



Online Tier II Submission Is Here!

The Fairfax Joint LEPC is pleased to announce that Tier II information may be submitted online for the 2009 reporting cycle. The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) purchased Tier II Manager from IDSI International in the fall of 2009. This software allows facilities to submit their Tier I/II chemical inventories to the FJLEPC and the FRD by an electronic method.

Facilities request user IDs and submit their Tier II entries through the web portal:

<http://fairfaxva.idsimaps.com/submit>

The software has a system of checks and balances to make sure that entries are accurate and that no information is missing before they are submitted. The information is then reviewed by staff of the Fire Marshal's Office and critical hazard analysis information is entered for the facility. This information would include locations of concern with the vulnerability zones such as schools, day care centers, hospitals and nursing homes. The submissions are

then approved by the Fire Marshal staff.

Facilities will have the ability to constantly update their emergency contact information and chemical inventories throughout the year, not just during submission periods. The information submitted by the facilities then becomes a critical part of developing the FJLEPC's Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan. The Office of Emergency Management will also be able to add information regarding the special needs registry and other critical planning information during the hazard analysis phase. Tier II and hazard analysis information will then be available to emergency planners and responders.

Responders and emergency planners will be able to access information about a facility real-time while they are the scene of an emergency. They will be able to export chemical and facility information into CAMEO and then perform plume modeling in ALOHA and upload the plume models to the server from the Hazardous Materials



Response Team's response unit. This allows other members of the incident management team located remotely from the incident scene to have critical information about the incident.

Fire Stations will be able to see what facilities they have in their first due response areas. The Office of Emergency Management, Police Departments and the Sheriff's Office will also have this information available to their command staff.

This online method will meet the reporting requirements for the Fairfax County FRD and the FJLEPC. The online method will not meet reporting requirements for the City of Fairfax Fire Department, Fort Belvoir Fire Department or the Virginia SERC. However, facilities can print out hard copies and mail the information to those reporting entities.

Please contact the Tier II Manager at 703-246-3904 if you have questions.

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Spring Meetings

- April 8, 2010, 10:00 a.m. at the Fire Prevention Division HQ, 10700 Page Ave., Fairfax, VA in Room 118
- June 10, 2010, 10:00 a.m. at the Fire Prevention Division HQ, 10700 Page Ave., Fairfax, VA in Room 118

Exercising the HMERP

The Fairfax Joint LEPC and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department exercised the planning district's Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (HMERP) at one of the critical hazard facilities. The facility highlighted this year was the Noman Cole water treatment plant that is run by Fairfax County.

Planning for such an undertaking began in the early summer of 2009 and the exercise was actually held in October 2009. This exercise planning required coordination between the FJLEPC, the Fire and Rescue Department (specifically the Hazardous Materials Response Team), the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, and a private contractor out of North Carolina.

The scenario involved a vehicle accident on the site involving a tanker truck and one of the facility vehicles with release of methanol. The tanker company making a delivery to the facility made their scheduled delivery, then let the

HMRT use their tanker and manifests, etc. as props for the drill. The facility vehicle was simulated to have been loaded with sodium hypochlorite to add to the scenario. There was an excellent public-private partnership with the company out of North Carolina. There were 50 responders on scene. The time at the facility was limited and construction was going on so patient scenarios were not done.

Detection, monitoring and establishing exclusion zones were the key tactical objectives for the HMRT and exercising the plan. Since this was a training exercise, foam was not applied but was simulated. Foam application often raises concerns of its own, and the foam is also very expensive. If this had been an actual incident involving these chemicals, foam would have been applied. The HMRT Resources were displayed to FJLEPC members in the HMRT unit. New IT technologies, GIS, and other planning/modeling tools were demonstrated.

The Noman Cole employees/operators were very appreciative for the opportunity to train and participate with the HMRT. The HMRT has provided additional training to about 45 employees at the Noman Cole Facility.

The FJLEPC enjoys strong partnerships with its participating agencies and jurisdictions. Several members of the FJLEPC attended the plan exercise, and they were impressed by the cooperative spirit of all who participated.

The HMERP exercise for 2010 will be a tabletop exercise. The LEPC plans to feature use of the Emergency Response Planning module of the recently purchased Tier II manager as a key component. It is hoped that the new software will greatly enhance the availability of accurate information regarding a facility, and enable responders to access information "real time" from the HMRT's hazmat support unit.



Members of the HMRT assessing the incident.



Deploying a containment pit.



Members of the HMRT donning protective gear.



The exercise simulated a vehicle accident between a facility vehicle and a delivery truck. The scenario simulated the release of methanol and sodium hypochlorite, which are chemicals common to the water treatment process.

LEPCs are required to exercise their Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plans (HMERP) yearly by formal exercise or tabletop exercise.

WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER

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Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee



MISSION STATEMENT:

To prepare citizens, industries, and local emergency response agencies for chemical accidents by developing a comprehensive community program that will benefit the citizens of Fairfax County and municipalities within Fairfax by:

- Developing a comprehensive hazardous materials emergency response plan for our community. To be effective, planning must be an ongoing activity.
- Receive and record information about chemical releases.
- Collect, manage, and provide public access to information on hazardous chemicals in our area.
- Educate the public about the risks from accidental and routine releases of chemicals and work with facilities to minimize the risks.



Winter 2009 Newsletter

Shelter in Place Video



Whether you realize it or not, you and your family probably already have learned to Shelter in Place to some extent. We often stay home during periods of inclement weather, or shut the windows and stay indoors when pollen counts are high. Your first instinct during a chemical release is to evacuate immediately. However, there are some times when it would be appropriate to Shelter In Place during a chemical emergency

rather than evacuate your home, business or school. This takes a little more planning and preparation for you and your family.

You need to prepare to be able to shelter your family and your pets in place for a period up to 8 hours. This means you will need to prepare a kit for sheltering in place that would include items such as bottled water, non-perishable food, and a portable radio or tv with extra batteries. You will also need to prepare your home by cutting plastic to cover windows and vents, having duct tape on hand, and finding the best place in your home to shelter your family.

In 2005, the FJLEPC produced a video in cooperation

with the Fire and Rescue Department and Local Government Cable Channel 16 on how to shelter in place. This video is available on demand from the web at the following link:

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/asx/shelter_in_place.asx

Free DVD copies of this video are available from the FJLEPC. Just write us an email or call us, and we'll be happy to mail you a copy of the video. Staff is also available to come out and do presentations on Sheltering in Place to your homeowners association or business. The FJLEPC is here to help you be prepared and stay informed.