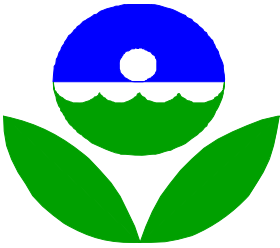


UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
EPCRA NEWSLETTER



Vol. 1, No. 2 October-November-December 2007

www.epa.gov/region4/air/epcra

Community Right-to-Know

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Are you wondering what information is required to be submitted under EPCRA and what can be released to the public? Especially with the advent of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) from Homeland Security this is a more commonly occurring question. Essentially, CFATS has no impact on EPCRA reporting or right-to-know activities. The regulations promulgating CFATS (6 CFR, Part 27) include an acknowledgement that CFATS does NOT pre-empt any other Federal rule, law or regulation.

There are however restrictions on information release incorporated into EPCRA. These include location information on Tier II reports and trade secrets.

Chemical storage locations can be withheld from the general public by checking the appropriate box on the Tier II form.

Trade secrets may be claimed to prevent the release of information to the public but must undergo a rigorous validation by the EPA.

Even if either, or both of these restrictions are claimed, the information withheld must still be provided to first responders and medical providers.

Both SERCs and LEPCs must establish and publish notice of the location of, and procedures for viewing of EPCRA information. The public does not have a right to request information directly from the facility.

Contact your State Liaison for more information on EPCRA requirements. The Department of Homeland Security's website is: <http://www.dhs.gov> and the Code of Federal Regulations are located at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>.

Special Points of Interest

Visit <http://www.nasttpo.org/> for information on the upcoming The National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) Mid-Year Conference to be held in Las Vegas in November 2007.

Visit <http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html> for more information on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and how it provides new information on industries.

Envirofacts (<http://www.epa.gov/enviro/index.html>) allows you to search for environmental information in your neighborhood.

Join Us At The
EPA Region 4
Inaugural
Chemical Emergency
Conference
 To be Held At The
Tampa Convention
Center
Tampa, Florida
 On
November 11-16,
2007
 To register go to:
www.epa.gov/region4/air/epcra
 and follow the link.

MEET THE REGION-4 EPCRA STAFF

This issue we are beginning a new feature of introducing our staff and what better place to start than with our Section Chief, Ms. Caron Falconer. Ms. Falconer is a native of Atlanta Georgia, a graduate of Georgia Tech with a BS in Chemical Engineering and a long tenured EPA Region 4 employee. Caron assumed leadership of the Region 4 EPCRA Enforcement program in January, 2006, and is committed to using all of the program's available resources to help build emergency preparedness throughout Region 4.

Caron began her EPA career as an enforcement manager in the Air Enforcement program, then, served two years in the Policy Planning and Evaluation Branch where she administered a Capacity Assurance project for the Regional Administrator. Next, Caron gained extensive experience in administering the Superfund Clean-up program at Federal facilities serving as a Remedial Project Manager and Team Leader. Just prior to joining the EPCRA Enforcement program, Caron served as EPA manager of the RCRA Permitting and Corrective Action program for the states of Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Happenings around the Region

GEORGIA

After the disasters in September 2001, Hurricane Katrina and the floods of 1994 we often heard the number one issue facing responders was the inability to communicate between agencies on the scene. The ability to communicate on a local emergency scene or a large disaster with all agencies is crucial for a successful operation.

The Henry County Fire Department and EMA now have the technology and capability to program two way radios on the scene of an event so they may overcome this obstacle

MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI HOSTS GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE

Governor Barbour recently hosted the Southern Governors' Conference in Biloxi at which a meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance took place. The Alliance was created in 2004 to address the health of the Gulf from a regional perspective. The Alliance membership includes Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas and the USEPA and NOAA.

The Alliance identified these five initial priorities:

- Nutrient loading reduction;
- Improved Gulf water quality;
- Restoration of coastal wetlands;
- Identification of Gulf habitats; and,
- Gulf of Mexico environmental education.

For more information see the September 2007 issue of Environmental News published by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (<http://www.deq.state.ms.us/>).

