

Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

Local
Emergency
Planning
Committee



Safety through Communication & Education

LEPC LEDGER

DECEMBER 2006 E-NEWSLETTER – VOL. 1, No. 1

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LEPC COOP WORKSHOP A SUCCESS

Dozens of business, industry and non-governmental organization representatives attended a day long class last month to learn about the importance of developing a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

Continuity of Operations Plans are an explicit strategy to assure the capability to exist to continue essential functions during the full breadth of potential emergencies and disasters that may threaten Tuscaloosa County. Hurricane Katrina and other recent disasters have shown the private and public sectors are ill prepared to continue operations as a result of catastrophic incidents.

In addition to a comprehensive planning approach, experience shows us that COOP must be a living program and its procedures must be updated and practiced on a regular basis. Delegations of authority and notification lists are two particularly high maintenance elements. In addition, regular exercises and assessments will identify areas needing improvement.

Alternate operating facilities are a vital part of any COOP plan. You should identify alternate facilities and prepare your personnel for the possibility of unannounced relocation of essential functions and contingency staff to these facilities. Facilities may be identified from existing infrastructure, or external sources. FEMA recommends that these facilities be capable of supporting operations in a threat-free environment, as determined by the geographical location of the facility, a favorable assessment of the local threat, and/or the collective protection characteristics of the facility. In acquiring and equipping such facilities, FEMA encourages you to consider cooperative agreements and promote sharing of identified alternate facilities. Broad based public-private partnerships and mutual aid agreements should also be used to provide alternate site capabilities. Alternate facilities should provide the capability to perform essential functions under various threat conditions, and offer sufficient space and equipment to sustain operations for up to 30 days.

These alternate sites will need to include equipment to support communications with essential internal and external organizations, partner organizations, and the public. In planning for operations at alternate sites, it is important to consider the health, safety, and emotional well-being of relocated employees; and to provide physical security and access controls.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL PLACARDING RESPONSIBILITIES [49 CFR 172.506]

Shippers of hazardous materials are responsible for providing required placards for the hazardous materials that they offer for shipment, according to 49 CFR 172.506. A shipper is not responsible for placarding what the carrier picks up before arriving at or after leaving from the shipper's facility.



Consider the following scenario: A shipper offers 400 pounds of corrosive liquids in non-bulk packages for ground transportation. The carrier has 800 pounds of corrosive liquids in non-bulk packages on the truck when he arrives at the shipper's facility. Is the shipper of the 400 pounds required to offer a placard?

The answer is "No." The shipper is responsible only for offering the carrier a placard for the shipper's own hazardous materials. However, the carrier would not be allowed to transport the load until it has been properly placarded. In this scenario, that is the responsibility of the carrier. The shipper could provide placards to the carrier as a courtesy, but

it is the carrier's responsibility to obtain them.

(Thanks to Environmental Resource Center. Visit: <http://www.ercweb.com/>)

Think you know all you need to about placarding? Take the quick and ready to grade test online at EnvironmentalChemistry.com. Good Luck!



COAST GUARD OFFERS DATABASE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

The United States Coast Guard has published a free resource CD-ROM that brings comprehensive chemical information to the fingertips of fire and safety service personnel responding to a hazardous materials



incident. Users can search the database by a substance's color, odor, and physical appearance and use the data to plan for a safe and effective response. Chemicals are rated according to health risk, flammability, and reactivity, among other factors, using data from several sources.

The CD-ROM, known as CHRIS+, contains several databases of chemical, physical, thermodynamic, toxicological, and fire properties. It includes:

- Chemical Hazards Response Information System (CHRIS), the Coast Guard's database of over 1,300 chemicals and mixtures;
- The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Pocket Guide, a database of physical and health data for a wide range of chemicals;
- Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG), the Department of Transportation's guide to response to releases of hazardous materials [ERG2004];
- Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) First Responder's Guide, the Coast Guard's advice for responders to WMD incidents.

The CD-ROM also includes incident response advice, guidelines, and forms, including the National Response Plan. Free copies of the CD-ROM are available by contacting Alan Schneider, U. S. Coast Guard, at 202-372-1421 or by e-mail at alan.l.schneider@uscg.mil

The database is available for government as well as private industrial fire departments.

