



**REGION 6 REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM (RRT)  
SEMI - ANNUAL REPORT**

**Period: July, 1998 - December, 1998**

**The United States/Mexico Joint Response Team**

The United States/Mexico Joint Response Team (JRT) meeting was held in San Antonio, Texas on 23-24 September 1998. The Bexar and Cameron County Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) hosted the meeting and sponsored two (2) well attended events.

There was active meeting participation by the JRT members, On-Scene Coordinators (OSC), LEPC members, and representatives from U.S. industry. Issues discussed were contingency planning activities, linking the JRT with other workgroups under Border XXI, updating the JRT Implementation Plan, the Spanish version of CAMEO, JRT outreach activities and JRT marketing efforts.

The Laredo, Texas and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas Cross Border Contingency Plan (Sister City Plan) was signed on 21 December 1998. Laredo and Nuevo Laredo joined Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Eagle Pass, Texas and Piedras Negras, Coahuila with completed Sister City Plans.

EPA work continued on four (4) more Sister City plans - McAllen, Texas and Reynosa, Tamaulipas; Del Rio, Texas and Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila; Presidio, Texas and Ojinaga, Chihuahua; and El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua.

The floods from hurricane Charlie impacted the Del Rio, Texas/Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila area severely. To assist the area, the Eagle Pass, Texas and Piedras Negras, Coahuila Sister City plan was successfully activated.

The Spanish version of CAMEO was successfully contractor beta tested in Harlingen, Texas

**The Region 6 Regional Response Team**

The Region 6 Regional Response Team (RRT) meeting was held in San Antonio, Texas on September 20-22 1998. The Bexar County LEPC hosted the meeting. There was an 80% increase in attendance as compared to previous RRT meetings.

The EPA moderated panel discussions with industry, LEPC, SERC representatives and OSC participation. The panel discussions were very active and were significant in that a number of issues were debated. There were presentations by industry-, state and federal organizations.

The Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 112r Risk Management Plan (RMP) was discussed at length with the EPA making a complete and tutorially oriented presentation.

The Corpus Christi project was presented to several industries in the Corpus Christi, Texas area for beta testing. The Corpus Christi project is a NRT/IRRT6 collaborative effort to explore the potential for promoting the Integrated Contingency planning concept through the use of electronic media (Internet).

Texas A & M University at Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) will manage the project with substantial assistance from the Nueces County LEPC. Nueces County LEPC has been a prime mover for the project. Expectations are that testing will start in the first quarter of 1999. In September 1998, EPA Region 6 introduced the upcoming Regional Integrated Contingency Plan (RICP).

Using an electronic format, the new RICP will incorporate the inland Regional and Area Contingency Plans into a single document as well as links of EPA's roles and responsibilities under ESF #10, Joint Integrated Contingency Plan (JICP) and terrorist incidents. The beta test version of the RICP is available on the Internet for review and comments.

The Internet address is <http://www.fbtc.net/~Mmcornel>. RRT members were encouraged to review the document and post their comments to the OSC, the RRT Co-chairs and the computer team.

If the RICP is acceptable to a majority of the RRT6 members, the beta test version will be formatted for public posting on the EPA Region 6 Home Page. The new RICP is the result of broad review of the old plans and general rework by EPA and Coast Guard personnel.

Programs to be developed and assigned to the RRT standing committees included In-shore dispersant use in Galveston Bay; in-situ burning pre-authorization; regional review of the electronic ICP; Industry Workgroup formation, investigation of liability coverage for industry responders; setting up an annual regional conference for first responders (i.e. Continuing Challenge); RRT agencies' services/resources inventory availability to OSC's, and Research Review Panel establishment.

The creation of an ad-hoc industry workgroup to work on special projects for the RRT and to work with the standing committees of the RRT on committee programs was discussed.

A steering committee with representatives from industry, state agencies and federal agencies met in Dallas, Texas in December 1998 to establish the parameters for such a workgroup and to prepare a resolution to that effect for the RRT. A resolution was drafted and presented to the RRT6 at the semi-annual meeting in New Orleans on January 21, 1999.

The resolution was passed unanimously and the Region 6 Executive Secretariat will provide the connectivity between the RRT6 and the Industry Workgroup