



When every second counts...

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

Hello, E-Plan™ Users,

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



## HEADLINES...

1. (May 21, 2004) The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) received a Purchase Order from the EPA's National Homeland Security Research Center (NHSRC) to develop a **Floor Plan Mapping Tool for use with E-Plan™**. This tool will allow persons conducting an assessment to electronically "draw" the plan of each floor of the facility and "click and drag" icons that will identify the position of equipment/materials important to emergency responders (e.g., chemical storerooms, gas cut-off valves, HVAC system controls, etc.). The City of Cincinnati Fire Department will serve as a "beta tester" for the newly developed E-Plan™ mapping tool.
2. (May 7, 2004) UTD has been selected as a "**National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education**" by the United States National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), thus becoming a key player in the nation's efforts to secure its information assets.
  - ❖ UTD joins 58 other universities so designated under a program implemented in the late 1990's, the goal of which is to reduce the vulnerability of the U.S. national information infrastructure by promoting higher education in information assurance and producing a growing number of professionals with experience in the field.
  - ❖ In a related development, UTD announced a plan to establish a new, \$2-million Security Analysis and Information Assurance Laboratory in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science by the end of 2004. The lab, to be part of the Digital Forensics and Emergency Preparedness Institute (DFEPI), will be a hub of cybersecurity research and education for faculty, university partners, government and industry.

3.

### **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**. For conference information, go to <http://som.utdallas.edu/erc/index.htm>.

## **DID YOU KNOW THAT...**

### **Transportation will be the next big challenge for HAZMAT First Responders.**

Due to security concerns, the familiar Hazmat placards with UN numbers may no longer be placed on Hazmat tank cars, tank trucks and barges. This could occur as soon as next year or the year after. In theory, removing the placards makes it more difficult for terrorists to identify what is in the tank car or tank truck. The thought of exploding tank cars of chlorine or propane in downtown Chicago is enough to give anyone nightmares!

However, the lack of placards would be a big problem for First Responders. Without placards, every transportation accident must be treated as a "Worst Case Scenario". When first coming on the scene of an accident, the First Responder would be hard pressed to know the difference between an overturned tank truck of hot corn syrup or sulfuric acid. The First Responder must get close enough to the accident to find the manifest and/or driver and tests the air and the spilled liquid, if any. Until the material in the accident is positively identified, a "Worst Case Scenario" will have to be assumed for the purposes of stopping and diverting traffic on highways and interstates, as well as evacuation of surrounding communities (or shelter in place). Imagine completely shutting down a major interstate for most of the day while trying to identify exactly what is in one lone tank truck involved in an accident.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs and their HAZMAT Committee, along with industry and others, have expressed concerns that placard removal is not good policy. These groups have also been working on alternative ways to identify Hazardous Materials, if the familiar placards are removed.

- ❖ *If placards are removed, E-Plan™ may be able to help. Using active Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags accessible through E-Plan™ may be a viable alternative to the familiar diamond-shaped Hazmat placards.*

#### **What is RFID?**

RFID, which is a proven technology that has been around since the Second World War, is a generic term for technologies that use radio waves to automatically identify individual items.

#### **How does an RFID system work?**

The system consists of a tag, which is made up of a microchip with a coiled antenna, and an interrogator or reader with an antenna. The reader sends out electromagnetic waves that form a magnetic field when they "couple" with the antenna on the RFID tag.

- **Active RFID tags** have a battery, which is used to run the microchip's circuitry and to broadcast a signal to a reader (the way a cell phone transmits signals to a base station).
  - **Passive RFID tags** have no battery. Instead, they draw power from the reader, which sends out electromagnetic waves that induce a current in the tag's antenna.
- ❖ *UTD's Digital Forensics and Emergency Preparedness Institute is working with the National RFID Institute (<http://www.nationalrfid.com/>) to evaluate the use of active RFID tags, which are interrogated by hand held devices that link directly to E-Plan™. These tags cost about \$75.00 each today. Their read range is about 600 feet, and battery life is approximately four years.*

