

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DIGEST



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Volume 34, Number 6

Texas Department of Public Safety

Austin, Texas

November-December 1988

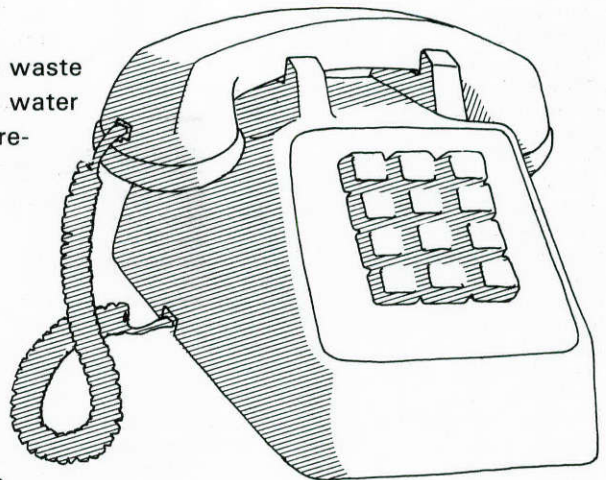
Title III Emergency Notification: Who You Gonna Call?

A release, discharge or spill of oil or hazardous substance that causes or may cause pollution must be reported to the proper state, local and federal authorities. Local offices of the Texas Water Commission, Texas Railroad Commission and Texas Air Control Board can determine if a business is required to report to that particular agency under the agency's regulatory requirements. Local and federal requirements should be discussed with the local emergency management office and the FEMA Regional Office.

Texas Water Commission

Notification is required whenever:

- (1) an accidental discharge or spill occurs through which waste or other substances are inadvertently discharged into water in the state or deposited where, unless controlled or removed, they will drain, seep, run, or otherwise enter water in the state,
- or (2) a discharge or spill occurs by which hazardous substances in harmful quantities are spilled, leaked, pumped, poured, emitted, entered, or dumped or into waters in the state,
- or (3) a discharge or spill occurs by which hazardous substances in harmful quantities are deposited where, unless controlled or removed, they may drain, seep, run, or otherwise enter water in the state.

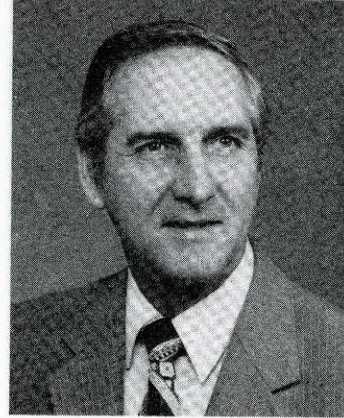


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DEM UPDATE



**by Robert A. Lansford
State Coordinator**

Official Publication
Division of Emergency Management
Texas Department of Public Safety

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Published bimonthly by the Texas Department of Public Safety, Austin, Texas. All copy and photographs should be addressed to Digest Editor, Division of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Public Safety, P. O. Box 4087, Austin, Texas 78773-0001. Include Zip Code on all new addresses or change of address. Telephone Number (512) 465-2000, Ext. 2138. Reprinting with credit permitted.

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This issue of the Digest brings to a close another calendar year. As each year goes by we see more and more issues and activities that are related to emergency management.

Government, by the most liberal definition, cannot exist without a comprehensive emergency management program. Everything eventually centers around planning for the unexpected and for those unscheduled events. If a governmental entity or political jurisdiction does not consider the important issue of planning for the unexpected, regardless of how remote the possibility might be, then it is walking a dark path without a flashlight. Unfortunately what makes most people realize they need planning is the occurrence of an unexpected event.

Start 1989 with a new outlook on emergency planning. The assistance is there, free of charge. We would like to help.

Invitations to the 1989 State Emergency Management Conference have been mailed. If you'd like to attend but have not received your letter, contact your Regional Liaison Officer or the DEM Public Information Office.

My congratulations to the state Radiological Instrument Maintenance and Calibration Program personnel, who were honored recently by FEMA.

Most Benefits Expanded

President Approves Changes To Federal Disaster Law

Recent changes to Public Law 93-288—the law which dictates federal disaster response—will cause significant changes to state and federal disaster recovery programs. President Ronald Reagan approved the changes November 23.

According to Ed Laundry, Resource Management Officer for DEM, states won't know the full effect of the law until new rules for implementation are adopted by FEMA. "We'll be meeting with FEMA Region VI to discuss the new changes, and we'll be reviewing the rule changes that will be published in the Federal Register," Laundry said. The new legislation amends significant portions of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974.

