EMP - Equipment Module Newsletter

US EPA, OSWER, OEM

Feb/Mar, 2009   Volume 3

The OIG Report is out!

The Homeland Security Presidential Directive No. 7, issued in 2003, requires Federal agencies to identify, prioritize, and protect Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources from terrorist attacks. In 2004, EPA issued its Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources Protection Plan. In Jan., 2009 an Audit "EPA Plans for Managing Counter Terrorism/Emergency Response Equipment and Protecting Critical Assets Not Fully Implemented" was released. This audit was conducted by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the EPA. The OIG states that "EPA needs to improve its management of counter terrorism /emergency response equipment and implement the Emergency Management Portal-Equipment Module. OEM has set the end of 2009 has a major milestone to comply with this effort. Note: this information is Sensitive but Unclassified.

How does your data get into the Equipment Module?

The process to transfer your data into the new Equipment Module has many steps. The data sent by the Regions is first received by Lockheed Martin (LM) contractors, then data are processed for migration into the Equipment Module. This is completed through email exchanges between the regions and LM. When the data is migrated correctly, the data is ready for Training. NDT will visit the region and provide training to all potential users of the Equipment Module. After training, the data are "Refreshed", and then must be "Validated" by the Region. If errors in the data are found, they are fixed by LM, and then the validated data are loaded into "Production" and the Region's data is fully functional in the Equipment Module.!!

Parts and Supplies (P&S)

The purpose of the Equipment Module is to provide Emergency Responders with accessibility to equipment &/or P&S that are important in the event of a large catastrophic event. We recommend that certain expendables be tracked; for example, tubes or sensors that are available for a specific chemical.

An example of necessity of expendable P&S came initially from the WTC and the compatibility of cartridges. Another example of when this could be beneficial to an OSC was the Ohio Styrene incident that Steve Renninger in R5 responded to. In this event, the styrene tubes were limited and unavailable from the vendor. Finally, for the Space Shuttle incident, hydrazine tubes were not easy to find (if available at all).

It is recommended that all data associated with important expendable parts & supplies be migrated into the Equipment Module with the appropriate RCMS/ENL-ID number. If an RCMS/ENL-ID number is not assigned to an important P&S, we can easily add one. Currently, there are currently many expendable items that have already been assigned RCMS/ENL-ID numbers.

The following is a partial list of P&S that have ENL-ID numbers:
- Sensors; 358 ENL-IDs,
- Drager tubes; 180 ENL-IDs,
- PPE Expendables; 86 ENL-IDs and
- Scott APR cartridges; 45 ENL-IDs.

Training and User Help

Training for the Equipment Module is coordinated by Jeanelle Martinez, NDT and Ed Mullin, Dynamac provides user help, support and training for the Equipment Module.

At this time, a request for potential dates that is agreed upon by the Regions has been initiated to fulfill the OIG request for milestone deadlines. In the next issue, the dates that we expect to come out to your region will be listed.

Styrene release from a rail car near Lunken Airport in Cincinnati, OH in August, 2005.