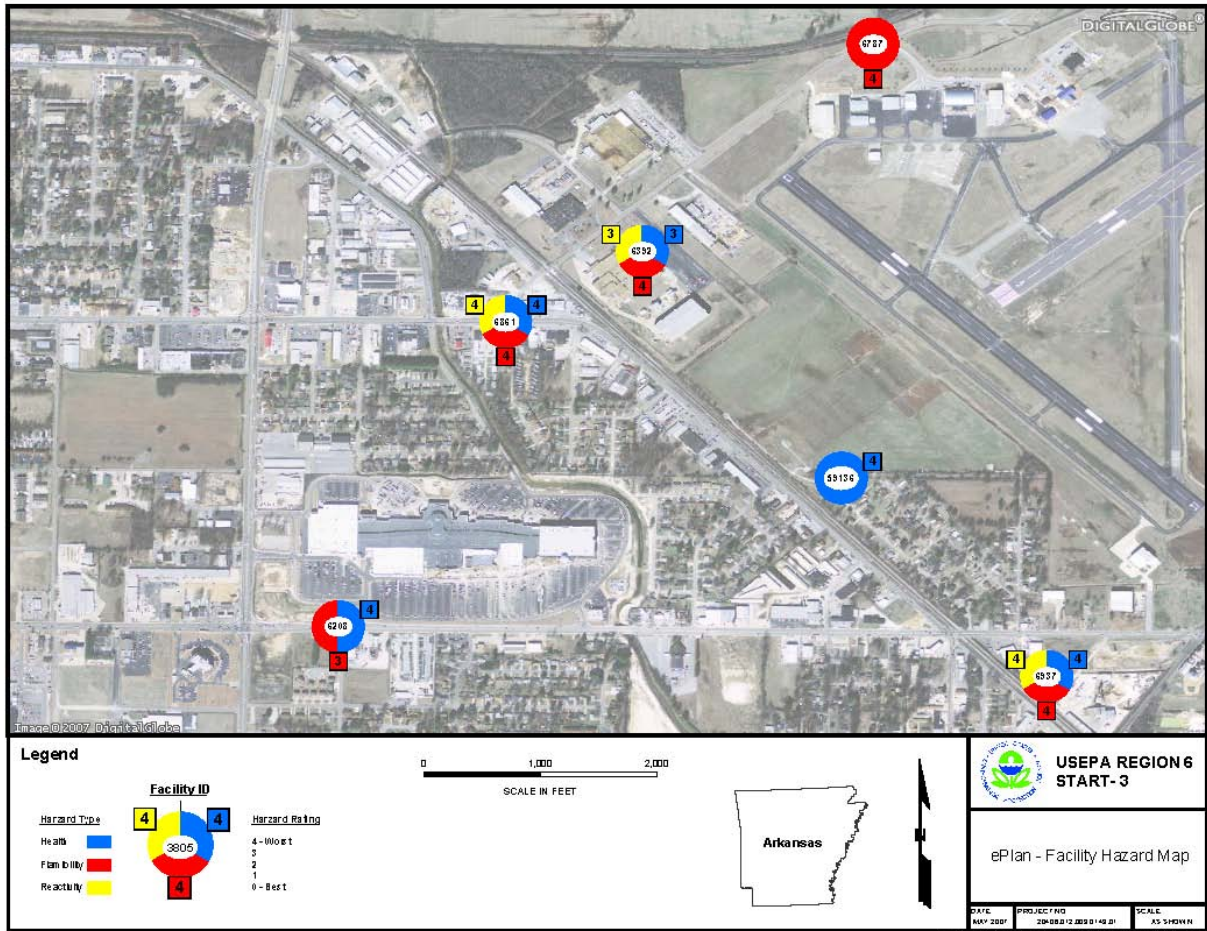
While initial response efforts to such an event would necessarily focus on evacuation, provision of emergency medical care, and the provision of food, water, and shelter, there are also thousands of chemical facilities in the impact area that could pose immediate threats to the public and responders.

The EPA is tasked with responding to those threats under Emergency Support Function #10 of the National Response Plan. Because of the extremely large numbers of chemical facilities potentially affected, and the expansive geographic area involved, EPA, and others involved in hazmat response actions would need a way to not only access information about chemical hazards associated with a particular facility, but also to search and prioritize potential threats over large areas. In EPA Region 6, **E-Plan** was used to support those tasks.

