
**DRILLS, EXERCISES, TRAINING, ETC. PERFORMED AND/OR CONDUCTED FOR
THE NORTHEAST SUB-AREA CONTINGENCY PLANNING AREA DURING THE
PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2001 THROUGH MAY 10, 2002**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) OSC and contractor Tetra Tech EMI attended the Northeast County Task Force meetings held at Monroe County Public Safety Office in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania on October 10, November 13 and December 5, 2001. The above agency's were present to provide support in area planning such as what type of emergency response equipment would be needed, the proper training required to operate the equipment and any other issues that would arise during the task force meetings. This task force had been organized by PEMA several years ago and had met sporadically. It includes 8 of the 11 counties in the Northeast PA IACP Sub-Area. EPA OSC attended several of these meetings prior to the Fall of 2001. After the terrorist attacks this fall, the Task Force decided to meet on a monthly basis, on the second Wednesday. EPA is committed to attend these meetings and provide assistance.

On October 10, 2001 in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, the USEPA, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), contractor Tetra Tech EMI and Monroe County EMA Director had a meeting, prior to the Northeast County Task Force meeting, to discuss the upcoming Rail Car Awareness and Emergency Response training course for 1st Responders. EPA and PADEP had held rail car training several years ago for the PADEP team and county EMA directors. 1st Responder training was requested from the county EMA directors, specifically Monroe and Carbon. Another Rail Car Awareness and Emergency Response meeting was held in Hamburg, Pennsylvania between the USEPA, PADEP and contractor Tetra Tech EMI on October 19, 2001. The purpose of the Rail Car meetings were to determine what information should be included in the training manual and the layout of the training course to be developed by the contractor Tetra Tech EMI. Contractor Tetra Tech EMI in conjunction with the USEPA continue to meet and work on developing the Rail Car Awareness and Emergency Response training course to be provided to 1st responders (fire/hazmat, law enforcement responders) located in the Northeast Sub-Area Contingency Planning area.

On November 13 through November 15, 2001 contractor Tetra Tech EMI attended the USEPA Region III Regional Response Team (RRT) meeting, held in Martinsburg, West Virginia. The EPA OSC was unavailable for this meeting, being required to conduct other agency business related to the Capitol Hill Anthrax Site.

Contractor Tetra Tech EMI assisted USEPA in coordinating a Weapons of Mass Destruction Training course for the PADEP in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. On November 29, 2001, contractor Tetra Tech EMI assisted the USEPA in conducting a 1-day Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) awareness course for the PADEP Northeast Regional Office in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. This course could be upgraded and taught to other state response groups in PA and other Region III states if requested.

On November 30, December 14 and December 19, 2001, USEPA, PADEP and contractor Tetra Tech EMI met in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania to discuss and prepare a syllabus for a 1-day OSHA 8-hour Refresher Course to be held for the PADEP Northeast Regional Office on December 20, 2001. On December 20, 2001, the USEPA OSC and contractor Tetra Tech EMI assisted the Northeast Region PADEP in conducting their annual 8-hour Refresher Course.

On January 3 and February 28, 2002, contractor Tetra Tech EMI attended the East Central County Task Force meetings in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. On April 17, 2002 the USEPA OSC and contractor Tetra Tech EMI attended the East Central County Task Force meeting including a Department of Health (DOH) meeting. During this meeting the DOH focused on Pennsylvania Bioterrorism Preparedness and the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS). This task force includes the remaining 3 counties not included in the Northeast task force mentioned above. The EPA OSC is committed to attending these meetings as available.

On January 9 and March 13, 2002, the USEPA and contractor Tetra Tech EMI attended the Northeast County Task Force meetings in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. On February 13, April 10 and May 8, 2002, the contractor Tetra Tech EMI attended the Northeast County Task Force meetings in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. The April 10, 2002, Northeast Task Force meeting also included a meeting with the DOH presenting information on Pennsylvania Bioterrorism Preparedness and the NPS. The contractor Tetra Tech EMI attended the Monroe County New Line Officers Orientation and Fire Chiefs meeting at Monroe County Public Safety Office in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania on February 21, 2002.

Following the January 9, 2002 Northeast County Task Force meeting, the USEPA, PADEP, contractor Tetra Tech EMI and County EMA Directors met to discuss issues on Unified Command Systems to be included in the Rail Car Awareness and Emergency Response Training course. Contractor Tetra Tech EMI in conjunction with the USEPA continued to meet and work on developing the Rail Car Awareness and Emergency Response training course to be provided to 1st responders (fire/hazmat, law enforcement responders) located in the Northeast Sub-Area Contingency Planning Area. This railcar training and WMD training are expected to be offered throughout 2002. Following the March 13, 2002 Northeast County Task Force meeting, the USEPA and contractor Tetra Tech EMI met with all of the County EMA Directors to discuss the development of an equipment tracking and inventory database. The Northeast County Task Force has requested this database to aid in accurate inventory, location and maintenance of equipment that was purchased and distributed throughout the 8 counties.