**We will keep you posted on new developments on this important issue.**

## CURRENT E-PLAN™ TRAINING NEWS...

✓ **Total number of E-Plan™ Registered Users is now 423.**

- ❖ The International Association of Fire Chiefs Hazmat Committee is in the final stages of formally endorsing E-Plan™.
- ❖ An E-Plan™ Workshop at the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Southwestern Division Conference May 2, 2004 in Hot Springs, AR drew many attendees and led to new interest and requests for training in New Mexico and Oklahoma and more requests for training in Arkansas.
- ❖ On April 30, 2004, Sebastian County Arkansas, home to the second largest city in Arkansas – Fort Smith was enrolled into E-Plan™. First Responder/ Dispatcher training will follow in June and July of 2004. Our hats are off to Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Tonya Roberts, Sebastian County Judge David Hudson and Emergency Management Coordinator Jerry Roberts for their leadership and dedication to safety of the citizens of Sebastian County.
- ❖ The Pulaski County (Little Rock) LEPC learned about E-Plan™ on May 19, 2004 from John Ferrell, Arkansas TRANSCAER Chairman and Nick Macchiarolo, UTD E-Plan™ Consultant. The Arkansas Health Department, regional medical centers and the County Emergency Management Agency will be scheduling E-Plan™ training for this summer. A large corporation in Little Rock is now planning to put its entire Emergency Response Plan on E-Plan™.
- ❖ On May 20, 2004, Ouachita County and Camden, AR were enrolled into E-Plan™. Thanks to Fire Chief Phil Seaton, who made contact with us at the IAFC Southwestern Division Conference in Hot Springs. Their training will begin in June 2004 and will include the County Office of Emergency Management, the Camden Police and Fire Departments, 9-1-1 Dispatch Center and the Ouachita County Sheriff's Department.

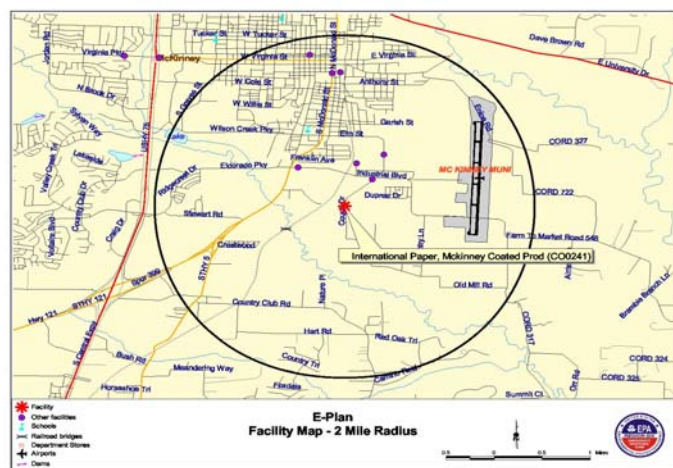
## E-PLAN™ FEATURES UP-DATE...

✓ **We now have 4,705 facilities and 21,058 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 the State 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**.

## E-Plan™ Success story...

### **District Chief Michael Hernandez, Corpus Christi, Texas Fire Department plans to use E-Plan™ as an aid in Fire Inspections.**

Corpus Christi has an August to July inspection year. Beginning with the next round of annual facility inspections, this summer, Fire Inspectors in the Corpus Christi industrial corridor will check E-Plan™ for the Tier II data for the facilities they will be inspecting. They will use the “Contact Information” section of E-Plan™ to know whom to contact when they arrive on site. With the Tier II Chemicals list in hand, they can check the chemical storage location against the specific Corpus Christi Fire Code to make sure the chemical is stored properly. With the E-Plan™ data in hand, they can quickly determine if any changes at the facility have taken place since the last inspection.

The 2 mile diameter “Map” function can pinpoint sensitive areas, such as schools, other Tier II facilities, hospitals, tank farms, shopping centers, etc. to aid in pre-planning.

According to Chief Hernandez, “We believe that E-Plan™ will make the Fire Inspectors’ job easier and far more efficient. With all the information on hand and in one place before an inspection, the Fire Inspector will better be able to accomplish his job and aid the facility in complying with Code. This makes for a safer community and better relations between the owner and the Fire Department.”

A great example of thinking outside the box – using E-Plan™ **before** an incident takes place to reduce the potential severity. Thumbs up to Chief Hernandez and his inspectors!!

For more information, you can contact Chief Michael Hernandez at the Corpus Christi, Texas Fire Department at 361-826-3936 or [MHernandez@cctexas.com](mailto:MHernandez@cctexas.com).

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

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## **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.

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**Remember our troops fighting for our security and freedom!**