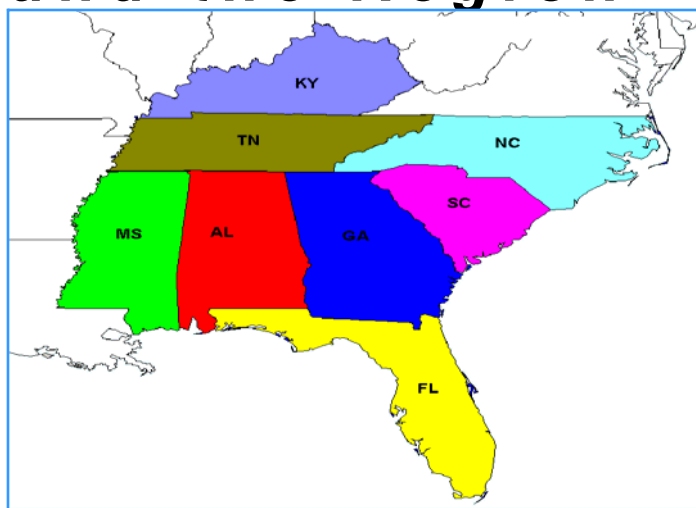
SOUTH CAROLINA

Groups receive federal funds to improve disaster response

COLUMBIA - A healthcare partnership in the Charleston area has received a \$2.5 million federal grant to improve emergency communications among health facilities, preparations for major damage to infrastructure and readiness for a surge of patients, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control announced today.

"With the use of computer modeling programs, we've determined that damage to our roads and bridges could create 18 isolated islands in our area," said John Simkovich, health director for DHEC's Region 7 public health, which serves Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties. "Without proper planning and resource allocation, people in those areas would have little or no access to healthcare services. We hope this project will help us develop a strategy for placement of our available resources."

"The efforts of this group could produce new ways to respond to natural and man-made disasters," said Max Learner, director of DHEC's Office of Public Health Preparedness, which reviewed the group's application and provided a letter of support to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. "In virtually every exercise conducted across the state, communications, infrastructure and patient surge are a main concern



Do you have a story to tell?

We'd like to know about it. Please send information about activities that you have been involved in, training, good practices, etc. . We appreciate what you do and want to let others know.

Provide your input to :

r4epcranewsletter@epa.gov

WE'RE WAITING!

for healthcare providers. DHEC will partner with these organizations to examine solutions that could provide a model for others areas of the state."

Learner said the ASPR grant was awarded to the Roper St. Francis Foundation, which will work with the partnership that includes:

- DHEC Region 7 Public Health
- Roper Hospital
- Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital
- Medical University of S.C. Hospital
- Trident Medical Center

- Summerville Medical Center
- East Cooper Regional Medical Center
- Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center
- S.C. Area Health Education Consortium.

Learner said the grant is the result of a competitive process managed by ASPR, with a total of \$18.1 million awarded to 11 recipients nationwide.

For more information:
Jim Beasley - (803) 898-7769
E-mail - beasleyjc@dhec.sc.gov

Happenings around the Region

ALABAMA—FLORIDA

Alabama and Florida, working through Region 4 are embarking on an effort to improve Alabama's LEPC program. To advance this capacity building effort between the State Emergency Response Commissions (SERC) and Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) in Region 4, EPA has set up a meeting between Alabama and Florida SERC representatives. During this meeting EPA will mediate a discussion to establish a "sister city" program where elements of successful SERC/LEPC relationships will be explored to help other states strengthen their LEPC programs. This partnership came about during the Emergency Response Summit in Nashville, TN.

KENTUCKY

The Northern Kentucky Emergency Planning Committee (NKEPC) is unique for Kentucky LEPCs in that it is comprised of three counties rather than representing only one county. As a part of metropolitan Cincinnati the three counties (Boone, Kenton and Campbell) have many issues in common and being able to share resources results in a more efficient and coordinated planning committee. With funding constraints throughout Region 4 there may be other cases where counties might benefit from consolidation of LEPCs and other response organizations.