Exercise Planners used E-Plan to assist in developing hazmat release scenarios that would test responders at the field, incident command post, and emergency operations center levels. Over 50 release scenarios were developed that would require response actions. Field responders used E-Plan to access information about the facilities they were responding to, so they could develop safety plans and assess the relative health risks. Planning Section staff in the ICP and EOC used the powerful facility / chemical search features

to prioritize facilities for rapid needs assessments.

In addition to using E-Plan on-line, data was downloaded from E-Plan, and used in the Regional GIS center to produce facility "relative risk" maps, that used unique, quantitative risk icons to allow responders to quickly evaluate the risk "picture" of specific areas of operation.



In these maps, each facility was represented by an icon using familiar NFPA colors and numerical rankings. These symbols differ from NFPA diamond diagrams, however, in that the actual numerical scores represent a cumulative product of the NFPA scores for each chemical, multiplied by the chemical's quantity, for all chemicals at a facility. Thus, a facility icon with a yellow 4 represents a greater overall reactivity risk than one with a yellow 3, 2, or 1, and the same would follow for flammability and health risk. The satellite imagery used for the map background illustrates proximity to population centers. Use of these maps, in conjunction with incoming information on planned evacuation routes, temporary shelter areas, and forward command post locations allowed planning, and operations staff to quickly evaluate which facilities required the most immediate attention in order to support the overall operational objectives.

While this type of data management activity is probably beyond the capability, or needs of a typical fire department, it was viewed as being very useful for characterizing hazmat threats over broad geographic areas, which may be affected by many classes of natural disasters. EPA Region 6 will continue to explore new applications of data from E-Plan as part of its ongoing Area Contingency Planning programs.

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.

Did You Know?

The following message is from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, Washington D.C. on June 27, 2007, courtesy of Chief Tim Butters, Fairfax, VA Fire Department

CSB Finds Unspent Aircraft Oxygen Generators Contributed to Rapid Spread of Fire at EQ Facility in Apex, N.C. in 2006 Safety Advisory and Urgent Recommendation Issued

For more information, go to: [CSB Safety Advisory - Dangers of Unspent Aircraft Oxygen Generators](#)

(Website:

http://www.csb.gov/safety_publications/docs/EQ%20Safety%20Advisory%20Final.pdf)

Raleigh, N.C., June 27, 2007 - The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today announced it is issuing a [Safety Advisory](#) concerning the dangers of transporting and handling unspent aircraft chemical oxygen generators. The action follows a CSB investigative finding that the devices most likely contributed to the rapid spread of a fire at the EQ Industrial Services (EQ) hazardous waste facility in Apex, NC on the night of October 5, 2006. The fire resulted in the evacuation of thousands of residents of Apex, located about 16 miles southwest of Raleigh, and destroyed the EQ facility's hazardous waste building.

Chemical oxygen generators are used in commercial aircraft to supply supplemental oxygen to passengers in drop-down masks should the cabin depressurize. They are similar to the ones that started a fire in the cargo compartment aboard a ValuJet airplane that crashed in 1996 in Florida. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation report of that accident stated that expired but fully functioning chemical oxygen generators should be expended before being transported.

The devices that contributed to the EQ fire were past their projected service life but remained fully charged and hazardous. They originated at an aircraft maintenance facility in Mobile, Alabama, that did not expend the contents prior to transport. In addition, shipping documents did not identify them as unspent chemical oxygen generators as required by Department of Transportation regulations.

CSB Safety Advisories are issued during the course of investigations that develop information the Board believes should be communicated rapidly to prevent recurrence of accidents.

At a news conference held in Raleigh, CSB Board Member William B. Wark said, 'We issued this advisory to alert aircraft maintenance and hazardous waste facility personnel to the hazards associated with transporting and storing expired but unspent aircraft oxygen generators. These can be very dangerous and if mishandled can cause fires, property damage and personal injury.'

