

## TRANSCAER IN ACTION

### Arkansas TRANSCAER Participates in 10-County Drill

In August, members of the Arkansas TRANSCAER board helped plan and participate in the North Central District of Arkansas Bioterrorism Preparedness Committee 10-County Drill in Independence County.

The activity was coordinated locally by the Independence County Local Emergency Planning Committee. The scenario involved an outbreak of viral hemorrhagic fever with 15-30 self-presenters to White River Medical Center in Batesville.



The main focus of the drill was to test the capabilities of the local hospital while involving other county emergency response organizations in de-contamination, security, mutual aid, communication, traffic control, transportation, and media support. Over 200 volunteers from 17 groups and agencies were involved in successfully conducting the drill in Independence County.

See **Arkansas TRANSCAER**, page 3

### TRANSCAER Whistle-Stop Visits Lehigh Valley

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On September 15, Norfolk Southern delivered the annual TRANSCAER train to Bethlehem, Pa. The ten-car train was the focal point of a day-long series of hands-on drills, seminars and displays

that train first responders on what to expect when there is an emergency involving rail cars and tanker trucks carrying hazardous materials.

*"The training like this for the responders is very hard to come by,"* said Forrest Wieder, Lehigh County Hazardous Materials Response Team coordinator. *"For them to bring a train out here like this in a safe environment is just great."*

*"Pennsylvania contains more trackage than any other state on Norfolk Southern's 22-state network,"* said John Casey, Norfolk Southern's environmental engineer based in Harrisburg. *"It is critically important for the first responders in the communities we operate through to have at least a basic knowledge of rail equipment, and how to quickly assess a situation where there could be a hazardous material release."*

See **Whistle-Stop Visits Lehigh Valley**, page 2

### The Chlorine Institute Sponsor's TRANSCAER First Responder Training in St. Louis

On Oct. 28, the Chlorine Institute, Inc. (CI) and TRANSCAER sponsored training for 108 emergency responders at the Union Pacific Lesperance Street yard in St. Louis, Mo. The hands on training with rail, truck and cylinder equipment, and emergency response equipment/kits, focused on chlorine, caustic soda, sodium hypochlorite and hydrochloric acid. Training personnel from railroads, truck lines, rail car producers, rail valve companies and chemical producers participated at the seven training stations.

### Norfolk Southern's 2005 Whistle Stop Tour

The Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) sponsored the 2005 TRANSCAER Whistle Stop Tour (Whistle Stop) during the week of September 12<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>. The train traveled over 500 rail miles in four states with stops in five cities (Buffalo and Binghamton, NY; Linden, NJ; Allentown, PA; and Hagerstown, MD).

See **NS 2005 Whistle Stop Tour**, page 2

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## YEAR IN REVIEW

### Texas TRANSCAER Update

Training in Crockett was held on September 10, and 15 firefighters attended. Ed Schinnie of Transport Service Co. provided information for general awareness on trucks and trailers. Lee Barron of Rohm and Haas trained on the hazards associated with polymerization of materials. Shelby Startz of HMHTTC Response Co. provided hands-on training for responding to a trucking incident. Quality Carriers provided the trailer as well as a driver for the event.

*Fire Marshall David Lambe of Houston Country thanked TRANSCAER for the excellent four hour training, and wants to schedule more training for next year on both truck and rail.*



Training in Jacksonville was held on September 17 and 18. Over 60 people attended representing Jacksonville Police, Fire, and EMS departments; Cherokee County Sheriff's Department; Lake Palestine East and Jackson Heights Volunteer Fire Departments; East Texas Medical Centers (Jacksonville and Athens); Palestine Regional Medical; and Trinity Mother Frances Healthcare Systems.

Attendees learned how to identify hazardous materials, how to control or contain a spill or leak, the different types of equipment used to transport hazardous materials, and contacts for clean up. Union Pacific and Shell Chemical provided instructors. Equistar & Groendyke provided equipment. A Jacksonville local non-TRANSCAER member provided an oil tanker for the training as well.

Texas TRANSCAER's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Golf Tournament occurred on October 10<sup>th</sup> at Kingwood. The day started cloudy and rainy but the skies cleared in time for the 1:00pm tee time. Texas TRANSCAER raised over \$1000 for future training events at this year's tournament!