The USEPA and contractor Tetra Tech EMI will continue to attend and provide support for the East Central and Northeast County Task Force meetings that are held on a monthly basis. The USEPA will provide training to agencies upon request.

On January 17, 2002, the contractor Tetra Tech EMI assisted the USEPA OSC with the mailing of a total of eight letters from the EPA to the Northeast Region Local Railroad Companies. The USEPA OSC sent these letters to request the Railroad Companies participation in the upcoming Rail Car Awareness and Emergency Response Training course.

The USEPA OSC and contractor Tetra Tech EMI met on March 6 and March 11, 2002 to discuss on-going and future projects. The main focus of the meetings was the discussion and planning for the OSC's Sub-Area Inland Area Contingency Plan (IACP) revisions. The USEPA OSC and contractor Tetra Tech EMI contacted Mr. Mikal Shabazz of the USEPA to assist in gathering RMP information for the IACP revisions.

The EPA OSC and Tetra Tech EMI contractor attended terrorist bombing training at PADEP Wilkes-Barre on January 31, 2002. The PADEP Emergency Response Manager is certified to teach the "Awareness Level Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings", from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. On February 28 and March 28, 2002, the USEPA OSC and contractor Tetra Tech EMI attended the PADEP Emergency Response Team monthly meeting at the PADEP Northeast Regional Office located in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. On March 27, 2002, USEPA and contractor Tetra Tech EMI met with the PADEP Northeast Region Emergency Response Manager to discuss Area Designation for the Northeast Pennsylvania Sub-Area.

During the March 27, 2002 meeting the USEPA OSC, PADEP Emergency Response Manager and contractor Tetra Tech EMI met with the Lehigh County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director to discuss future USEPA and PADEP participation during the Lehigh Valley Hazardous Chemical Awareness Partnership (LVHCAP) meetings. This organization meets approximately 6 times/year. The primary goal of this Partnership is to offer access to chemical safety information, tools, and resources for the Lehigh Valley Industry Safety Network (LVISN) participants, such that Lehigh Valley companies manufacturing, using, and/or handling chemicals can strengthen their own safety processes and programs.

Following the March 27, 2002, Area Designation meeting, the USEPA OSC, PADEP Emergency Response Manager and contractor Tetra Tech EMI met with the PADEP Emergency Response Director to discuss Area Designation within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Weapons of Mass Destruction training on April 1, 2002. The outcome of this meeting was very positive. The PADEP Emergency Response Director was in agreement with the USEPA OSC and the Northeast Region PADEP Emergency Response Manager to change from Sub-Areas and designate all 6 Pennsylvania Regions as 6 separate Planning Areas. The PADEP Emergency Response Director proceeded with the USEPA's and Northeast Region PADEP's request for Area Designation by meeting with Secretary Hess. The result of this meeting was also positive and Secretary Hess is in agreement for Pennsylvania to designate its 6 regions as 6 separate Planning Areas. The USEPA will move forward with this process by meeting with the appropriate personnel, within the USEPA, to obtain the authorization to proceed with designating the Northeast Pennsylvania Sub-Area as a separate Planning Area.

On April 23 and April 24, 2002, the USEPA and contractor Tetra Tech EMI attended the Hazardous Materials Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Operations Level Training course at the Philadelphia Fire Academy to prepare and obtain the course materials. This task was required to duplicate the existing course materials to properly prepare for the upcoming training course the USEPA will provide for the Northeast County Task Force Medical Committee.

On February 12 through February 14, 2002, the USEPA OSC and contractor Tetra Tech EMI attended the USEPA Region III RRT meeting, held in Annapolis, Maryland.

FUTURE DRILLS, EXERCISES, TRAINING ETC. FOR THE NORTHEAST SUB-AREA CONTINGENCY PLANNING AREA

On May 14 through May 16, 2001 the USEPA OSC and contractor Tetra Tech EMI will attend the USEPA Region III RRT meeting, to be held in Ocean City, Maryland.

As per request of the Northeast County Task Force Medical Committee, a Hazardous Materials EMS Operations Level Training course will be provided, by the USEPA, to local hospitals and EMT's on May 28 through May 31, 2002.

The first Rail Car Awareness and Emergency Response Training course is scheduled to take place for Monroe and Pike Counties at the Monroe County Public Safety Office in Monroe County, Pennsylvania on June 1 and June 2, 2002. This course will be provided for all 11 counties and, upon request, the paid fire departments within the Northeast Sub-Area.

As per request of the Northeast Region PADEP, Emergency Response Team, an Anthrax Sampling Training Course will be provided , by the USEPA and contractor Tetra Tech EMI, to the Northeast PADEP Emergency Response Team on June 27, 2002 during their monthly emergency response team meeting. The USEPA and contractor Tetra Tech EMI will continue to attend and provide support for the Northeast Region PADEP Emergency Response Team meetings that are held on the last Thursday of every month.

The USEPA OSC and contractor Tetra Tech EMI will continue their efforts on updating and revising the existing IACP for the Northeast Sub-Area. They will also continue to provide support to the Northeast County Task Force, the East Central County Task Force and the Northeast Region PADEP.