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**“The State of Interoperable Emergency  
Communications Along the Texas Border”**

Regarding all international bridge crossings, Operating Procedures that are carried out in case of high-risk contingencies by the Mexican Federal Authorities consider these areas as **FEDERAL PRECINCTS**.

Notification of any contingency, by the United States Government to the Mexican authorities are received through the National Secretary of the Interior (Secretaria de Gobernación) in Mexico, and it is then passed on to the Central of Control, Command and Compute (C4). It then properly identifies the incident and does the precise evaluation of the incident for all international crossings between Laredo, Texas and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas.

C4 is coordinated with different Mexican Corporations such as SEDENA (Mexican Army); PROCURADURIA GENERAL OF THE REPUBLICA, (Attorney General); POLICIA FEDERAL (Federal Police); PROCURADURIA GENERAL OF JUSTICE OF THE STATE OF TAMAULIPAS (State Attorney General); STATE OF TAMAULIPAS POLICE (POLICIA MINISTERIAL); SEGURIDAD CIUDADANA (Civic Safety) and SEGURIDAD VIAL (Traffic Police).

C4 classifies the incident and then accordingly assigns it to the corresponding authority. Mexican protocols establish that the first action is to secure national assets, as refineries, electrical stations, water supply stations, food banks, international crossings and state and national highways.

The above mentioned cases are the responsibility of the Mexican Federal Government.

In case of Municipal situations, high-risk contingencies are dealt by the Civil Safety Direction, which operates with 511 policemen, with 30 patrol cars and a 5 minute response time to any part of the city.

This area determines the exact nature of the problem and decides an immediate response. Exchange of information of the crime and the criminals is vital to monitor the case and establish the search parameters.

For our mutual safety we have to consider all bilateral programs and agreements that are strategic for both our nations, as are the cases of bomb threats, toxic spills on or near international bridges, as well as inside city limits. Other cases are reports to search for abducted or disappeared persons and river rescues.

This concludes issues related to Civil Safety.

Regarding traffic related issues, the Traffic Department has 225 officers and a response time of 4 to 5 minutes inside city limits. Other responsibilities are to

control traffic fluency, privilege rapid movement of ambulances and public safety or emergency units to the place of the contingency.

Municipal Traffic Authorities considers the following areas as a strategic perimeter for all cases and types of contingencies:

- International Bridge I, (Bridge of the Americas). Closing of Streets or Avenues in the following way: **1.-** On the Street 15 of Junio and Avenue Guerrero: the total closing of the structure of the International Bridge, to channel vehicle circulation by the Avenue Guerrero to the South of the City. **2. -** On Matamoros Street and 15 of Junio: to provide traffic fluency on Guerrero Avenue to the South of the City. **3. -** On Street 15 of Junio and Juárez to give traffic fluency to Guerrero Avenue to the South of the City. **4. -** On the Street 15 of Junio and Obregón to provide traffic fluency on Guerrero Avenue to the South of the City.

- International Bridge II, (Juárez – Lincoln Bridge) and the closing of Streets or Avenues in a rank of two (2) blocks all around its main acces. **1. -** On the Street 15 of Junio and Santos Degollado Avenue: The closing of vehicles that try to enter to the International Bridge. **2. -** On the Street 15 of Junio and Avenue Jesus Carranza: to relieve the traffic along the Street Jesus Carranza to the South. **3. -** On the Street Nicolas Bravo and Avenue Jesus Carranza: to give preference to Jesus Carranza street for Vehicles that be come from the International Bridge (II). **4. -** On Bravo Street and Santos Degollado Avenue: We do not permit the entrance of vehicles to the International Bridge (II) by Santos Degollado Avenue and proceed to send them to the Bravo Street and send the circulation to Boulevard Luis Donaldo Colosio. **5.-** On Bravo Street and 20 of Noviembre street to send circulation to the Boulevard Luis Donaldo Colosio. **6. -** International Bridge III, (World Trade Bridge) has an answering time of 10 to 15 minutes and closes the access to Mex 2 highway, and the entrance to the same road and the internal area that is of Federal Jurisdiction.

**Certifications and Qualifications:** Our personnel is Certified and Qualified by the Laredo, Texas Fire Department, in the Following Specialties: 1.- Fireman 1, 2.-Rescue, 3.- Haz-Mat, 4.- Emergency Management Units. The Red Cross, Certification in ER Techniques, Medicaid, Health Sector updating for hospital Pre Techniques; Michou Mau Foundation (for treatment and transportation of burned children).

- Direction of Civil Protection and Firemen (DIRECCION DE PROTECCION CIVIL Y BOMBEROS) operates with 114 elements, with a response time of 7 minutes for any type of contingency that occurs in city limits and along the Rio Grande.

1.- 2 (two) Operating Units for Civil Protection.

2.- 2 (two) Utility ATVs for Off-road needs.

Consequently in these subjects immediate assistance is offered as well as formation of specialized squads and task forces.

Our Fire Department has two 2004 Freightliner Fire Engines with a capacity of 1,260 gallons of water for cases of general fires that can be presented within city limits, as well as at the disposal for the Laredo, Texas authorities.

We also have a Boat Rescue Unit to lend aid in the margins of the Rio Grande to people in risk; or for searching or monitoring corpses, by georeference of the conditions in which the margins of the Rio Bravo are found, to locate, diagnose and establish joint strategies.

This area also counts with Haz-Mat certification (Program of Security) for chemical discharges that attend contingencies of this nature, with personnel specialized attention in high risk zones , where it is necessary to jointly establish routes for the transit of vehicles that carry dangerous materials.

For a better communication between both cities, it is possible to establish a radio communication frequency, or either use Nextel phones (PTT) between both cities authorities to achieve full binational collaboration.

As a last note, it is important to establish that a possible problem that could exist is the need of Passport and Visas approval by the United States Government in order to allow Mexican authorities that need to cross to the United States, basically civil protection and fire department personnel.