



When every second counts...

Hello, E-Plan™ Users,

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

### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- ❖ According to the International Association of Fire Chiefs, there are about 2,400,000 Fire Fighters in the United States. About 1,900,000 of them – 80% - are volunteers. All Fire Fighters, and especially the part-time volunteers, need good, accurate Tier II data when confronting a Hazardous Materials Incident.

But, according to a survey of Tier II data conducted by The University of Texas at Dallas, fire departments actually have in hand as little as 30% of the Tier II data that has been filed with state agencies. The maximum amount of Tier II data available was 77%, but only one fire department had that much. [WHY?](#)

#### Many Reasons:

1. Tier II data filers send their data to their state Tier II agency, but may not know which LEPC and fire department to submit.
2. Tier II data is submitted as paper hard copies that is expensive and difficult to copy and is often lost or misfiled by the agencies that need it.
3. State agencies do not send the filed Tier II data to local fire departments and LEPC's. They depend on the local agencies to request it.
4. Tier II data is changed or modified by the filing companies and submitted to the state agency, but never filters down to the local level.
5. Tier II data is submitted to local county judges' or mayors' offices, but the receiving official does not know what to do with it, so it just gets filed and lost.
6. Volunteer Fire Departments do not have the personnel or available staff time to file and up-date Tier II data.
7. Any other possible bureaucratic snafu you could possibly think of – it has happened!!!

#### What to do... E-Plan™ !!!

E-Plan™ bypasses all the problems with paper copies, missing copies, unrequested Tier II data, misfiled or lost Tier II data by putting it all in one place where it is kept up-to date and **automatically linked** to Emergency Response Guides, MSDS's, Coast Guard CHRIS Data , and maps. This way, the First Responder, and especially the volunteer fire fighter has up-to-date Tier II data at his fingertips, through the secure E-Plan™ system.

## CURRENT E-PLAN™ TRAINING NEWS...

- ❖ **Total number of E-Plan™ Registered Users is now 414.**
- ❖ Arkansas TRANSCAER (TRANSpotation Community Awareness and Emergency Response Chairman John Ferrell (Plant Manager of Ashland Chemical Co. Jacksonville, AR) met with the Arkansas County Judges Association February 12 in Little Rock. John Ferrell presented E-Plan™ and TRANSCAER to the assembled County Judges and their staffs. He was ably assisted by Jim Staves, Nick Macchiarolo and Dale Orr of Spill Responders.
- ❖ Jack Stark, EPA, trained new E-Plan™ users in McKinney and Allen, Texas in February.

## E-PLAN™ FEATURES UP-DATE...

**We now have 4,705 facilities and 21,088 chemicals in the E-Plan™ Database.**

- ❖ El Paso, Texas Tier II data has been received by UTD and will soon be in the data base.

The Texas Department of Health now estimates that they have 40-50% of Texas Tier II data in electronic form. This will be loaded in E-Plan™ soon and will allow limited statewide use.

- ❖ **MAP function - For Planning Your Response:** The “map” function has been tested and will be functional for about half of the facilities in the E-Plan™ database in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas in February. By clicking the map link of one of these facilities, a two-mile radius map around that facility will appear. This map shows the important landmarks such as schools, hospitals, and major roads in that neighborhood. More maps will be available soon!!!

**"Try the mapping function for facilities in your area. Let us know how it is working for you and what changes or improvements you would like to see in mapping!"**

- ❖ 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>.

## HELPFUL HINTS

Encourage your local companies to file their Tier II data electronically and put Emergency Plans and facility/building maps on E-Plan™. If the companies have questions about security of such data, ask them to contact **Jim Staves**, Director of The University of Texas at Dallas's Emergency Preparedness Center at 972-883-2874. He will explain, in detail, how their data is protected.

- ❖ **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.
  - What do you think of the new “Map” feature on E-Plan™?
  - Is this Newsletter helpful and interesting to you?

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Please forward your success stories, comments, questions, or suggestions to **Jenny Wall**.

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