TENNESSEE

During the month of June the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency along with other state agencies and local governments conducted the first test drill of the state's revised catastrophic emergency plan. The emergency response scenario revolved around a mock 7.7 magnitude earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone. A real earthquake of this magnitude could cause massive building damage, destroy roads, bridges, communication networks, and potentially release large amounts of hazardous materials and chemicals. The exercise was held primarily at Union University in Jackson, TN, and UT Martin in Martin, TN, which drew hundreds of participants for the mass casualty drill. The drill was also held in conjunction with the joint Federal/State Spills of National Significance exercise conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard and Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information please see <http://www.tnema.org/>

NASTTPO

The National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) is made up of members and staff of State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs), Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (TERCs), Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), various federal agencies and private industry. Members include state, tribal or local government employees with Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (EPCRA) program responsibilities, such as health, occupational safety, first response, environmental, and emergency management agencies. Associate members are welcome and include anyone with an interest in effective EPCRA implementation. The membership is dedicated to working together to prepare for possible emergencies and disasters involving hazardous materials, whether they are accidental releases or a result of terrorist acts.

2008 Annual Conference

Plan for next year and NASTTPO's Annual conference to be held in Savannah, Georgia in April of 2008. Please check back for more information.

WWW.NASTTPO.ORG

Tier I or II Reporting of Lead-Acid Batteries

EPA Region 4 has developed compliance assistance tools to assist in the reporting of lead-acid batteries under EPCRA's Tier I/II requirements.

OSHA has determined that lead-acid batteries require an MSDS which, in turn, triggers reporting under EPCRA. The batteries in question are the large batteries used in forklifts and similar applications. Automotive batteries are not included.

A brochure addressing this issue is available on our web site (<http://www.epa.gov/region4/air/epcra>). Hard copies are available and may be obtained by contacting your State Liaison or Bryce Covington at 404-562-9192 or by email at Covington.bryce@epa.gov.

NORTH CAROLINA

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill offers a certificate program in Community Preparedness and Disaster Management via Distance Learning. The program generally takes about one year to complete and students are required to attend the on-campus orientation and graduation. For more information on this program go to www.disastermanagement.unc.edu or telephone (919) 843-1219.

Do You Have A News Item, Training, or Other Announcement?

If so, then please submit them for inclusion in our next issue. This newsletter may be published by Region 4 but it is really for all of you EPCRA Planners and Emergency Responders out in the various States, Counties and Tribal areas located within Region 4. So, if you have something that you would like to share with others in the community please send them to r4epcranewletter@epa.gov. THANKS!

E-PLAN NEWS

WHAT IS E-PLAN?

"E-Plan is - The Nation's Largest Database of Chemical and Facility Hazards Data with over 90,000 facilities and 22,000 unique chemicals.

It is free, simple and easy for First Responders and State and Federal users to use.

E-Plan is a proven system that provides First Responder and others with on-site hazardous chemical information for facilities around the United States. It utilizes emergency contact and hazardous material information submitted under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations and sends it via the Internet to First Responders just when they need it the most.

E-Plan provides Tier II reporting data and other important information instantly such as

Maps of the area surrounding a fixed facility showing schools and hospitals and other Tier II reporting facilities,

Chemical Hazards Response Information System (CHRIS) data,

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS),

Chemical profiles,

Facility Emergency Response Plans,

Federal Area Contingency Plans, and

Chemical data from Risk Management Plans (RMPs).

It has nationwide coverage in all 50 States and four U.S. territories.

In emergency situations, the E-Plan system can make the difference between life and death for First Responders and victims of the emergency. E-Plan has been enthusiastically embraced by fire fighters and hazmat response teams, nationwide wherever it has been introduced. Without E-Plan, this information is currently available only in paper form and retrieving this information from a file storage room during an emergency is a difficult, lengthy process if even possible at all. Instant access to the critical hazmat information provided by E-Plan makes it an invaluable tool for First Responders."

(Source: E-Plan Home Page (<https://erplan.net/eplan/login.htm>))

Other features of E-Plan

E-Plan was developed through a cooperative agreement between USEPA and the University of Texas at Dallas with input from local, state, and federal agencies of the Region 6 Response Team.

E-Plan is funded by the Department of Homeland Security through an Interagency Agreement with the EPA and is available without charge to users.

Contains RMP facility data and Tier 2 records.

Data sources: NFPA, DOT-ERG, MSDS, NIOSH and CHRIS.

