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The National TRANSCAER® Task Group (NTTG) is proud to announce the launch of the TRANSCAER® website, www.transcaer.org. This user friendly website is designed to be the premiere information source for TRANSCAER®.

Want to find out what events are being planned in Texas, view a TRANSCAER® presentation, or read more about an article featured in TRANSCAER® Today? Go to www.transcaer.org.

Users will be able to learn about TRANSCAER® events in their region or across the country, download pictures and access resource information. Information on the website will cover every aspect of TRANSCAER®, from a basic overview of TRANSCAER® and



its structure to resource information about grants, LEPCs and planning events.

Looking for general information? Go to [About TRANSCAER®](#). There users will find out what TRANSCAER® is, who should be involved and the nine TRANSCAER® steps that help TRANS-

CAER® representatives work with communities to prepare for hazardous materials emergencies. One can also find out about TRANSCAER®'s strengths and opportunities, the NTTG strategic plan and a listing of regional coordinators.

Beyond general TRANSCAER® information, the website hosts other areas that will prove invaluable to those involved in the initiative: the [State Pages](#), the [Database](#), and the [Resource](#) section.

Each state will have its own web page. Information on TRANSCAER® implementation in the state including contact and upcoming activities will be included.

Throughout the [Database](#), users will **See Online, page 4**

Call it TRANSCAER®, and then call US!

Why would someone hold an emergency preparedness event and not call it TRANSCAER®? One reason might be that planners don't know what is and what is not a TRANSCAER® event. Another might be they are not aware of what TRANSCAER® is or why it is important to call an emergency preparedness event a TRANSCAER® activity.

In the broadest sense, a TRANSCAER® event is any type of emergency preparedness activity that occurs along transportation routes.

TRANSCAER® events are not actual emergency response incidents, nor are they emergency response training that occurs at a plant site.

TRANSCAER® events bring together key community members and chemical manufacturing and transportation companies to create, refine, test or review an area's emergency preparedness plan. TRANSCAER® events also include emergency response training and dialogue with communities on hazardous

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Newsletter & Website: Work as Team

The National TRANSCAER® Task Group is proud to introduce two new items: a newly designed Newsletter and an improved TRANSCAER® website. Taken together, these two items will allow the national group to effectively communicate with the state TRANSCAER® teams and others interested in TRANSCAER®. In addition, those implementing TRANSCAER® will have the ability to share information with one another and communicate specific activities currently being planned.

You'll notice a few changes in this issue of the Newsletter—a new title, format, and length. Many of these changes are in response to the survey completed by readers last year. This new format will provide readers with highlights of TRANSCAER® activities over the last few months. The website will house longer stories and more examples of TRANSCAER® implementation.

We hope you like this edition of the Newsletter, and that you take some time to visit www.transcaer.org. If you have any comments, let us know through the [Contact Us](#) section of the website. Thank you for support of TRANSCAER®!

What's New on the Web

Below is a listing of the sections found on the new TRANSCAER® website.

About TRANSCAER®

Strategic Plan
Organization Structure
TRANSCAER®
Implementation Process
Sponsors

Regional and State Information

Regional Information
State TRANSCAER®
Websites

Resources

Presentations
Organizing Teams
Outreach
Activities

Awards

Information on TRANSCAER® Awards
Nomination Forms

Events Calendar

Local and National
TRANSCAER® Events

Newsletter

Past and Current *TRANSCAER® Today* Issues

Spotlight on Region 5:

– Strength in Diversity

TRANSCAER® would like to recognize the newly formed Minnesota state team. Their strength comes from their diversity and leadership. The Team has about fifty members that meet monthly. Members come from transportation companies, chemical companies, emergency contractors and state environmental and emergency response agencies.

Minnesota is part of Region 5, which covers eight states across the Midwest. Even though most states are rural with only a few having functioning LEPC's, Region 5 contains states with heavy transportation routes for hazardous materials across all transportation modes.

To help facilitate communication in the region, Region 5 holds a regional conference call about every quarter. This allows state chairmen to brief other state teams on what they are doing, discuss new ideas for promoting TRANSCAER® in their state and identify resources needed for implementation. By negating travel time, state coordinators have become more active and are eager share resources

and tackle larger events together.

One of these larger events is a regional whistle stop tour called the Region 5 2001 TRANSCAER® Training Tour. Planning this event has focused and re-energized the TRANSCAER® programs in Region 5. The Region is excited to be hosting the event. Look for more detailed information in future issues and at www.transcaer.org.

