

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# U.S. Mexico Border 2012

Texas, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas

## Environmental Health, Environmental Education and Emergency Response

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## Meetings Held:

- Laredo/Nuevo Laredo
- Matamoros
- Eagle Pass
- Reynosa
- El Paso
- Juarez

## Regional Demographics of Border Communities:

- Population- 75,000 – 300,000 - Increase daily by 50,000 - 100,000
- All Sister Cities in Mexico are larger
- Age - 40-50% is less than 18 years old
- 40% of nations commerce' (Laredo)
- 11,000 Commercial trucks (Laredo)

# Environmental Challenges

- Water Pollution
- Air Contaminants
- Car Tire Problem
- Pesticides
- Over 2000 Warehouses (hazardous material)
- Railways
- Appropriate health care for environmental exposure
- Appropriate emergency response to environmental contamination

# Co-Morbidities that Enhance Environmental Risks

- Access to Health Care, Health Professions Shortage Area
- Some don't have Community Hospital, >50%=Uninsured
- Infectious Disease (TB, Hepatitis, Emerging and New— WNV, environmental contaminants)
- Vulnerable Populations

# Air

- Air monitoring systems
- Carbon monoxide, Nitrogen oxides, Sulphur dioxide, Ozone, PM
- Air quality public information
- Mandatory vehicle inspection
- Modify Air emission policies
- Environmental education

# Water

- Inadequate filtering, and treatment plants, Arsenic, Haloacetic acids, Trihalomethane
- Sewage treatment and waste water re use

# Pesticides

- Recognition of Pesticide Poisoning- Binational
- Institutional Network
- Scientific Research
- Recycling
- Promotion and Education

# Capacity Building

- Environmental Health Academy
- Post Graduate Education
- Technological Challenge

# Projects

- Environmental Health Prevention and Control- \$70 Laredo
- Environmental Health and chemical exposure training of physicians and other providers (75,000)
- Environmental Education (25,000)
- Emergency response training (25,000)

# Environmental Health Assessment Projects

- Conduct environmental health assessment survey.
- Conduct an education/promotion disease detection intervention.
- Conduct a source reduction effort to reduce vector transmitted diseases.
- Enhance local, regional and state partner cooperation for more efficient regulatory cooperation, source reduction, prevention and interventions to increase surveillance and prompt reporting for environmental health interventions and monitoring.
- Share outcome results with local, state, regional and federal entities on both sides of the border.

# Los Dos Laredos Environmental Health Workgroup Meetings

- May 19, 2005 – Meeting topics included water quality, EPA Border 2012, and a presentation titled “SANIAMIENTO FRONTERIZO DE NUEVO LAREDO, TAM.”
- July 22, 2005 – Meeting topic focused on Air Quality with a presentation by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Topics discussed were EPA’s border new initiative, and evaluating health indicators for water and air.

# Binational Advance Public Health Preparedness Response

- August 3, 2005 – Disease Threat Preparedness Workshop on Principles and Practices of Disease Outbreak Investigation, History of Biological Agents, Making the Bioterrorism Diagnosis, Data Organization, and Collection, Display, and Analysis of an Outbreak.
- August 4, 2005 – Radiation Response Workshop included an eight hour Radiological Emergency Preparedness course, which provided the basic skills necessary for emergency response.

# Cash for Tires

- A tire reduction effort to reduce the environmental impact of solid waste as well as mosquito breeding
- Targeting a collection of 10,000 tires over a 9 month period
- Tires are being bought at 50 cents each
- Educational sessions and materials are provided to consumers

# Environmental Education

- Community based curriculum for stakeholders
- Educational tools to detect and recognize environmental health risk and pollution
- Innovative teaching strategies to reach 65 schools, 80,000 students (film, characters, play)

# Laredo's Committee

- Citizen's Environmental Advisory Committee
- Keep Laredo Beautiful
- "Dia Del Rio" to clean up the banks of the Rio Grande
- Environmental Health

