EPA Region 6
Border Designations
Region 6
Emergency Preparedness and Response Border Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Coordinator</th>
<th>Jim Staves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gulf Task Force</td>
<td>Paige Delgado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falcon Task Force</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amistad Task Force</td>
<td>Brandi Todd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-State Task Force</td>
<td>Jhana Enders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maria Sisneros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Projects</td>
<td>Valmichael Leos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Region 6
www.epaosc.org/region6borderoperations
Border Environment Cooperation Commission Grants

FY 09 grant awards announced in October

Proposed Projects include:

• Eagle Pass/Piedras Negras 1998 ‘Cross Border Contingency Plan Revision submitted by City of Eagle Pass
• Brownsville/Matamoros Training, Exercise and Sister City Plan update submitted by City of Brownsville
• Del Rio/Acuna Sister City Plan Update submitted by UANL & Rio Grande Institute
• Laredo/Nuevo Laredo Expansion of Sister City Plan submitted by UANL & Rio Grande Institute
What is OSHA's HAZWOPER standard?

The Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (HAZWOPER) specified by 1910.120(a)(1)(i-v) and 1926.65(a)(1)(i-v):

Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 264 and 265 pursuant to RCRA, or by agencies under agreement with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement RCRA regulations; and emergency response operations for releases of, or substantial threats of releases of, hazardous substances regardless of the location of the hazard.
Requirements for HAZWOPER trainers?

The "Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response" standard (HAZWOPER), 29 CFR 1910.120, states in paragraph (e)(5) that "Trainers shall be qualified to instruct employees about the subject matter that is being presented in training".

academic degrees, completed training courses and/or work experience

OSHA does not have any specific requirements to certify an instructor
EPA certified Hazmat Training

**EPA Training topics completed:**
- Incident/Unified Command
  - 100-400 level
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Decontamination
  - Identification of Hazardous Materials
- FRP, NRP, NIMS
- CBRN Response
- Spanish CAMEO
- FOG Manual Spanish
- Hazmat Awareness, Tech., and Operations Training
- Mass Causality Hospital Decontamination

**Types of certified training offered by EPA:**
- 8 hour Awareness level
- 24 hour Technician level
- 40 hour Operations level
- 24 hour Specialist (e.g. Incident Commander) level
Tri-State Regional Workgroup

Texas/New Mexico/Chihuahua
Tri-State Regional Workgroup
New Mexico/Chihuahua Task Force

Accomplishments

• Capacity Building: Palomas received 2 Fire Trucks from Hurley & Columbus. Aug 2008

• Binational Exercise Palomas, Sept 2008
450 participants including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EPA</th>
<th>Mexican Customs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROFEPA</td>
<td>New Mexico DHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEMEX</td>
<td>Mexican Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCEQ</td>
<td>City of Juarez Fire Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Cross</td>
<td>Palomas Elementary School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Junta de Aguas Rural       |
| Palomas Health Clinic      |
| New Mexico Department of Health |
| New Mexico Sunland Park Fire Department |
Tri-State Regional Workgroup
New Mexico/Chihuahua Task Force

Current Projects
Updating Columbus/Palomas Sister City Plan
First update since initial 2004 signing

Future
Bi-national Exercise Columbus/Palomas, Fall 2009
PROFEPA lead agency
Accomplishments

Equipment Exchange and Training  
Santa Teresa, June 2009

- Hosted by EPA, NORTHCOM & PROFEPAA, Proteccion Civil
- 24 Juarez responders Hazmat Technician trained
- Juarez received hazmat response equipment
Tri-State Regional Workgroup
Texas/New Mexico/Chihuahua Task Force

Accomplishments

Capacity Building El Paso, July 2009
El Paso trained 6 Juarez Airport ER Firefighters
Tri-State Regional Workgroup
Texas/New Mexico/Chihuahua Task Force

