



When every second counts...

December, 2003



Hello, E-Plan™ Users,

Happy Holidays and best wishes and good health to you and yours!

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

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

The common wisdom is that hazardous materials transportation accidents are the major cause for injuries and health consequences.

- ❖ According to the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in Atlanta, 638 people suffered health consequences from transportation accidents in the year 2000. More than a third of the people injured (223), were First Responders.
- ❖ However, ATSDR also reported that 3,768 people suffered health consequences in the year 2000 from fixed facilities, such as chemical plants, refineries, warehouses, etc. Three hundred sixty-six of the injured were First Responders.
- ❖ The ATSDR data clearly demonstrates that over 85% of the health consequences suffered by facility employees, the public, responders and others are the result of fixed facilities incidents.

RECENT E-PLAN™ TRAINING NEWS...

- ❖ **Total number of E-Plan™ Registered Users is now 386.**
- ❖ Arkansas TRANSCAER (TRANSportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) is providing E-Plan training throughout the state of Arkansas for the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management. Arkansas TRANSCAER is a volunteer organization of transporters, spill responders, government agencies, Arkansas Environmental Federation, and manufacturers that deal with Hazardous Materials. This month, the TRANSCAER Board is developing the system to train First Responders in Arkansas.
- ❖ E-Plan was used on-line at the Houston LEPC Conference Mock Disaster Drill to access hazardous chemical data for the three chemicals involved in the Drill.

E-PLAN™ FEATURES UP-DATE...

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

- ❖ **MAP function - For Planning Your Response:** E-Plan™ team is testing a “map” function. When this function is completed, you will be able to click on a facility using hazardous materials and get a two-mile radius map, which will show you schools, hospitals, etc.
- ❖ 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>.
- ❖ The One Gulf Area Contingency Plan covering the Gulf of Mexico from Corpus Christi to Galveston, Port Arthur to Morgan City and New Orleans, Louisiana and on to Mobile, Alabama is now on E-Plan™.
- ❖ You can practice with E-Plan™ at the demo site by logging on at <http://erplan.net> Log on with the User ID of “Demo-IM” and use “training” as your password. Then type in a company name, “IGNO” or “ISSPEC” or “DISTILL” or a, c, e or i in the “Search” box and then hit “Enter”. You can practice using E-Plan™ with your home or office computer on these fictitious companies.

Even if you do not have a user name and password, you can use the **Demo Site** in the event of a **transportation emergency** to access information on a Hazardous Chemical. Log on to the Demo Site (as indicated above) and go to the blue sidebar to the left of the screen. Click on the “Chemical Search” button. Now you can search for information on a hazardous material by name or UN number. If you use the UN number, be sure to use an “=” sign as in “UN=1203”, as explained in the directions on the screen. Don’t use a dash or a space, just the “=” sign.

LOOK FOR E-PLAN™ AT THE...

- **International Spills Conference** May 6-10, 2004, San Antonio, TX

Hope you were able to visit with us if you were at the **LEPC Conference in Houston and Clean Gulf in New Orleans in November**.

HELPFUL HINTS

Encourage your local companies to put Emergency Plans, Risk Management 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.

NEW E-PLAN™ DEVELOPMENTS AND PILOT TESTS

- ❖ On-line Tier2 data entry directly by companies is now being tested. TXU, a major Texas Utility company with multiple locations, will be using E-Plan™ for on-line Tier2 report generation and submission to the Texas Department of Health (TDH) and selected LEPC's. The University of Texas at Dallas E-Plan™ development team will create an automatic feature to link TXU Tier2 data to MSDS's and NFPA Hazard codes. We will keep you updated on this important new development.
- ❖ The Department of Homeland Security Research Center in Cincinnati, Ohio is utilizing the City Of Cincinnati for an E-Plan™ pilot test of both on-line Tier2 filing and development of a floor plan drawing tool. A facility or fire department can use this tool to generate simple floor plans of buildings and facilities. The floor plan drawing can locate hazardous materials, control rooms, etc. The drawing tool will have "click and drag" icons for easy and simple use.

E-PLAN™ SUCCESS STORY

Corpus Christi, Texas – On May 26, 2003 the City of Corpus Christi suffered a major break in a 36" water main. This water main supplies many of the refineries in Corpus Christi. When the break occurred, the refineries went into emergency shut-down mode with significant flaring of various process streams. E-Plan™ was used to determine which plants and refineries posed the most threat to the community, so that the remaining water supply could be diverted to those plants. The water main took several days to repair. During this time, weather was a continuous issue in pre-planning evacuation areas if significant emissions occurred. The E-Plan™ weather link was very helpful to the Emergency Responders' planning.

Contributed by District Chief Michael Hernandez, Corpus Christi Fire Department
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FEEDBACK...

- ❖ **Success stories** – We want to publicize your E-Plan™ success! Send us how you use E-Plan™ or other E-Plan™ success stories or for inclusion in the future newsletters.
- ❖ **Tell us what you think about E-Plan™** – We welcome all of your questions and suggestions about E-Plan™ System, E-Plan™ Website, and E-Plan™ Newsletter.

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

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is available online at
www.utdallas.edu/research/dfepi/epc_center.htm.