



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

Period: January, 1999 – June, 1999

The Region 6 Regional Response Team (RRT) meeting was held in League City, Texas on June 28 through July 1, 1999. The Harris County LEPC and the Galveston County LEPC hosted the meeting. There were 242 registrants from Federal and State RRT agencies, LEPC's, first responders and industry.

The EPA, industry, FBI and FEMA moderated panel discussions with industry, LEPC, OSC's, State and Federal representatives on Y21K, counter-terrorism, electronic contingency planning, LEPC outreach, first responder training initiative and inland in-situ burning. The panel discussions were very active and were significant in that a number of issues were debated. There were presentations by industry, LEPC's, state and federal organizations.

The Corpus Christi project progress was presented to the RRT. The Corpus Christi project is a NRT/RRT6 collaborative effort to explore the potential for promoting the Integrated Contingency planning concept through the use of electronic media. Texas A & M University at Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) is managing the project with substantial assistance from the Nueces County LEPC. Beta testing results to date were favorably reported.

The ad-hoc industry work group (IWG) steering committee was introduced at the RRT meeting. The steering committee chair moderated a panel discussion relating to industry initiated projects in consonance with the RRT. Following dynamic discussions from meeting participants, the IWG steering committee received several projects to initiate with start date efforts in September 1999.

The initial primary effort will be directed toward more extensive outreach programs and electronic contingency planning. Programs to be developed and assigned to the RRT standing committees included in-situ burning pre-authorization; regional review of the electronic RICP (currently undergoing beta testing); RRT agencies' services/resources inventory availability to OSC's; and Research Review Panel establishment.

Continued study of In-shore dispersant use in Galveston Bay has coincided with the Galveston Bay Ecological Risk Assessment (GBERA). The Region 6 S&T Committee will await the conclusion of GBERA to determine if there are any lessons to be learned that can be applied region-wide regarding dispersant preapproval. The Texas General Land Office presented the GBERA process at the RRT meeting.

Three (3) abandoned barges with pollutants have been removed under the joint agreement involving Region 6 EPA, 8th District USCG and the State of Louisiana. The EPA with USCG support conducted the removal of the barge contents and the State of Louisiana removed the barges.

The Spanish version of CAMEO is being taught in five cities along the Texas-Mexico border. Two-day Emergency Preparedness Workshops for LEPC's, small business, local and state planning and response personnel are being conducted in Brownsville, Laredo, Del Rio and El Paso, Texas. FEMA Region 6 and EPA Region 6 provided training services using Cher-Cap in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

The EPA contractor conducted a commodity flow study at the Santa Teresa border crossing and along the 1-10/1-25 corridor around Las Cruces, New Mexico. Over 109 commodity loaded trucks were inspected