Current Projects

- Originally signed 2007
- Tabletop exercise April 2008

Future

El Paso/Sunland Park/Juarez/Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Communications MOU Signing Ceremony Sept 2009
- Discussions of Response MOU to follow
- Task Force Annual Public Meeting October/November 2009
Tri-State Regional Workgroup Texas/New Mexico/Chihuahua Task Force

- **EPA ETV Program Test of RFID Technologies for Hazardous Waste Tracking Across International Borders**
  - RFID Verification test conducted near El Paso, TX in March
    - US-Mexico and US only routes
    - Testing involved evaluation of tag and reader performance
      - GPS Tracking of the material
      - RFID Identification (tagged individual drums and cargo)
      - Panic button
      - Route deviation alerts
  - Report Available at end of September 2009
  - Potential use of this technology to assist responders identify material that may be involved in possible incidences that could occur
## Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria Sisneros</td>
<td>EPA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sisneros.Maria@epa.gov">Sisneros.Maria@epa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jhana Enders</td>
<td>EPA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Enders.Jhana@epa.gov">Enders.Jhana@epa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gina Posada</td>
<td>TCEQ</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eposada@tceq.state.tx.us">eposada@tceq.state.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Monsivaiz</td>
<td>US Co-leader</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robertm@donaanacounty.org">robertm@donaanacounty.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernardo Escudero</td>
<td>MX Co-leader</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bescudero@juarez.gob.mx">bescudero@juarez.gob.mx</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Amistad Task Force

Texas/ Coahuila
Amistad Task Force

Accomplishments

International Exercise Workshops: ICS, Equipment, & Hazmat training

2006 Piedras Negras Tri-National Biological Tabletop & Field exercise

2007 Del Rio-Acuna Tabletop & Field Exercise: Chlorine tank explosion

2008 Piedras Negras Exercise: Railcar collision
Amistad Task Force

Accomplishments

Equipment Exchange and Training  Acuna, June 2009

- Hosted by EPA, NORTHCOM & PROFEPA
- Emergency responders Hazmat Technician trained
- Acuna received hazmat response equipment
Amistad Task Force

Current Projects

Eagle Pass / Piedras Negras applied for BECC grant to update Sister City Plan
  Last revised 1998

Del Rio / Acuna updating Sister City Plan
  • Last revised 2001
  • Acuna Civil Protection & Del Rio Municipality
Amistad Task Force

Future

Knowledge Exchange  Eagle Pass or Del Rio, 2010

Equipment Exchange and Training
# Amistad Task Force

## Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rafael Ortiz</td>
<td>Civil Proteccion Piedras Negras</td>
<td><a href="mailto:xe2or@hotmail.com">xe2or@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus Rodriguez</td>
<td>Eagle Pass Fire Dept.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jrodriguez@cityofeaglepass.com">jrodriguez@cityofeaglepass.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandi Todd</td>
<td>EPA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Todd.Brandi@epa.gov">Todd.Brandi@epa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor Wong</td>
<td>TCEQ</td>
<td><a href="mailto:VWong@tceq.state.tx.us">VWong@tceq.state.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Falcon Task Force

Texas/ Nuevo Leon / Tamaulipas
Falcon Task Force

Accomplishments

Knowledge Exchange & Tabletop Exercise
April 2009

- ICS Training
- Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness Course
- Laredo Fire Dept. equipment demonstration
- Tabletop Exercise of current Sister City Plan
Falcon Task Force

Current Projects

Drafting Update Laredo / Nuevo Laredo Sister City Plan

- Plan developed 1998
- Leads: Proteccion Civil Nuevo Laredo & Laredo Fire Dept.
- Draft near completion
- Possible contractor support via BECC grant
- Future regional expansion
Falcon Task Force

Future

Equipment Exchange & Training 2010
Nuevo Laredo,
- Hosted by EPA, NORTHCOM, PROFEPA. Proteccion Civil
- ICS & Hazmat Technician training
# Falcon Task Force

## Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lic. Juan Rivera</td>
<td>Civil Protection Nuevo Laredo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:proteccioncivil@nuevolaredo.gob.mx">proteccioncivil@nuevolaredo.gob.mx</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eloy Vega</td>
<td>Laredo Fire Dept.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:evega@ci.laredo.tx.us">evega@ci.laredo.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandi Todd</td>
<td>EPA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Todd.Brandi@epa.gov">Todd.Brandi@epa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor Wong</td>
<td>TCEQ</td>
<td><a href="mailto:VWong@tceq.state.tx.us">VWong@tceq.state.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gulf Task Force

Texas / Tamaulipas
Gulf Task Force

Lead Agencies
• Municipal Fire Departments
• PROFEP A
• SEMARNAT
• Civil Protection
• Texas Department of Health
• Lower Rio Grande Valley Council of Governments
• EPA
• TCEQ

Goals
• Maintain up-to-date contacts & capabilities for response agencies
• Develop communications network using most effective technology
• Improve bi-national partnerships
Gulf Task Force

Accomplishments

Bi-National Tabletop Exercise
McAllen, June 2009
Gulf Task Force

Accomplishments

McAllen/Reynosa Sister-City Plan Signing
McAllen, June 2009
Gulf Task Force

Accomplishments

Updated & Regionalized McAllen/Reynosa Sister City Plan

Signed on June 4, 2009

Regional plan includes:
- Edinburg, Hidalgo, Mission, and Pharr
- Current contact/resource information
- Strategy for activation and emergency response
- Public health emergencies and natural disasters
  (in addition to HAZMAT)

Revisions generated from January 2009 training, results of risk analysis, and input from first responders from U.S. and Mexico.

Planning bi-national exercise in 2010
Gulf Task Force

Current Projects

Regional Emergency Communications Plan

Goals:
- Updated bi-national contact data and capabilities
- Federal, state, and local response agency coordination
- Communication network using the most effective technology
- Use of compatible communications equipment

Status:
- Border 2012 Funds applied for
- Negotiating funding for radio equipment and mobile communications trailer
- Hidalgo County (lead) working with Lower Rio Grande Valley Council of Governments Interoperability Communication Plan
Gulf Task Force

Current Projects

Regional Hazardous Materials Risk Map

Goals:
- Electronic GIS HAZMAT Risk Map showing storage, transportation, and disposal locations
- Provide to first responders and emergency management personnel

Status:
- Identifying/acquiring HAZMAT information along the border
- Coordinating with:
  - Texas Department of Health
  - Director of Civil Protection (Tamaulipas)
  - Maquilador Associations of Matamoros and Reynosa
  - Texas DPS
  - Region 6 EPA (E-Plan)
Gulf Task Force

Future

Update/Regionalize Matamoros/Brownsville Sister City Plan

Regional plan will include:
- Harlingen, San Benito, and Los Indios
- Current contact/resource information
- Strategy for activation and emergency response
- Public health emergencies and natural disasters (in addition to HAZMAT)
- Execution of bi-national exercise

Status: Proposal submitted for BECC Grant through the Border 2012 Grant Program to update 2002 Plan.
Gulf Task Force

Future

Develop Roma-Aleman & Rio Grande City-Camargo Sister City Plans

Goal:
- Attain Sister-City designation in Border 2012 Program
- Create Sister-City Joint Emergency Plans for these cities by interagency, multi-state, and bi-national coordination

Status:
- Proposed to appropriate officials after Gulf Task Force Meeting in November 2008.
# Gulf Task Force

## Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manuel Montiel</td>
<td>Association of Maquiladoras</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Saldana</td>
<td>Mission Fire Dept.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paige Delgado</td>
<td>EPA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Delgado.Paige@epa.gov">Delgado.Paige@epa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claudia Lozano</td>
<td>TCEQ</td>
<td><a href="mailto:CLozano@tceq.state.tx.us">CLozano@tceq.state.tx.us</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gulf Task Force

FY 2010 Goals

- Provide HAZMAT Equipment and HAZMAT Technician/Equipment Training
  - Matamoros, Tamaulipas
  - Reynosa, Tamaulipas

- Knowledge Exchange
  - Sister-City Location To Be Determined