Lead Investigator Robert Hall, P.E., said, 'Our investigation found that the unspent oxygen generators were stored in the area where the fire is believed to have originated. The generators can be activated by heat, which results in the release of oxygen, further accelerating and intensifying the fire. When firefighters first arrived, the fire was small. But it quickly spread to an adjacent bay.'

The CSB earlier apprised the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the NTSB of the CSB investigative finding in this case.

Chemical oxygen generators in passenger aircraft have a limited useful life and must be periodically replaced. Even after their expiration dates, they remain potentially hazardous materials. In this case, the CSB found, an aircraft maintenance facility in Mobile, Alabama, sent the chemical oxygen generators to a hazardous waste facility in Birmingham, Alabama, without activating and expending the contents as recommended by the NTSB. The receiving hazardous waste facility misidentified the oxygen generators as general oxidizer waste on shipping documents they prepared for aircraft maintenance facility.

The CSB issued an Urgent Recommendation - the third in the agency's history - to the maintenance facility, Mobile Aerospace Engineering, Inc. (MAE). Urgent recommendations are issued when in the view of the CSB Board Members, there is an 'imminent hazard.'

The CSB recommended the aircraft maintenance company revise or develop procedures to ensure the generators are expended before shipping, revise as necessary procedures for assuring hazardous waste is correctly described on shipping manifests, and that the company communicate to all of its waste brokers and waste facilities that the incorrect shipping name and code was or might have been used for unspent oxygen generators shipped from its facility.

The CSB investigation continues with a final report planned to be released by the end of the year.

Board Member Wark said, 'I want to emphasize that we are continuing to look at the operations at EQ, as well as the national regulations that govern the hazardous waste facilities. We are looking at fire protection practices; we note that there was no automatic fire detection or suppression system to extinguish the blaze after it started; we also note the lack of firewalls to separate hazardous materials from one another. And, there are issues concerning the lack of information available to emergency responders during this incident. We believe that even with the oxygen generators fueling the blaze, had the facility been equipped with automated fire detection and extinguishing systems, this accident may have been avoided.'

At the news conference, Investigator Hall played an edited version of a 1997 NTSB ValuJet investigation fire test involving unspent chemical oxygen generators. The generators contain sodium chlorate, which produces oxygen once activated by a small explosive contained in the device. Heat is also a byproduct of the exothermic reaction, and the outside temperature of the generator can reach up to 500 degrees Fahrenheit. The reaction may also be initiated by heat from other sources. The test video dramatically shows how quickly a fire results and spreads once the oxygen generator contents begin reacting.

The edited NTSB video is available in Windows Media Player format and may be downloaded, along with a CSB photograph of burned-out generators from the EQ fire debris, at <ftp://ftp.csb.gov/EQ62707>.

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems.

The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA. Visit our website, www.csb.gov.

For more information, contact

Sandy Gilmour, CSB Public Affairs, cell 202.251.5496
CSB Public Affairs Specialists Jennifer Jones, 202.261.3603, cell 202.577.8448

Hillary Cohen 202.261.3601
Kate Baumann, 202.261.7612, cell 202.725.2204

Mr. Gilmour and Ms. Baumann will be in Raleigh for the news conference.

E-Plan Outreach

E-PLAN PRESENTATIONS IN JUNE, 2007

- June 3, 2007: IAFC Hazmat Conference in Hunt Valley, MD
- June 11, 2007: Orange County, Orange, TX – 5 new counties on E-Plan
- June 13, 2007: Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
- June 19, 2007: Hunt County – Greenville, TX – 6 new counties on E-Plan
- June 20, 2007: Taylor County, Abilene, TX – 5 new counties to be signed for E-Plan

E-PLAN PRESENTATIONS SCHEDULED

- Abilene, TX LEPC and Fire Department – July, 2007
- Sherman, TX and Grayson County Fire Department – July, 2007
- Oklahoma SERC in Tulsa, OK – August 3, 2007
- Greensboro/Guilford County, North Carolina LEPC Conference – October 8 & 9, 2007
- Virginia Hazmat Conference in Hampton, VA – October 15-19, 2007
- North Carolina EMA Fall Conference in Atlantic Beach, NC – October 28 - 31, 2007
- Oklahoma Metro Fire Chiefs in Oklahoma City, OK – November 8, 2007

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.