Interoperable with Tier 2 Submit and CAMEO.

Security features include: Individual User IDs and Passwords, Local or State User Authorization, Role-based permission levels, Secure physical location, Firewalls, and 128k encryption.

E-Plan Contacts

Jim Staves, EPA Region 6, Staves.james@epa.gov, 214-789-3417

Vinson Poole, EPA Region 4, Poole.vinson@epa.gov, 404-562-9186

E-PLAN NEWS

E-Plan User's Group Conference Planned for April 22-23, 2008



We are planning the first ever E-Plan User's Group Conference for **April 22-23, 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.

- Tuesday, April 22, 2008: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (tentative)
- Wednesday, April 23, 2008: 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM (tentative)

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

Preliminary agenda items include:

- ◆ E-Plan Best Practices
- ◆ E-Plan Success Stories
- ◆ How are users utilizing E-Plan?
- ◆ Review E-Plan features
- ◆ Review how Tier2 Submit works
- ◆ 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
800 West Campbell Road
Richardson, TX 75080

E-Plan Outreach

E-PLAN INFORMATION SESSIONS SCHEDULED

- Florida SERC Conference in Tallahassee, FL – October 5, 2007
- Greensboro/Guilford County, North Carolina LEPC Conference – October 8 and 9, 2007
- Virginia Hazmat Conference in Hampton, VA – October 15–19, 2007
- Hotzone Conference in Houston, TX – October 18–21, 2007
- North Carolina EMA Fall Conference in Atlantic Beach, NC – October 28–31, 2007
- NASTPO Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV – November 6–8, 2007
- Oklahoma Metro Fire Chiefs Meeting in Oklahoma City, OK – November 8, 2007
- Clean Gulf Conference in Tampa, FL – November 15 and 16, 2007
- Texas Homeland Security Conference in Austin, TX – November 2007
- EPA Region 3 Hazmat Conference in Pittsburg, PA – December 2007

TOOLS FOR EMERGENCY PLANNING

(HOW TO PLAN FOR THE CARE OF HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME RESIDENTS AND THOSE WITH DISABILITIES DURING NATURAL DISASTERS OR TERROIST ATTACKS _ ON-LINE RESOURCES)

New guide outlines disaster laws for people with disabilities

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has developed a new reference guide that outlines existing legal requirements and standards of access for people with disabilities. "Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities in the Provision of Disaster Mass Care, Housing and Human Services" is the first in a series of disability-related guidelines to be produced by FEMA for disaster preparedness and response planners and service providers at all levels. The guide explains how applicable federal laws relate to government entities and non-government, private sector and religious organizations. A full copy of the guide is available at <http://www.fema.gov/oer/reference>.

Nursing home and hospital emergency planning tools online

An atlas from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality is now available to support local/regional planning and response efforts in the event of a bioterrorism or other public health emergency. "Emergency Preparedness Atlas: U.S. Nursing Home and Hospital Facilities" can help local communities identify the health care facilities that could be used to provide assistance under emergency conditions in their communities. The atlas contains case studies and state-specific maps that display the location of hospitals and nursing homes, as well as their geographic relationship to a variety of emergency management and bioterrorism preparedness regions, such as HAZMAT response regions, emergency management regions and Red Cross chapters.

Download all or part of the report on the DHHS Web site: <http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/nursinghomes/atlas.htm>.

Also available from the AHRQ is "Nursing Homes in Public Health Emergencies," a report on disaster- and bioterrorism-related planning activities among nursing homes. It focuses on the roles that nursing homes could play in regional preparedness, such as transferring hospitals' less-critically ill or recovering patients to nursing homes.

Read the report: <http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/nursinghomes/report.htm>.

In addition, DHHS has announced that \$25 million is available to hospitals and other health care facilities via a competitive emergency care grant program focused on hospital surge capacity, emergency care system capability, and community and hospital preparedness for public health emergencies. Details about the Health Care Partnership Emergency Care Competitive Grants Program are available online at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2007pres/08/pr20070810a.html>.