Texas Whistle Stop Training Tour Update - The Texas TRANSCAER Training tour, originally scheduled to begin on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005, was postponed due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The tour has been tentatively rescheduled for April, 2006.

### NS 2005 Whistle Stop Tour, cont...

The Whistle Stop provides free hazardous materials training to local emergency responders. This year's train consisted of two locomotives, six classroom cars, the NS Exhibit car, and two training tank cars which provide valve cutaways and hands-on training in emergency response to tank car accidents. In addition, a trucking company, US DOT, Sunoco, GATX, Dupont, the Firefighter Education and Training Foundation, React Environmental, Sunpro, HMHTTC, other emergency contractors, and various responder organizations contributed resources, or had tents and/or booths to provide training and information.

The training schedule consisted of Radioactive Material Instrumentation - Detection Equipment, Using the Emergency Response Guidebook, Tank Car Recognition, Intermodal Portable Tanks, Cargo Tank Overview, Polymerization, Placarding, Selecting the Correct PPE, Air Monitoring Issues at a Derailment, Post Response Recovery Issues, Derailment Safety for First Responders, Managing a Derailment, Locomotive Fires, and Phenol Tank Car Case Study. Set up started by 7:00am with opening remarks beginning at 9:00am. Workshops ran from 9:30am to 3:00pm.

The response was good considering this event was held right after hurricane Katrina and several participants had to cancel to help respond. NS trained from 800 to 1000 emergency responders during this week. (Specific numbers are hard to obtain as not everyone who showed for the classes registered.)

The Norfolk Southern has operated six TRANSCAER Whistle Stops since 1994 and has one planned for 2006. Stay tuned for updates.

### Whistle Stop Visits Lehigh Valley, cont...

John Ott, of Lehigh County Haz-Mat, sat and watched three videos playing simultaneously inside what resembled a railroad museum more than the hull of a train. Ott said the program included a lot to remember in one day, but the training was important because it gave him an opportunity to hear new information that has surfaced and to refresh his memory on some of the procedures he learned long ago.

In addition to visiting Bethlehem, the 2005 TRANSCAER Whistle-Stop Tour made stops in Buffalo, Binghamton, N.Y., Linden, N.J. and Hagerstown, Md. Nearly 900 emergency responders, police officers and firefighters participated in the five-day tour. (The Easton Express -Times contributed to this article. James S. Young, *Training covers rail disasters*, September 16, 2005)

See *PA Wins the Regional Approach Award*, page 3

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## PA Wins the Regional Approach Award

Pennsylvania TRANSCAER (PATC) was awarded the 2004 National TRANSCAER Regional Approach Award by Paul Williams, Co-Chair National TRANSCAER, at the Whistle Stop Tour stop in Allentown, PA on September 15th.



Bottom row from left to right: Allen Richter (Conrail), Pam Witmer (PA Chemical Industry Council), Susan Lieth (Air Products), Art Kaplan (Schuylkill County Emergency Management), Jack Rozman (Pennsylvania Emergency Management Association).

Back row from left to right: Randy Wood (Marshall Miller & Associates), Steve Neidlinger (Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council), Jim Weakland (PA State Police), Ed Patterson (Sunoco), Craig Curry (React Environmental).

PATC received this award for their dedication concerning the promotion of safe transportation of hazardous materials in Pennsylvania. In particular, PATC sponsored seven tabletop drills in 2004 in various PA counties. The tabletops were funded by US Department of Transportation grants and PATC. The tabletops were presented by Compliance Associates and involved a railroad crossing accident with hazardous materials involved. Approximately 300 participated in the tabletop exercises including personnel from fire and police departments, county and contractor emergency responders, hospital and EMS, utilities, local and state government, FBI, etc.

PATC consists of representatives from chemical and transportation companies, state government, emergency response contractors, county emergency management, and chemical industry advisory groups.

PATC also won the 2002 Regional Approach Award.

## Arkansas TRANSCAER, cont...

Arkansas TRANSCAER members served as Observers, Command Officers, Assessors, and Responders.

Arkansas TRANSCAER's mission is to promote safe transportation and handling of hazardous materials by river, rail

and highway, educate our communities to safely handle hazardous materials, and help provide education and training for our emergency responders regarding the safe handling of hazardous materials.