Please notify us if you find **any errors in your area's Tier II or RMP data:**

- **By e-mail:** eplan@utdallas.edu
- **By phone:** 972-883-2631
- **By fax:** 972-883-4441
- **By mail:** The University of Texas at Dallas
CyberSecurity & Emergency Preparedness Institute
Attn: E-Plan WT-11
2601 N. Floyd Road
Richardson, TX 75080

Help Us Help You!

Please check with your fellow responders and co-workers to make sure you are all receiving the E-Plan monthly newsletters. We have a number of “undeliverable” e-mail notifications each month. Maybe

someone's e-mail address has changed, or their job title has changed. If you or your co-worker is **NOT** receiving the E-Plan Newsletter, please send us your name and e-mail address and we will put you on the E-Plan Newsletter mailing list. Please use the “**Contact Us**” button on the E-Plan homepage at <http://erplan.net> or contact us by **e-mail:** eplan@utdallas.edu.

E-Plan User's Group Conference Planned for the Spring, 2008



We are planning the first ever E-Plan User's Group Conference for **Spring of 2008** at The University of Texas at Dallas in Richardson, Texas to get together, network and share best practices and develop ongoing strategies for the E-Plan program. We are letting you know early about this planned conference so that you can budget travel money for the Conference. Conference Registration fees will be about \$50 per person to cover the costs for breakfast, breaks, and lunch. Great hotels in the Richardson, Texas area (Renaissance, Radisson) are about \$85 per night.

We expect the conference to be about 1 1/2 days in length, so that you can travel home the afternoon of the second day.

- Day 1: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (tentative)
- Day 2: 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM (tentative)

Top-notch keynote speakers will be invited and included on the program.

Preliminary agenda items include:

- ◆ Review E-Plan features
- ◆ Review how Tier2 Submit works
- ◆ E-Plan Best Practices
- ◆ E-Plan Success Stories
- ◆ How are users utilizing E-Plan?
- ◆ What new E-Plan features are needed?
- ◆ Demonstration of E-Plan (for new users)
- ◆ E-Plan electronic Bulletin Board
- ◆ E-Plan issues/problems?



We are looking for speakers and session leaders for this conference!

If you have suggestions for the agenda, or would like to volunteer to lead a session, please contact us by using the “**Contact Us**” button on the E-Plan homepage at <http://erplan.net> or

- **By e-mail:** eplan@utdallas.edu
- **By phone:** 972-883-2631
- **By fax:** 972-883-4441
- **By mail:** The University of Texas at Dallas
CyberSecurity and Emergency Preparedness Institute
Attn: E-Plan WT-11
2601 N. Floyd Road
Richardson, TX 75080

And now, for our monthly humor section

New Hearing Aid

A man was telling his neighbor "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect."

"Really," answered the neighbor "What kind is it?"

"Twelve thirty."

Grand Parents

Grandmas are moms with lots of frosting. ~Author Unknown

What a bargain grandchildren are! I give them my loose change, and they give me a million dollars' worth of pleasure. ~Gene Perret

Grandmothers are just "antique" little girls. ~Author Unknown

Perfect love sometimes does not come until the first grandchild. ~Welsh Proverb

A grandmother is a babysitter who watches the kids instead of the television. ~Author Unknown

Never have children, only grandchildren. ~Gore Vidal

Becoming a grandmother is wonderful. One moment you're just a mother. The next you are all-wise and prehistoric. ~Pam Brown

Grandchildren don't stay young forever, which is good because Granddaddies have only so many horse rides in them. ~Gene Perret

Grandmother always made you feel she had been waiting to see just you all day and now the day was complete. ~ Marcy DeMaree

Grandmas never run out of hugs or cookies. ~Author unknown

Grandmothers hold our tiny hands for just a little while, but our hearts forever.

Contact Us ...



Send your comments and questions and suggestions to:

- **By e-mail:** eplan@utdallas.edu
- **By phone:** 972-883-2631
- **By fax:** 972-883-4441
- **By mail:** The University of Texas at Dallas
CyberSecurity & Emergency Preparedness Institute
Attn: E-Plan WT-11
2601 N. Floyd Road
Richardson, TX 75080

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



Freedom is Never Free!
Remember our troops fighting for our security and freedom!

