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A special thanks to all responders (federal, state, local, industry) who have put in very long hours away from their families during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

As always, if you received this Update from someone else, and would like to be added to the email list, just email us at one of the emails above.

Steve & Hilary

11th Annual HOTZONE Conference

We had another successful conference !! Almost 600 attendees, speakers, and vendors were represented at the conference, where over 50 classes were offered. Amazingly, there were over 300 scholarships offered this year by our Federal, State, and local partners to ensure hundreds of responders were able to attend the conference.



Training for Responders by Responders

*HOTZONE 12 will be held next October 20-23, 2011 in Houston
You can keep up with information on the conference by going
to:*

www.hotzone.org

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National HazMat Fusion Center



PRESS RELEASE

Houston, Tex., October 15, 2010... Hazardous materials responders at Hotzone 2010 witnessed today's launch of the National Hazardous Materials Fusion Center's web portal (Hazmat Fusion Center), a responder-driven data collection, analysis and education center.



Representatives from U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) announced the portal's launch at the conference's general session.

"Hazmat responders have traditionally looked to each other as a source of learning, but have been largely restricted to local or regional networks," said Chief Jack Parow, IAFC president and chairman of the board and a former member of the Massachusetts Hazardous Materials Team.



"The Hazmat Fusion Center will now allow us to learn from hazmat technicians across the country, as well as to apply our knowledge to national-level policy discussion and training models that we can adapt to our local conditions. This not only benefits emergency responders, but the public we are sworn to protect."

"PHMSA, in partnership with the IAFC, is committed to improve the safety of every emergency responder, protect the public and infrastructure, enhance the capabilities of the fire service, and increase response effectiveness," said PHMSA Administrator Cynthia Quarterman. "The Hazmat Fusion Center will provide crucial information to decision makers at the federal, state and local levels on the transportation and delivery of hazardous materials."



The internet-based portal marks a significant milestone in the broader hazmat community. It closes a historical gap in nationwide, hazmat-information sharing capabilities by providing responders with unprecedented opportunity to both contribute to and access a suite of readily available resources.

This free resource serves as a one-stop shop for hazmat-response information, including training packages, reports, incident-based case studies, statistics, trends, alerts, recommendations and peer-to-peer networking.

The portal was designed with a consistent method of information collection to support information sharing across jurisdictions and levels of government and to support both individual and national-level needs. The secure incident reporting system is available for hazmat teams to enter, manage and analyze their own incident reports while allowing the Hazmat Fusion Center to create a national picture of hazmat response and disseminate regional and national hazmat trends and statistics.

"It is very important that those of us in the hazardous materials response community from around the nation are able to share information with each other," said Bill Hand, training coordinator for the Harris County (Tex.) Fire Marshal's Office and one of hundreds of responders who contributed to the portal's development. "The National Hazmat Fusion Center is making that possible by bringing together in one location the resources that we need to access this critical information."



The portal is the central element of the Hazmat Fusion Center, a program established and supported through a cooperative agreement between PHMSA and IAFC.



The program—which has adopted the tagline Responders Helping Responders—was created using a bottom-up building process based on the needs and the active input of the hazmat response community.

The Hazmat Fusion Center also includes the already-established Regional Incident Survey Teams (RIST) and an operations center currently in development.

RIST members are local responders in each of the five PHMSA regions who have volunteered to be trained and dispatched after major incidents, at the request of the jurisdiction, to assist in collecting lessons learned and analysis of the event.

Registration Now Open

Emergency responders must register either an individual or agency user to access secure portions of the portal.

Registered responders may view full RIST survey reports, smart practices and lessons learned and may participate in the hazmat discussion forum and bulletin boards. Agencies that respond to hazmat incidents may register to use the Hazmat Fusion Center's incident-reporting system. Registration is free.

What is the National Hazardous Materials Fusion Center and its purpose?

- The Hazmat Fusion Center is a one-stop shop for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information about hazmat emergency response.
- The Hazmat Fusion Center ties together the hazmat training network, analysis of significant hazmat incidents, exploration of hazmat technologies, and continued development of hazmat tools and resources.
- The Hazmat Fusion Center offers a national communications network for hazmat responders to share information in the areas of responder safety, training, and lessons learned.
- The focus of the Hazmat Fusion Center is on the safety of the emergency responder at hazmat incidents.
- The Hazmat Fusion Center has been built from the bottom-up to reflect the needs of hazmat responders.



What are the benefits and what does the Hazmat Fusion Center have to offer me?

- A database that incorporates hazmat teams nationwide so they may communicate with each other more effectively.
- Knowledge about hazmat incidents nationally.
- Lessons learned shared nationally without criticism or condemnation.
- Smart and effective practices for Hazardous Materials response.
- A basis for realistic approaches to training.
- Effective and responsive communications tool(s) for the hazmat community.
- Critical information that could one day save your life and the lives of your team members.