The above articles originally appeared in the August 29, 2007 issue of:



CAMEO LIBRARY ON-LINE

We're pleased to announce the release of CAMEO Chemicals -- an easier-to-use version of the most popular components of the CAMEO program. Find it online at

<http://cameochemicals.noaa.gov/>.

The website provides access to the same CAMEO database of over 6,000 hazardous materials. The revised search engine is much faster and the new search results ranking makes finding your chemicals more straightforward. The CAMEO Chemicals datasheets

contain most of the same information you are used to seeing in CAMEO, but in an easier-to-read layout. Also, the website makes it simpler to mix chemicals and read reactivity hazard predictions. Best of all, you don't have to download or install anything, and you can bookmark frequently referenced datasheets.

Please help us get the word out by sharing the CAMEO Chemicals URL with your response and planning colleagues.



(Sacramento, Calif.) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency received the annual Innovation and Technology Award on Sept. 5 from the 2007 Continuing Challenge HazMat Emergency Response Workshop held in Sacramento. The award to the CAMEO Team at NOAA and EPA was for the development and promotion of the Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations software commonly called by its acronym, CAMEO.

The CAMEO Team was nominated for the award by Deputy Fire Marshal Kevin Smith of the Chino Valley Fire District in Calif.

CAMEO fm 2007 TRAINING COURSE

July 31-August 2	Tallahassee, FL
August 14-16	Cumberland Falls, KY
September 5-6	Owensboro, KY
October 10-12	Tunica, MS
October 23-25	Verona, MS
November 27-29	Pearl, MS
December 4-6	Hattiesburg, MS

All classes are tentatively scheduled. Please contact Bryce Covington.

For calendar year 2008, Region 4 plans to aid each state's CAMEO capability by offering Train-the-Trainer courses. We will announce updates on these trainings as they become available on the World Wide Web at: www.epa.gov/region4/air/epcra.

CAMEO LISTSERVE

The CAMEO News Service is a one-way listserv which serves as a communication tool for CAMEO managers and developers to communicate important information to the CAMEO community.

Communications from the CAMEO team will provide users with an up-to-date status on various aspects of the CAMEO/MARPLOT/ALOHA software, such as updates, "bug" notification and quick fixes.

If you would like to subscribe to the CAMEO News Service and stay up to date on what's happening in CAMEO, send an email to join-cameo@lists.epa.gov.

Also, be sure and check the CAMEO website often for guided tours of the programs, FAQ and technical support.

www.epa.gov/ceppo/cameo

Need Information? The Region 4 Contact is:

Bryce Covington

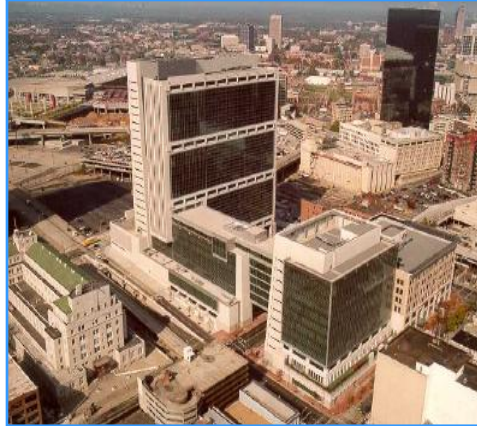
Telephone at 404-562-9192 or email: Covington.bryce@epa.gov

EPA Region 4 EPCRA Staff Contacts and Related Information

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EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW

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(404) 562-9191

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EPCRA Tribal Liaison
(404) 562-9188

Victor Weeks
RMP Coordinator
(404) 562-9189

Chemical Emergency Preparedness & Prevention Office (CEPPO)

<http://www.epa.gov/ceppo> or <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/content/index.html>

EPCRA Section 313 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Homepage

<http://www.epa.gov/tri>

Compliance and Enforcement

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/index.html>

National Response Center (NRC) - <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil> or 1-800-424-8802

US EPA EPCRA, RCRA, and Superfund Hotline (800) 424-9346

LEPC Information Exchange - <http://www.lepcinfoexchange.com/>

Compliance Assistance Clearinghouse - <http://cfpub.epa.gov/clearinghouse/>

Region 4 EPCRA - <http://www.epa.gov/region4/air/epcra/index.htm>