



# Region 6

## Emergency Preparedness and Response at the US/Mexico Border





# 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 preparedness 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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