Where is the National Hazardous Materials Fusion Center located?

International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) headquarters, 4025 Fair Ridge Drive, Fairfax, VA 22033.

Who will use the information and for what purposes?

At the Federal level:

- PHMSA, FRA and FMCSA will use the information to improve risk analysis of hazmat transportation incidents. This will improve PHMSA's and FRA's ability to better focus outreach, training and resources to the response community and to improve the safety of hazardous materials transportation.
- PHMSA will also use the information to aid in the creation of a research and development program which will focus on improved safety for emergency responders, communities and the environment.
- NFA will be able to use the information to determine training needs and develop new training programs. The information will also assist the NFA in reviewing the effectiveness of the different types of training available.



At the State and Local level:

- Hazmat response leadership will be able to request data that can be used to assist in the assessment and development of hazmat capabilities within their jurisdictions.
- State fusion centers will be able to request information to assist with assessments.

At the IAFC:

- IAFC will use the information to better ensure responder safety to hazmat incidents.
- The information will be analyzed to determine emerging trends and patterns.
- Information with an immediate impact on responder safety will be disseminated quickly to the hazmat response community
- The information will be used to develop lessons learned, guidance for smart and effective practices, realistic training programs/packages, and information to industry on improving shipping and, potentially, process safety.

How can I find out more information?

Visit www.hazmatfc.com

EPCRA New Guidance

EPA has developed updated guidance on various reporting options that States and local agencies may choose in implementing Sections 311 and 312 of the EPCRA of 1986. In addition, the agency has also provided some new interpretations and revised some existing ones to help facilities comply with certain of the requirements under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA).

The new guidance became effective on July 13, 2010, and covers the following topics:

- Use of UST forms to fulfill Tier I reporting requirements
- Electronic submittal of Tier 2 reports
- Electronic access to MSDSs
- Emergency release notification
- Reporting exemptions for solids

The federal Register Notice can be found at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-07-13/pdf/2010-17031.pdf>

A summary of the guidance is provided below...

EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT **Guidance on Reporting Options for Sections 311 and 312 and Some Interpretations**



Introduction

EPA provided draft guidance in the preamble to the June 8, 1998 proposed rule (63 FR 31268) to streamline the reporting requirements for facilities under sections 311 and 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA). The Agency did not propose any regulatory changes, but sought comments on the following reporting options.

1. Underground Storage Tank (UST) Forms to fulfill the requirements for Tier I information under EPCRA section 312;
2. Partnership Programs for joint access to information and streamlined submission of EPCRA sections 311 and 312 reporting. If a single point submission is allowed for facilities, then one agency would receive the information and provide access to the other agencies;
3. Electronic submittal and certification for EPCRA section 312 reporting;
4. Incorporation of previous submissions into EPCRA section 312 reporting;
5. Electronic access to facility Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) database; and
6. EPCRA section 312 reporting to fulfill reporting requirements under section 311.

EPA is now providing guidance on these reporting options.

The objective for this guidance is also to provide state and local agencies with flexibility in implementing sections 311 and 312 of EPCRA.



Who is Affected by this Guidance and Interpretation?

Entities that will be affected include those organizations and facilities subject to sections 302, 304, 311 and 312 of EPCRA and the implementing regulations found in 40 CFR parts 355 and 370.

EPA's Decision on These Proposed Options

UST Forms

- Since all states now require facilities to submit a Tier II inventory form or the state equivalent form, this reporting option is no longer useful.



Partnership Programs for Joint Access to Information and Submission of EPCRA 311 and 312 Reporting

- States may implement the Partnership Programs; however, they must ensure that statutory and regulatory requirements are met. If states choose to implement this option, a formal agreement is necessary between the SERC, LEPC, and fire department. States then notify the facilities about this agreement and the new submission process.
- States must also meet the March 1 reporting deadline, as specified in the statute.



Electronic Submittal and Certification for EPCRA Section 312 Reporting



- States may require facilities to submit information using Tier2 Submit, the electronic reporting format, or the state equivalent electronic format. If facilities cannot file information electronically, states should allow these facilities to submit paper copies of the Tier II report.
- The original signature requirement in 40 CFR 370.41 and 370.42 can be met by providing the certification statement on paper or by any electronic certification established by the state and local agencies.

Incorporation of Previous Submissions into EPCRA Section 312 Reporting

- Facilities are required to submit a Tier I form or, if requested, a Tier II form annually to the SERC, LEPC, and the fire department, even if the information from the previous year has not changed. Most states have established electronic reporting or are using Tier2 Submit software developed by EPA. Therefore, the burden for facilities to re-create information on paper does not exist for most facilities.
- States may adopt this reporting option for those facilities that submit section 312 information on paper.

