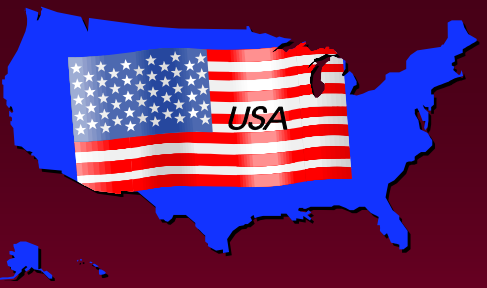

Region 6 Emergency Preparedness and Response at the US/Mexico Border

PROFEPA
PROCURADURIA FEDERAL DE PROTECCION AL AMBIENTE

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

EPA Region 6
US / Mexico Border

U.S.A.

New Mexico
Texas

Mexico

Chihuahua
Coahuila
Nuevo Leon
Tamaulipas

Region 6 Priorities for 2005

- Update existing local contingency plans (Sister City Plans)
- Provide training to local first responders
- Conduct binational exercises to test and improve Local and Federal Contingency Plans
- Perform risk analysis of hazardous chemicals that may pose a threat to local communities.

EPA Region 06 Accomplishments FY 04 / 05'

- 7 binational forums on emergency preparedness and response
- 1 binational emergency response plan signed;
  - 8 total plans in place; 1 is ongoing
- 2 Border ER Task Force Workshops conducted:
  - Texas/New Mexico/Chihuahua area
  - Texas/Coahuila/Nuevo Leon/Tamaulipas area
- Several high profile, binational hazardous material exercises
- Bilingual technical training on a variety of preparedness , disaster management, and emergency response topics

Activity Definitions

- **Commodity Flow Studies** provide baseline information concerning the transportation of hazardous materials
- **Sister City Plans** provide first responders a tool in improving coordination, communication, and response.
- **International Exercises** address the movement of resources in a cross-border response.
- **Joint Response Team** is a binational team of federal, state, and local agencies from the US and Mexico that is responsible for coordinating emergency prepardness and response along the US / Mexico Border.

Commodity Flow Studies

- El Paso, Texas
- Eagle Pass, Texas
- Cameron County, Texas
  - Brownsville Veteran's Bridge
  - Los Indios Free Trade Bridge

Region 6
Local Sister City Plans

- Local Sister City Plans
  - Brownsville/Matamoros - May 2002 -Revised
  - Weslaco/Rio Bravo - April 2003
  - McAllen/Reynosa - December 2005 - Revised
  - Laredo/Nuevo Laredo - December 2001
  - Eagle Pass/Piedras Negras – March 1998
  - Del Rio/Ciudad Acuna - August 2001
  - Presidio/Ojinaga – February 2004
  - El Paso/Ciudad Juarez (Pending)
  - Columbus/Las Palomas – November 2002

Binational Exercises

Since September 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 has been involved in eight (8) binational field exercises along the border region.

Binational Exercise Training

Topics:

- Incident/Unified Command
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Decontamination
- Identification of Hazardous Materials
- FRP, NRP, NIMS
- CBRN Response
- Spanish CAMEO
- FOG Manual Spanish
- HazMat Training
- WMD/CST
- Hospital Decontamination

Region 6 Border 2012
Future Activities

- **Field / Table Top Exercise**
  - El Paso / Juarez - 06’
- **Notification System Drill**
  - NRC / CENACOM - 06’
- **EPA Border Crossing Response Drill**
  - Laredo / Nuevo Laredo - 06’
- **MOU / Sister City Plan – El Paso / Juarez**
- **LEPC / CLAM Taskforce Workshops**

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