# Joint Hazardous Material Educational Initiative

## Laredo, TX, USA Agencies

- Laredo Police Department, Laredo Fire/EMS, Laredo Health Department, Laredo Medical Center, Doctor's Hospital, Border Patrol, Texas Department of Public Safety, Sheriff's Department, ICS, FBI, US Marshall's Office

# Joint Hazardous Material Educational Initiative

## Nuevo Laredo, Tamp., MX Agencies

- Nuevo Laredo Police Department, Nuevo Laredo Fire, Secretaria de Salud, Nuevo Laredo Transito (Traffic), Protección Civil (Civil Protection), Federal De Caminos (Federal Highway Patrol), COMAPA (City Water Department)

# Curriculum

Total of 140 Students, approximately 70 for each side of the border.

OSHA CFR1910.120 (Q) (6) (iii), NFPA Chapter 4 and DOT instruction.

## Next Steps:

- Disseminate Air Monitoring Information
- Environmental and Outreach Education
- Promote technology
- Scientific Research
- Advance Training
- MOUs

# Priorities FY05

- Gastrointestinal Illnesses Prevention
- Reduce Pesticide Exposure
- Binational Programs
- Data Exchange

# The New Restructuring Introduced

September 12, 2005

# Co-leaders Vs. Technical Advisors

**Before Co-leaders were TAs**

**Now Co-leaders are City Mayors**

**With the help of TAs**

- **Mayors still cover geographical areas, western, eastern, and middle eastern**
- **Team Composition- Mayor, 2 Co-Chair Staff, one Mayor Staff from each country, technical advisors, other nearby city staff**
- **Role of Universities- Technical Support**
- **Authority Building**
- **Time in Service- 3 year term**

## Role of Mayors

- Lead Spoke person
- Review and send Operations guides
- Represent the entire sub-region
- Meet B2012 Objectives

## Regional Workgroup Meetings

- Once a year
- Policy Oriented, Accomplishments, Next Steps

Border 2012 Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo Leon-  
Tamaulipas Regional Workgroup

U.S. Federal Co-Chair- Miguel Flores-EPA

U.S. State Co-Chair- Ralph Marquez  
Commissioner, TCEQ

## Mexico Federal Co-Chair

- Ramon Antonio Sampayo Ortiz- Delegado Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales SERMARNAT, Tamaulipas
- Principal Support Staff

## Mexico State Co-Chair

- Emilio Rangel Woodyard-Dir Gen. APMARN
- Principal Support Staff

## Gulf Task Force

- U.S. Co-leader- Eddie Trevino, Mayor City of Brownsville
- Mexican Co-leader- C. Baltazar Hinojoza Ochoa, Presidente Municipal Matamoros, Tamaulipas

## Falcon Task Force

- U.S. Co-leader- Elizabeth G. Flores, Mayor City of Laredo, Texas
- Mexican Co-leader- C. Daniel Pena Trevino, Presidente Municipal Nuevo Laredo, TAMP
- U.S. Co-leader- David Morales, Zapata, Texas County Judge
- Mexican Co-leader- C. Leopoldo Gonzalez Gonzalez, Presidente Municipal, Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo Leon

## Amistad Task Force

- U.S. Co-Chair- Chad Foster, Mayor, City of Eagle Pass, Texas
- Mexican Co-leader- C. Marco Antonio Rincon Arellano, Presidente Municipal, Piedras Negras, Coahuila

# Environmental Health Advisors

## U.S.

Hector F. Gonzalez, Health Director, City of Laredo Health Department

## MEXICO

Amistad Task Force - Maestra Norma Mota, Coahuila

Gulf & Falcon Task Forces – Dr. Raul Terrazas Barrazas, Tamaulipas

# Future Activities

- Health Hazard Assessment
- Environmental Health Training
- Training Providers
- Risk and Cumulative Risk Analysis
- Partner with other agencies

# Priorities FY06-FY07

- Cumulative Risk
- Environmental Justice
- Evidence Based Approach
- Capacity Building

# Questions?

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