



When every second counts....

# E-PLAN™ NEWS

March, 2005

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

Hello, E-Plan™ Users and friends,

Welcome to your March, 2005 Newsletter to update you on E-Plan™ events and news in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and around the country.



## RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE ON E-PLAN™

The Clean Air Act requires certain facilities that manufacture, handle or use more than a threshold quantity of highly hazardous chemicals to submit a "Risk Management Plan" to EPA. Individual company Risk Management Plans (RMP's) contain, among other things, an Executive Summary, list of contact people, a 5-year accident history and "Worst Case Scenarios". While access to worst-case scenarios is restricted by law, prior to September 11, 2001 EPA published most of the RMP information through its envirofacts web site. After September 11, 2001, this information was removed.

Jim Staves, Director of The University of Texas at Dallas Emergency Preparedness Center recently visited EPA's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in Washington, DC and learned that EPA's OEM was interested in exploring ways to improve the availability of legally releasable RMP information. As a result, some elements of RMP plans for 15,000 facilities, spread over the U.S. will be contained in E-Plan™. This gives EPA instant access to our 700+ authorized users, and allows prospective E-Plan™ users anywhere in the country to have access to some facility data, even if they don't live in areas with electronic Tier II databases. They will send us an initial Access database on diskette in early March. Taking all this data and incorporating it into a usable format in E-Plan™ will take some time. As soon as we evaluate the data, we will decide how to best utilize RMP's in E-Plan™. We will then let you know when the RMP's will be available on E-Plan™ and how to access them.

In addition, E-Plan™ is working with EPA's OEM to explore ways to link **E-Plan™ records directly into CAMEO-ALOHA**. We will be discussing this further with OEM in late March.



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



## 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!

## NEW E-PLAN™ FEATURE ON LINE NOW...

- **“E-Plan™ Sites”** link that details where E-Plan™ is being used - cities, counties, and states. The link is on the blue sidebar on the E-Plan™ Home Page (<https://erplan.net>).

## LOOK FOR E-PLAN™ AT THE...

- **Texas Emergency Management Conference** (<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/>), March 21-24, 2005 in Waco, Texas
- **IAFC Fire-Rescue International** ([www.iafc.org](http://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)

## E-PLAN™ TRAINING NEWS...

- ✓ **E-Plan™ Statistics** (as of 3/4/05):
  - Number of Facilities: 22280
  - Number of Unique Chemicals: 21051
  - Number of Registered Users: 740
- ✓ **E-Plan™ Presentations:**
  - Louisiana State Police - February 23, 2005
  - Tenth Annual LEPC Conference in Houston, Texas – February 21-24, 2005
- ✓ **E-Plan™ Training:**
  - Bentonville, AR - March 17, 2005
  - New Mexico: Training sessions will start in April 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 script is written
  - On-line training module will be available for beta testing in April 2005

## DID YOU KNOW...

### **90-Day Hazmat Ban Is Passed - Measure Will Bar Hazmat Shipments in D.C.**

On February 1, 2005, the D.C. Council approved a temporary 90-day ban on shipments of hazardous materials through the nation's capital, becoming the first jurisdiction in the nation to halt such cargo in response to the threat of terrorism.

Although this legislation does not require congressional review, the council also passed a second a bill for a permanent ban, which would be subject to review by Congress.

Senior federal officials opposed the action, noting that they have pushed CSX to voluntarily reroute dangerous materials. But the officials have declined to make public exactly what safeguards are being taken.

The legislation bans the most dangerous types of material, including certain classes of explosives, flammable gases and poisonous gases and materials. It also requires all rail and truck firms carrying other hazardous materials to obtain permits from the city's Transportation Department. City spokespersons say they expect about 5 to 10 percent of rail shipments to fall under the prohibition.

Council member Carol Schwartz (R-At Large) cast the only vote against the measure. Schwartz, who is chairman of the Council's Public Works Committee, said CSX officials privately assured her that the company has been rerouting the most dangerous cargo since the Madrid train bombing in March. Therefore, the legislation is unnecessary and would trigger a legal battle.

"We are better served by cooperating with the feds rather than by confronting them," Schwartz said.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Transportation issued statements suggesting that federal and industry officials have taken safety measures that go beyond the D.C. ban but declined to say what material is being rerouted.

"We will also continue to explore other options that might be available with regards to routes for transporting hazardous materials through the national Capital region," the Department of Transportation said.

CSX Spokesman Robert T. Sullivan said CSX had grave reservations about the bill. "We will review it again and make a determination about

exactly what to do," Sullivan said. "But when you get into cities dictating how commodities can move, it frustrates interstate commerce."

However on Wednesday, February 16, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) said that it filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, asking the Court to declare invalid the District of Columbia's ban on the transportation of hazardous materials, D.C. Bill 16- 77, and to block its implementation. CSXT also expects to seek a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction against the measure shortly.

The complaint asserts that the D.C. measure violates the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution, as well as express preemptive provisions of the Federal Railroad Safety Act, the federal Hazardous Materials Transportation Act and the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act.

CSXT said in the filing that as a "common carrier" it is required by federal law to transport the banned materials. To comply with the common carrier law and to attempt to comply with the Washington, D.C. ordinance would not only impose an unreasonable burden on interstate commerce, it would increase risk to other communities by dramatically adding to the miles and the hours these materials spend in other communities.

"Federal laws require railroads to carry hazardous materials. As long as that legal duty exists, this company has a responsibility to move the materials as safely as possible for all communities. Doubling the shipment times, the miles traveled and the handling requirements of dangerous materials, as the D.C. ordinance would require in many cases, just increases risk to everyone else. CSXT very much wants to work with federal railroad, security and commerce officials, as well as communities, producers and end- users, to create fair and balanced, long-term national solutions," said CSX Senior Vice President-Law and Public Affairs, Ellen M. Fitzsimmons.

CSXT has been active in efforts to enhance security in the D.C. area. According to Skip Elliott, CSXT Vice President for Public Safety and Environment, "The security efforts surrounding CSXT's core Washington, D.C. route are among the most aggressive in the United States as a result of close collaboration between this company and federal security agencies."

## 15 THINGS THAT TOOK ME OVER 50 YEARS TO LEARN:

*By Dave Barry, Nationally Syndicated Columnist, Author and Humorist.*

1. Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
2. If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve its full potential, that word would have to be “**meetings.**”
3. There is a very fine line between “**hobby**” and “**mental illness.**”
4. People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them.
5. You should not confuse your career with your life.
6. Nobody cares if you cannot dance well. Just get up and dance.
7. Never lick a steak knife.
8. The most destructive force in the universe is gossip.
9. You will never find anybody who can give you a clear and compelling reason why we observe daylight savings time.
10. There comes a time when you should stop expecting other people to make a big deal about your birthday. That time is age eleven.
11. The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we ALL believe that we are **above average drivers.**
12. A person, who is nice to you, but rude to a waiter, is not a nice person. (This is very important. Pay attention. It never fails.)
13. Your friends love you anyway.
14. Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built Noah’s Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic.
15. Thought for the day: Men are like fine wine. They start out as grapes, and it is up to the women to stomp the crap out of them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with.

### FEEDBACK...

**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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