Region 5 has active state teams in Minnesota, Kansas and Colorado. State chairmen are forming teams in Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa. Region 5 has openings for state chairmen in North Dakota and South Dakota. If anyone is interested in joining a Region 5 state team or filling one of the open coordinator positions, contact Lou Wagner, Union Pacific, at (402) 271-3520.

Keep up the great work Region 5!



The third installment of the TRANSCAER® in Canada will be published in the Spring 2001 issue.

Florida Mini-Workshops

The Florida state TRANSCAER® team has successfully taken their annual conference classroom sessions on the road.

The Team has conducted five mini-workshops. Each mini-workshop consists of four, one hour and forty-five minute sessions. Topics for the workshops come from needs identified by LEPC members and workshop organizers and presenters.

Florida's LEPCs have been instrumental in the mini-workshop's success. The LEPC chooses topics for each session from an available topic listing, promotes the workshop to local emergency response personnel and registers attendees. After completing the workshop, attendees receive a certificate.

Workshop presenters come from local industries and agencies. When putting the mini-workshops together, John Hudson, Florida's TRANSCAER® coordinator, found out

that industry volunteers are available, they just need to be approached. "You'll be surprised what kind of help you get when you ask—most representatives I talked to were delighted to help out," noted Hudson.

In planning the workshops, most of the time was spent exchanging emails to verify dates and speaker availability. With little effort, over one hundred people have taken advantage of the mini-workshop training.

Does your state have an annual conference or training event? Do

your local emergency responders ask for training? What about the LEPC? A mini-workshop may work in your area! Start with something simple and keep it local. Be resourceful, use the TRANSCAER® website for resources and don't be afraid to ask for help. You can do it and you will be amazed at the results!

"You'll be surprised what kind of help you get when you ask"

Training, *continued from cover*

material transportation issues. A primary goal of the TRANSCAER® initiative is to bring together all those who may be involved in a possible hazardous materials transportation incident before the incident occurs.

Examples of some TRANSCAER® events include providing product specific information, training equipment and general TRANSCAER® information to community members, in addition to conducting flow studies or training emergency responders.

If you are planning a TRANSCAER® type event, don't forget to make the TRANSCAER® state coordinator aware of your activities. Doing so will help streamline all our efforts. In addition, entering your event in the TRANSCAER® database on the website will allow others to learn from your efforts.

An important issue when holding an emergency preparedness event is calling it "TRANSCAER®"! The name branding is important because the more it is used, the more your local emergency preparedness effort will be united to a recognized, national initiative. In addition, others will be able to learn from your events and make educated decisions on where to hold their activities. Call it TRANSCAER®, let us know and support the initiative!

For more information on these or other TRANSCAER® events and stories, visit www.transcaer.org.

Show **your** commitment to TRANSCAER®



Use one of the TRANSCAER® booths at your next event. There are two types of booths available, table-top and full size. Both are available **FREE!!!**

For more information, or to request a booth, please contact Renee Milausnic at (703) 741-5303 or renee_milausnic@americanchemistry.com.



TRANSCAER® States Have a Voice on the Web

Ever wonder if there is an active TRANSCAER® program in Illinois? What about Florida? Look no further than the State Pages on the new TRANSCAER® website. These pages provide information on particular state TRANSCAER® implementation activities, as well as contact and benchmarking information.

Each state section includes contact information for those involved with TRANSCAER® in the state, including the state and regional coordinator. The state's mission and goals are also available.

These pages also explain how TRANSCAER® is being implemented in each state. This includes examples of past activities, current activities being planned and successes. Individuals, companies, and/or counties who have significantly contributed to the state TRANSCAER® effort are also recognized in this area.

These pages help state TRANSCAER® team members share information, and allow others to learn from past successes. Take a moment to visit www.transcaer.org.

Online, *continued from cover*

be able to search for events based on location, type of event or both. Users will find out about future and past TRANSCAER® events. This makes the Database a very powerful resource. Event planners will post follow-up comments allowing others the ability to learn from their event's strengths and weaknesses. Future event planners gain a significant edge to hosting successful events.

The Resource section of the website will contain valuable information regarding the implementation of TRANSCAER®. Here users can search through implementation tools and link to other related websites.

The site will also contain an Events Calendar, past editions of the TRANSCAER® Newsletter, TRANSCAER® Award information and stories of TRANSCAER® in action, along with other helpful information.

Your TRANSCAER® website can only be as strong as the information it contains. In order to make it useful to those who make the initiative a reality, the NTTG needs your input. What do you think of the new website? What information is it lacking? What is your favorite, most valuable section? After you explore what it has to offer, send the NTTG your comments online under Contact Us.

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