MONITORING WATER SYSTEMS

See: <http://www.bigmedicine.ca/bioscitech.htm>

Researchers are developing a contaminant warning program for EPA to monitor water systems in real time. The Sandia National Laboratories researchers are working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), University of Cincinnati and Argonne National Laboratory. (Thanks to Hal Newman, Big Medicine, for sharing)

See: <http://www.bigmedicine.ca/bioscitech.htm#>. This software tool is now available in all 50 states. It can be used by incident commanders, water utility managers, and others to protect community drinking water sources from contamination during emergencies.

Preliminary versions of the tool, called ICWater, have already been used by water utilities and State HAZMAT (hazardous materials) response teams in Oregon and Washington. <http://tinyurl.com/gldwd>



On Aug. 29 the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) passed a resolution urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to withdraw its proposals to reduce reporting under the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI). The resolution characterizes the TRI as an important and effective tool for reducing toxic pollution and states that the proposals would harm the TRI without reducing any reporting burden on companies.

The resolution adds to opposition already registered by 122,000 individuals, a dozen Attorneys General and nearly 200 local, state and federal government officials. In addition, the House of Representatives has passed an amendment to prevent the EPA from finalizing the proposals, and the EPA's own Science Advisory Board warned EPA against finalizing the proposals.

[ECOS Resolution](#)

[TRI Advocacy Center](#)

[Mass Opposition Fact Sheet](#)

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1742 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington DC 20009, (202) 234-8494

DHS AND FBI CREATE VIRTUAL LIBRARY

The Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation recently launched **Protect Your Workplace** (<http://www.ready.gov/business/other/library.html>), a campaign that includes a virtual library of downloadable documents.

The Emergency Management and Response - Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) reviewed the materials in the online library to assess their relevance to emergency responders, and found that many offer practical, precise Critical Infrastructure Protection information. Categories of information include continuity of operations, emergency planning and supplies, medical emergencies, drill and exercises, and discussion guidelines for whether to "stay or go" in an emergency or disaster situation. A section on the costs of developing a disaster protection and business continuity plan features a bulleted list of recommendations divided by "no cost," less than \$500, and more than \$500. Brief case summaries of named businesses share outcomes of their disaster planning.



Available to print or download below are "Ready Business" posters and brochures, a supply checklist, and sample emergency plan, as well as physical and cyber security guidance. The virtual library is a repository of planning information, which includes protecting the critical infrastructure of responder organizations. An added benefit is the materials are a ready-to-use resource.



Download: [pdf](#)

Download complete series: [pdf](#)



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(Thanks to EMR-ISAC: <https://www.disasterhelp.gov/portal/jhtml/index.jhtml>)

ALABAMA SEAT BELT USAGE UP

CHILD SAFETY SEAT USAGE DOWN

More Alabamians than ever are protecting themselves by buckling up, according to 2006 survey results. The seat belt usage rate was a reported 83 percent, as compared to 82 percent in 2005.

While child restraint use in Alabama remains high--this year's rate is 88 percent compared to 92 percent last year--Alabamians are not choosing the appropriate restraint or the safest location in the vehicle. New data show nearly half (43 percent) of the children 5 years old and under restrained in motor vehicles in 2006 were seated in the front seat. Almost all (92 percent) of the children in the front seat were wearing a seat belt only.

"We have known for some time that although most parents believe they are restraining their children appropriately, four out of five car seats are used incorrectly. Now we have data that show the types of mistakes parents are making in restraining their children," stated Nancy Wright, assistant director of Injury Prevention.

Motor vehicle-related deaths are the number one cause of death due to injury in the state. Injury and death due to motor vehicle crashes can be prevented through the use of seat belts and child safety seats. In 2005, 1,135 people were killed and more than 44,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes in Alabama. Of those killed, 50 percent were not wearing safety restraints. Based on 2004 data, there is a 55 percent probability that a typical driver in Alabama will be involved in an injury or fatal crash while driving an automobile in his or her lifetime.

Using guidelines required by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the study observed 57,449 front seat occupants in 15 selected counties to determine seat belt use. A separate study observed 2,730 children age 5 and under in any position in the vehicle across 15 selected counties to determine car seat usage.

"Many partners have worked together to improve passenger safety in the state, and will continue to do so in the future," said State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson. "Continued educational efforts, as well as continued law enforcement initiatives, are needed in order to improve restraint use and reduce death due to injury."

Agencies and organizations such as the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, Children's Health System, Alabama

Department of Transportation,

Alabama Department of Public Safety and the Alabama Department of Public Health have collaborated to increase passenger safety in the state through educational and enforcement efforts.