Tier Two Inventory Form (EPCRA Section 312)		Reporting Period	
Facility Identification Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____		Owner/Operator Name Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____	
Tier Two Agency (SERC, LEPC, or Fire Department) Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____		Emergency Contact Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____	
Reporting Period: Start of Reporting Period (Reporting Date) _____ Reporting Period _____			
Chemical Description	Physical and Health Hazards	Inventory	Storage Codes and Locations
Chem. Name: _____ CAS No.: _____ EPA No.: _____ HCS No.: _____ UN No.: _____	GHS Label: _____ Hazardous: _____ Flammable: _____ Corrosive: _____ Toxic: _____ Other: _____	Qty. (Gross): _____ Qty. (Net): _____ Storage Location: _____ Storage Code: _____	Storage Location: _____ Storage Code: _____
Chem. Name: _____ CAS No.: _____ EPA No.: _____ HCS No.: _____ UN No.: _____	GHS Label: _____ Hazardous: _____ Flammable: _____ Corrosive: _____ Toxic: _____ Other: _____	Qty. (Gross): _____ Qty. (Net): _____ Storage Location: _____ Storage Code: _____	Storage Location: _____ Storage Code: _____
Chem. Name: _____ CAS No.: _____ EPA No.: _____ HCS No.: _____ UN No.: _____	GHS Label: _____ Hazardous: _____ Flammable: _____ Corrosive: _____ Toxic: _____ Other: _____	Qty. (Gross): _____ Qty. (Net): _____ Storage Location: _____ Storage Code: _____	Storage Location: _____ Storage Code: _____
Certification (Must be signed by a responsible official) I certify that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorized to make this certification.			Signature _____ Title: _____

Electronic Access to Facility MSDS Database

- Section 311 of EPCRA requires facilities to submit MSDSs for hazardous chemicals that meet or exceed the reporting thresholds to the SERC, LEPC, and the fire department. The Agency suggested electronic submission of MSDSs or providing access to facilities' MSDS database to reduce the burden on the regulated community and reduce the information management burden on implementing agencies.
- Due to security concerns and several entities lacking access to computers or on-line systems, EPA has rejected this reporting option.



EPCRA Section 312 Reporting to Fulfill Reporting Requirements under Section 311

- This reporting option is only beneficial to those facilities that acquire a new chemical between October 1 and December 31 of any given calendar year.
- States may implement this reporting approach ensuring that facilities comply with section 312 three months after acquiring a new chemical.

What are the Interpretations of Emergency Release Notification and Hazardous Chemical Exemption for solids?

The Agency is also providing new interpretations and revising existing interpretations to help facilities comply with certain requirements under EPCRA.

Emergency Release Notification

- Under EPCRA section 304, facilities may have up to 30 days to submit a written follow-up report to state and local agencies. States may implement more rigorous requirements.

Hazardous Chemical Exemption for Solids under EPCRA Section 311 (e)(2)

- Facilities would only have to count the amount of fume or dust given off a piece of metal, brick, or any other manufactured solid item that undergoes a modification process. States may implement more rigorous requirements.

I Wish I Had Been More ...

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What would you say on your deathbed or at the side of the deathbed of a loved one?

“I wish I had been more ...”

More what?

C’mon, fess up!

If you don't want to feel guilty the rest of your life when someone dies or when you are dying or being cared for because you are receiving 24/7 nursing care, you better decide what you need to be more of—like loving, caring, attentive, human—and start doing it today, now, right now!

We all feel guilty for our past thoughtless transgressions, our sins of omissions, our very bad moments we would like to forget, but we can change all that and begin anew, today, right now, and “from this day forward” be a thinking and thoughtful adult.

But we can't do it without a plan, without a list of steps we will take today to change, for change is hard—not bad, just painful, just hard.

But we can do it, you and I, for we have to. We have one more chance, right now—and maybe only this one more chance.

We can make the commitment, make the plan, make the list of steps to take and say “I will be” rather than “I wish I had been more”

HAS YOUR LEPC:



- Established a permanent address for facilities, the SERC, and EPA to mail required forms and information;
- Notified the SERC of any changes to the LEPC structure, especially a change in the chair or address;
- Provided EPCRA training to emergency responders, specifically local fire departments who often can provide information to facilities during fire inspections and police departments who respond to haz-mat incidents?
- Established a 24-hour manned emergency phone number (i.e., sheriff's office, 911, fire department) for facilities to make release notifications -- an answering machine is not sufficient

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- Please consult the applicable regulations when determining compliance.
- Mention of trade names, products, or services does not convey, and should not be interpreted as conveying official EPA approval, endorsement, or recommendation.

Region 6 Emergency Notification Numbers

Arkansas Dept. of Emergency Management	800-322-4012
Louisiana State Police	877-925-6595
New Mexico State Police	505-827-9126
Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality	800-522-0206
Texas Environmental Hotline	800-832-8224

National Response Center	800-424-8802
EPA Region 6	866-372-7745
CHEMTREC	800-424-9300