Emergency Preparedness and Response

Number of Incident Notifications in the U.S. Side of the Border Region Received by NRC Figure 15	**Type of indicator:** Response - State **Goal and Objective:** 5.1
Description	Number of incident notifications received by NRC for U.S. counties within U.S.-Mexico border region, 2001-2005
Importance of the indicator/purpose	Preparing for a potential environmental emergency improves the probability of adequately responding to incidents and protecting the environment and public from exposure to harmful contaminants and serious environmental or health impacts. A notification system was established as part of the JCP. Any actual or threatened spill, release, fire or explosion that has the potential to affect the other country is reported to either the National Response Center (NRC) in the U.S. (www.nrc.uscg.mil) and/or the National Communications Center (CENACOM) in Mexico. Both centers run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Units of measure	Total number per year across all border counties within a state
Concepts and definitions	National Response Center (NRC) – NRC receives U.S. notifications of oil and chemical spills. Information on the number and details of incidents reported to NRC are available from the NRC database for the years 1982 to 2005. The types of incidents reported to NRC are classified by type as described in Table 17-1. Incidents classified as continuous release, railroad, fixed and storage tank were included in the indicator graphic.
Coverage	2001 – 2005. Incidents on the U.S. side of the border region.
Calculation	From the National Response Center (NRC) download data for years of interest as excel files, which summarize all incidents reported for one year for the entire United States. Sort records by state and county within the state. Extract all records for border counties and count the number of incidents classified as continuous release, railroad, fixed, or storage tank. The incident data extracted for California is listed in Table 17-2, for Arizona in Table 17-3, for New Mexico in Table 17-4 and for Texas in 17-5. Table 17-6 summarizes the number of notifications received by NRC across all U.S. border states for 2001-2005.
Sources of information	National Response Center (NRC). (www.nrc.uscg.mil)
Sources of further information	
Limitations of the indicator	

Number of Incident Notifications in the Mexican Side of the Border Region Received by COATEA Figure 16	**Type of indicator:** Response - State **Goal and Objective:** 5.1
Description	Number of incident notifications received by COATEA within the Mexican side of the border region, 2001-2005.
Importance of the indicator/purpose	Preparing for a potential environmental emergency improves the probability of adequately responding to incidents and protecting the environment and public from exposure to harmful contaminants and serious environmental or health impacts. A notification system was established as part of the JCP. Any actual or threatened spill, release, fire or explosion that has the potential to affect the other country is reported to either the National Response Center (NRC) in the U.S. (www.nrc.uscg.mil) and/or the National Communications Center (CENACOM) in Mexico. Both centers run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In Mexico, the Center for Environmental Emergencies (COATEA), SEMARNAT's emergency office within the Procuraduria Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA) also receives notifications and runs from 9-6 pm Monday-Friday. In the near future, COATEA will also be in full operation (24/7).
Units of measure	Total number per year by border state
Concepts and definitions	
Coverage	2001 - 2005. Incidents on the Mexican side of the border region.
Calculation	Data were provided by PROFEPA from COAETA and are listed in Table 18-1.
Sources of information	COATEA (Centro de Orientación para la Atención de Emergencias Ambientales). PROFEPA, 2005. Dirección General de Inspección de Fuentes de Comunicación.
Sources of further information	
Limitations of the indicator	The types of incidents reported to COAETA were not provided. Data were not available from CENACOM.

Progression of Signed Sister City Plans Figure 17	**Type of indicator:** Response **Goal and Objective:** 5.1
Description	Number of sister city joint contingency plans signed by both countries and updated between 1998 to 2005
Importance of the indicator/purpose	Chemical emergencies do not respect international boundaries. The United States (U.S.) and Mexico have long recognized the need for close cooperation in preparing for and preventing hazardous substance releases along the U.S. / Mexico Border Area. In 1983, in La Paz, Baja California, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Mexico's Secretaria de Medio Ambiente, Rescursos Naturles y Pesca (SEMARNAT) signed the Agreement on Cooperation for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment in the Border Area, otherwise known as the "La Paz Agreement" or the "1983 Border Environmental Agreement." Annex II of the La Paz Agreement addressed requirements for responses to emergencies and created a Joint Response Team (JRT). The JRT is chaired by EPA and SEMARNAT. The JRT made of Federal, State, and Local partnerships from both the United States and Mexico, recommended that Sister City contingency plans be created at the local government level. Binational Sister City Plans provide the mechanism for locals to address issues or concerns, and allow appropriate recommendations in decisions that will affect both communities along the border. Fourteen sister city pairs were originally identified by the JCP along the U.S.-Mexico border. At a later date an additional sister city pair was added for Rio Bravo/Weslaco.
Units of measure	Number of plans written / exercised (one plan denotes unit of one (1) each.)
Concepts and definitions	La Paz Agreement - The binational environmental plan between the U.S. & Mexico designed for cooperation between the two countries to prevent, reduce, and eliminate sources of air, water, and land pollution in the zone extending 100 kilometers (62.5 miles) along each side of the international boundary. Joint Contingency Plan (JCP) - The JCP is the federal mechanism for chemical emergency advisory / notification and cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico in response to a polluting incident that may pose a significant threat to both parties or that affects one party to such an extent as to justify warning the other party or for asking assistance. Sister City Contingency Plans (SCP) - Binational Sister City Plans provide the mechanism for local governments to address emergency advisory / notification and cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico and allows appropriate recommendations in decisions that will affect both communities along the border. Exercises - A simulation conducted to improve coordination, communication, and facilitation of contingency planning.
Coverage	1998-2005. U.S.-Mexico border region
Calculation	For each year, sum the number of signed SCPs for that year and previous years. Exclude double counting SCP updates.
Sources of information	Data provided by EPA's Emergency Preparedness and Response Border-Wide Workgroup (BWWG). SCPs available at this site: http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/content/ip-bilateral.htm#mexicoborder; PROFEPA, 2005. Dirección General de Inspección de Fuentes de Comunicación
Sources of further information	EPA's Bi-Lateral Programs including Mexico: http://yosemite.epa.gov/oswer/ceppoweb.nsf/content/ip-bilateral.htm McAllen / Reynosa Binational Exercise of 2005: http://www.epaosc.net/site_profile.asp?site_id=961 EPA's Emergency Preparedness and Response Border-Wide Workgroup (BWWG): http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/epr_bwwg.htm
Limitations of the indicator	The number of SCPs reflects the number of binational plans participated by EPA-SEMARNAT; does not reflect other local, state, or federal binational plans.