Through Alabama's "Click It or Ticket" campaign state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies conduct massive enforcement of the state's safety belt laws, including public safety checkpoints.

"There is a correlation between adult seat belt usage and child restraint usage. We must continue to inform adults about restraining themselves in addition to restraining their children properly," said Ms. Wright.

The following are guidelines from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration regarding restraints:

- * Rear-facing infant seats-- birth to at least age 1 and less than 20 pounds.
- * Forward-facing child safety seats-- age 1 to about age 4 and 20 to 40 pounds.
- * Booster seat-- about ages 4 to 8 and under 4 feet 9 inches tall and 40 to 80 pounds.
- * Lap and shoulder belts-- at least age 8 or over 4 feet 9 inches tall.
- * Check with an expert and always read a vehicle owner's manual for advice on installing safety seats properly.
- * All children 13 and under should be restrained in the back seat.



To ensure that children are properly restrained, nearly 20 permanent inspection sites are located statewide with certified child passenger safety specialists and instructors to assist parents in the correct installation of car seats.

For more information on seat belts, child restraints or to find a local inspection station, please visit the Alabama Department of Public Health's Web site at www.adph.org/injuryprevention.



SECONDARY SEVERE WEATHER SEASON UNDERWAY

While most people have been talking about how the 2006 Hurricane Season never lived up to the experts dire predictions; little notice has been given to the start of the Secondary Severe Weather Season in Alabama November 1st.

The Southeastern U.S. is the only region in the world that has two distinct severe weather seasons where thunderstorms and tornadoes present a major hazard. Running from November 1 through New Year's Eve, the secondary severe weather season in Alabama has been quite active in recent years in Alabama.



National Weather Service records reveal there have been more tornadoes with more injuries and fatalities in the fall season than the spring season (March – May) over the last six years.

The December 16, 2000 F-4 tornado which killed 11 in Tuscaloosa County and injured more than 150 was the beginning. Tuscaloosa County alone has counted 5 tornado touchdowns in November and December since 2000.

Click here for severe weather preparedness info: [NWS Birmingham](#)

Photo courtesy of The Tuscaloosa News

TRAINING FOR NIMS COMPLIANCY – FY06 REQUIREMENTS

Persons with an emergency response role within their group, company or government must meet minimum standards for compliance with the National Incident Response System (NIMS). Below are the courses for each discipline:

EMS:

All: IS-700, ICS-100

1st Line Supervisors*: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200

Middle Management*: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

Those with EOC responsibilities: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

Those with planning responsibilities: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

FIRE:

All: IS-700, ICS-100

1st Line Supervisors*: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200

Middle Management*: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

Those with EOC responsibilities: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

Those with planning responsibilities: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

All: IS-700, ICS-100

1st Line Supervisors*: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200

Middle Management*: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

Dept. Heads & their designees with EOC responsibilities: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

Those with planning responsibilities: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

PUBLIC HEALTH:

All: IS-700, ICS-100

1st Line Supervisors*: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200

Middle Management*: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

Dept. Heads & their designees with EOC responsibilities: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

Those with planning responsibilities: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

PUBLIC WORKS:

All: IS-700, ICS-100

1st Line Supervisors*: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200

Middle Management*: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

Dept. Heads & their designees with EOC responsibilities: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

Those with planning responsibilities: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

UTILITIES:

All: IS-700, ICS-100

1st Line Supervisors*: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200

Middle Management*: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, and ICS-400

Those with EOC responsibilities: IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

Those with planning responsibilities: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

All: IS-700, ICS-100

Those with EOC responsibilities**: IS-700, ICS-402 (overview of ICS-100 through 400)

Those with planning responsibilities: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (County + Municipal/Township):

All: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

EOC Staff: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300

OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS:

Dept. Heads & their designees with EOC responsibilities: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

Dept. Heads & their designees without EOC responsibilities: IS-700, IS-800

Dept. Heads & their designees with planning responsibilities: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

SCHOOLS:

Administrative Staff & those involved in emergency activities***: IS-700

Those with planning responsibilities: IS-800

OTHERS:

Support Personnel: IS-700, ICS-100

Volunteer Personnel****: IS-700, ICS-100

Those with EOC responsibilities: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