Some of the major changes include:

- Increasing the amount of grants through the Individual and Family Grant Program from a \$5,000 maximum to \$10,000, and allowing for an annual adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index;
- Extending the rental period under the Temporary Housing program from a maximum of 12 months to 18 months;

- Limiting Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits to 26 weeks rather than one year;
- Allowing reimbursement to state and local governments for some disaster-related administrative and salary/benefits costs that were previously not eligible for reimbursement;
- Lending to an eligible state/local public property applicant that portion of funds for which the applicant is responsible;
- Providing full payment of the federal share for approved public projects that are less than \$35,000, with annual cost adjustments tied to the CPI;
- Allowing FEMA funding of up to 50 percent of approved hazard mitigation costs required by the federal agency.

FEMA Director Julius W. Becton, Jr., said the recent enactment of the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Amendments of 1988 ensures that American disaster victims will be better served with "more timely, equitable and far-reaching" federal aid.

Area Physicians Briefed On Chemical Emissions

The Deer Park Chamber of Commerce's Medical Awareness Committee and the East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCMA) hosted a group of area physicians at a dinner meeting at the San Jacinto Monument Museum of History November 17. The purpose of the event was to inform the physicians about chemical emissions from chemical plants and the impact on the environment and health.

The meeting was the latest in a series undertaken by the EHCMA to inform the ship channel communities about chemicals and their impact on the community. The EHCMA members have been making presentations in the area about data supplied to federal and state agencies as required by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III.

H. J. Bettencourt, manager of Shell's Deer Park Manufacturing Complex, addressed the group on

behalf of the EHCMA. Bettencourt told the physicians that industry wants to tell others about its business because people living in an industrial area have a right to know about their industrial neighbors and any impact they may have on the environment. "We know you are equally interested in the health of your employees and the people living in this area just as we are. That's why we want to share information with you about chemical emissions that is now available as a result of SARA III," Bettencourt said.

The presentation for the physicians was made by a group of occupational physicians, and covered information about chemicals manufactured, stored and emitted into the environment. The speakers specifically addressed what the exposure levels from the chemicals mean in terms of actual air quality in the area neighborhoods.

Texas RIMC Program Receives FEMA Award

The Texas Radiological Instrument Maintenance and Calibration program personnel were recognized recently by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for their "exceptional performance in preparing a National Emergency Radiological Instrumentation Support Package." Tom Payne, State Radiological Maintenance Officer, attended FEMA's Honors Award ceremony December 8 in Washington, D.C., and accepted the award for "Excellence in Emergency Management" from FEMA Director Julius W. Becton, Jr., on behalf of the program.

FEMA selected the Texas program because "the dedicated efforts of the staff, over and above the normal workload, greatly contributed to this increased FEMA capability to respond to emergencies, and reflects credit upon themselves, FEMA, and the State of Texas. Their contribution to enhanced national Radiological Defense Program (RADEF) capabilities reflects the highest degree of dedication to professionalism."

Payne and technicians Mike Rutherford, Billy Patrick and David Ramsey provided service, repairs, and calibration to more than 4,000 monitoring units that have been placed at the General Services Administration Depot in Fort Worth during the past four years. The work was incorporated into the staff's assigned scope of work, which is to provide service and calibration for more than 40,000 instruments issued to local, state and federal agencies in Texas, Payne said.

"We'll hang the plaque in the shop where all who worked for it can share it," he said.

The program operates under the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Management. Division Director is Pam West and Bureau Chief is Gene Weatherall.



Award-winning RADEF personnel are (seated, left to right) Billy Patrick, David Ramsey, and Mike Rutherford. Standing (left to right) are David Fehrenkamp, who joined the program December 1, and Tom Payne.



A train wreck involving a hazardous material spill was the scenario used by the Lyondell Petrochemical Company of Houston when it sponsored a multi-jurisdictional exercise at its plant in September. The City of Houston, Harris County, City of Pasadena and Channel Industries Mutual Aid participated, as did Southern Pacific Railroad, Lifeflight, the American Red Cross and five area law enforcement agencies. Local officials, including the mayors of Houston and Pasadena, took an active role, and did other city and county officials. Hospitals, LEPCs, EMS, fire departments and hazardous material teams responded as well, and some residents of a nearby neighborhood agreed to be evacuated. (Above) rescuers remove one of two persons "injured" when the hazardous material caught fire; (below) Harris County personnel assist with communications from the evacuee reception center parking lot.



DEM Personnel

Tracy Fleming, a former secretary for the Training Office, is the new secretary for Disaster Recovery. She replaces **Anna Martinez**, who now works for the State Board of Insurance.

Who You Gonna Call? continued from cover

Exception to this requirement is:

- (1) any discharge which is authorized by permit issued pursuant to federal law or any other law of this state,
- or (2) any discharge regulated by the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas, other than highway and railway spills and spills from tankers and barges.

When such an event occurs, it is the responsibility of the individual operating, in charge of, or responsible for the activity or facility to notify the Texas Water Commission as soon as is possible and not later than 24 hours after the occurrence.