## LOOKING AHEAD, WHAT'S UP IN 2006

### BNSF, Dow, and the National TRANSCAER Task Group Fund New TRANSCAER Tabletop Displays

BNSF Railway Co., Dow Chemical Company, and National TRANSCAER are proud to announce that TRANSCAER will have two new Tabletop displays for use at conferences, workshops, and company activities in 2006!

These tabletops will offer a light weight, portable, and versatile mechanism to help you communicate the TRANSCAER message to your audience. To accompany the booth, the NTTG will provide a general overview brochure containing information on TRANSCAER's mission, resources, and website. Additionally, the NTTG will pay the cost of shipment one way. Want to know more?

See **Tabletop Displays**, page 4

### 2006 BNSF TRANSCAER Training

BNSF Railway Co. has a full year of TRANSCAER activities planned in 2006. Among other events, BNSF is planning rail awareness training in:

- ✚ Commerce, California the week of February 5th for the Los Angeles County hazmat team.
- ✚ San Bernardino, California the week of February 11<sup>th</sup> for responders.
- ✚ Southeast mini Whistle Stop Tour through Springfield, MO; and Willow Springs, West Plains and Hoxie, AR from March 18 – 31 for emergency responders and agencies.
- ✚ Kansas City, Missouri the week of May 15<sup>th</sup> for emergency agencies.
- ✚ Wenatchee, Washington in early June for the fire school.
- ✚ Kansas City Union Station, Missouri the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup> for awareness training with the attendees of the Bureau of Explosives Hazardous Materials Seminar.

See **BNSF Training**, page 4

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## BNSF Training, cont...

- ✚ Ellensburg, Washington on June 15–16 for responders.
- ✚ Provo and Midvale, Utah on July 13-19 for training with the Salt Lake area emergency responders in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration summer conference.
- ✚ Tacoma, Washington in October to fill a request for the emergency responders at McChord Air Force Base.



Additionally, BNSF is planning to attend the Washington State Fire Chiefs Association conference in Wenatchee, Washington on February 27<sup>th</sup> and is working with Montana Rail Link to provide a mini Whistle Stop Tour in Montana the last two weeks of September. Stay tuned!

## Tabletop Displays, cont...

The goals of the new tabletop are to:

- ✓ Make people stop at the tabletop for discussion
- ✓ Survey and engage in conversation
- ✓ Increase and enhance TRANSCAER brand recognition
- ✓ Reach out to new stakeholders

The core messages of the tabletops are:

- ✓ TRANSCAER is a resource to help local and state emergency response agencies, hazmat responders, first responders, state emergency management, police, emergency medical technicians, and regulators prepare for and respond to a hazmat incident; and
- ✓ TRANSCAER is a nationwide program comprised of volunteer representatives from the chemical manufacturing, transportation, distributor, and emergency response industries.

National TRANSCAER is grateful for your commitment to this worthy program. Through your hard work and dedication,

responders nationwide have benefited from improved emergency preparedness. We hope that this new resource of tabletop displays will help you deliver your message!

Additionally, thanks to the following NTTG members: BNSF, Dow, New Century Transport, Nova Chemicals, and Union Pacific for helping develop and provide the tabletops.

Booth request forms are available at [www.transcaer.com](http://www.transcaer.com).

## Region III 2006 Training Tours

Following in the steps of the successful Iowa 2005 TRANSCAER Training Tour, Kansas and Texas are planning Training Tours for their states (Texas postponed their 2005 fall tours because of the recent hurricanes). Kansas expects 8-10 training stops. Texas is planning five stops.

## CHEMTREC® International Emergency Response Summit

CHEMTREC is hosting an International Emergency Response Summit in Miami, Florida on February 22-24, 2006. The Summit will be in English and address three regions with particular focus on different countries within each of the regions: 1) South Asia (People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, and Malaysia); 2) Central and South America (Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile), and 3) Central and Eastern Europe. Information gathered should be valuable when considering other regions around the globe.

CHEMTREC also plans a workshop on how to identify and communicate with the right people during an incident response. Here, participants will have the opportunity to influence the design of a new "public service" tool that is being considered to assist responders in developing their international response plans.

For more information, go to [www.chemtrec.com](http://www.chemtrec.com) and click on:

**[Register Now for the International Emergency Response Summit.](#)**

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