Anyone with an emergency response role: IS-700, ICS-100

Private emergency response teams*****: IS-700, ICS-100

Those with planning responsibilities: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300, ICS-400

**1st Line Supervisors must have IS-700, ICS-100 & ICS-200. Middle Management must have IS-700, ICS-100, ICS-200 & ICS-300. It is the responsibility of the departments and jurisdictions to determine where their people fall in those categories and to be sure they are trained to the proper level.*

***Those involved in emergency operations include those whose primary responsibility is emergency management, as dictated by law, ordinance or delegation; and/or those primarily involved in emergency planning.*

****School districts that receive federal preparedness funds must have had the appropriate personnel take the IS-700 course by September 30, 2006 in order to receive FY2007 preparedness grants. However, it would be useful for all staff and teaches likely to be involved in emergency activities to take the IS-700 course, including those districts that do not receive preparedness funding at this time.*

*****Volunteer personnel would include: Traditional volunteer organizations (i.e. Red Cross, Salvation Army), amateur radio, auxiliary police, fire departments, CERT team members, VIPS volunteers, VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster).*

******Private emergency response teams include those who respond anywhere, or those who are part of an on-site team (i.e. if a facility has their own fire brigade or hazmat crew). Private response teams who will interact with public teams should take the same level of training.*

NOTE: ICS-300 and ICS-400 are FY07 requirements – to be completed by September 30, 2007. These classes are offered in person only at this time. An extension for completion of all other course has been granted until December 31, 2006.

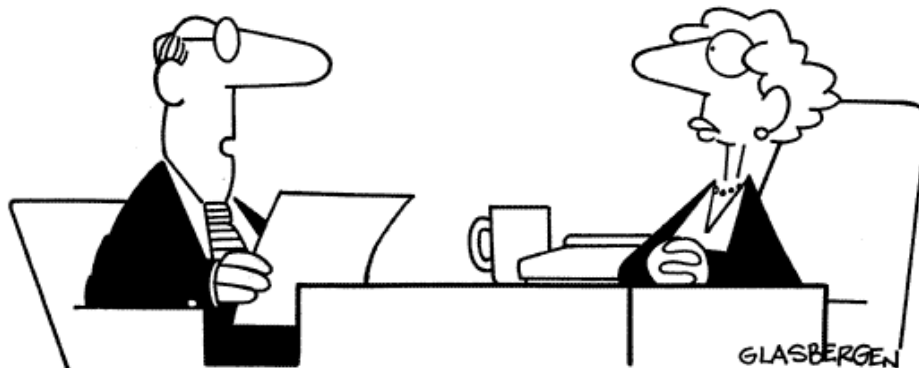
Click here for the Emergency Management Institute Independent Study Course Catalog: [EMI IS Catalog](#).



LEPC HUMOR
Laughter is Healthy



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“My team is having trouble thinking outside the box. We can’t agree on the size of the box, what materials the box should be constructed from, a reasonable budget for the box, or our first choice of box vendors.”

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ADEM PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a hearing before the Department of Environmental Management of the State of Alabama will be held on December 6, 2006, at 10:00 am in the Main Hearing Room at the ADEM – Central Office location at 1400 Coliseum Blvd. in Montgomery, for the purpose of consideration of proposed amendments in Division 14 of the ADEM Administrative Code.

Copies of the proposed rules are available at a cost of .30 per page at the location listed below. The summary of reasons supporting the revisions are available free of charge. Copies of the proposed rules and the summary of reasons can also be found on the Internet at: www.adem.state.al.us/PubHearings/PubHearings.htm at no cost

ADEM, Birmingham Field Office
Attn: Sheila Vail
110 Vulcan Road
Birmingham, AL 35209-4702
(205) 942-6168

The public hearing is being held to receive data, views, and arguments from interested persons regarding the proposed rules. Attendance at the hearing is not necessary to present such data, views, arguments, or comments as the same may be submitted in writing, but must be received by the Hearing Officer prior to 5:00 p.m. on December 8, 2006.

Written submissions and other inquiries should be directed to: ADEM Hearing Officer, Outreach Branch, Permits and Services Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, P.O. Box 301463, Montgomery, AL 36130-1463 (street address: 1400 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, AL 36110-2059) or by e-mail at Hearing.officer@adem.state.al.us.

NEXT LEPC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:
10:00A.M., Thursday, February 22, 2007
Site to be determined

LEPC LEDGER

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