Notification may be made through calling the appropriate Texas Water Commission district or regional office during business hours, or calling after hours at the Texas Emergency Response Center at (512) 463-7727.

For further information on these requirements see: the Texas Water Code, §26.039 and §26.261-.268; and the **State of Texas Oil and Hazardous Substances Spill Contingency Plan**, TWC-GP 86-01.

Texas Railroad Commission

I. OIL AND GAS DIVISION - Operator shall give immediate notice to the **appropriate district office** of:

1. Fire, leak, spill, blow-out or break associated with any oil well, gas well, geothermal well, pipeline, receiving tank, storage tank, or receiving and storage receptacle into which crude oil, gas, or geothermal resources are produced, received, or stored or through which oil, gas or geothermal resources are piped or transported. The report required on spills and leaks of oil is required only if the loss exceeds five (5) barrels.
2. Accidental releases of hydrogen sulfide gas of sufficient volume to present a hazard and any hydrogen sulfide related injury or accident. The local Texas Air Control Board district office shall also be notified.

II. LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM (LP) GAS DIVISION - LP-gas dealers shall report accidents affecting the following as soon as feasibly possible to **(512) 463-6788**:

1. LP-gas system or equipment
2. LP-gas mobile equipment
3. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) system

III. GAS UTILITIES DIVISION - Operator must give telephone notification at the earliest practical moment (within two hours) to **(512) 447-2171** of:

1. A release of gas from an intrastate natural gas pipeline which:
 - (a) causes death or injury requiring hospitalization
 - (b) requires a segment of transmission line to be taken out of service
 - (c) results in gas ignition
 - (d) causes \$5,000 or more in estimated damages, or
 - (e) is judged significant by the operator because of location, traffic rerouting, evacuations, media interest, etc.
2. An incident involving hazardous liquids other than crude oil from hazardous liquids pipelines which:
 - (a) causes death or injury requiring hospitalization
 - (b) results in a fire or explosion
 - (c) causes \$5,000 or more estimated damage
 - (d) pollutes a body of water, or
 - (e) is judged significant by the operator

IV. TRANSPORTATION DIVISION - Railroads must report immediately by telephone to **(512) 463-6788** any collision, derailment, fire explosion, act of God, or other event involving operator of railroad on-track equipment (standing or moving) which:

1. results in death of a railroad employee or passenger
2. results in death or injury of two or more persons
3. involves a passenger train, or
4. involves a hazardous material

Texas Air Control Board

The appropriate Texas Air Control Board (TACB) **regional office** should be notified as soon as possible of any unscheduled or accidental excursion of a process or operation that results in emissions of air contaminants that contravene the intent of the Texas Clean Air Act or the rules and regulations of the Board.

To determine if this requirement applies to your business or facility, please contact your nearest regional TACB office.

Around The State

Texan Heads NCCEM

John Pickett, City of Dallas EMC, was installed as president of the National Coordinating Council on Emergency Management at the NCCEM annual meeting in Mobile, Alabama in October. **Steve Vaughn** of the City of Pampa was named Secretary for the Council, and accepted the Region Executive Citation for significant contributions to improving awareness at the local and national levels. He'll be speaking to groups in Nebraska and Colorado soon about Pampa's excellent program, while Pampa City Manager **Bob Hart** is scheduled to give a presentation in Paris, France, on the CAER program at a meeting sponsored by the United Nations Environmental Program.

CMA Award

Calhoun County Emergency Management Coordinator **Billy Zwerschke** recently presented the Union Carbide Seadrift Plant with a Certificate of Recognition for Community Outreach from the Chemical Manufacturers Association. The award goes to plants that have developed and implemented a comprehensive communications program with the local community through the CMA CAER program.

Course Offered

A three-day short course entitled **Engineering for Extreme Winds** will be presented in Lubbock February

8-10 by the Institute for Disaster Research and the Wind Engineering Research Center of Texas Tech University.

The course is intended for architects, engineers, building officials, and other personnel who are involved with design of buildings to resist extreme winds (including tornado and hurricane winds) and interpretation of wind load standards and codes. The topics to be discussed include wind load concepts, interpretation of ANSI A58.1 provisions, design for hurricane and tornado winds, and window glass design. A set of lecture notes, a copy of the ANSI standard and the new Guide to the Use of Wind Load Provisions of ANSI A58.1 will be provided to each attendee.

CEU certificates will be awarded to each participant. For additional information and application forms contact Martha Hise, Department of Continuing Education, Texas Tech University, P. O. Box 4110, Lubbock, TX 79409, phone 806-742-1522.

Business and Industry Meet

Mike Scott gave a presentation on Title III and emergency planning at a Business and Industry Conference held in Dallas. The group discussed the need for industry to recognize the potential for disaster and plan for it in order to recovery as quickly as possible as well as the role of government in the recovery process.

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Vol. 6, 1988

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