Region 6
Emergency Preparedness and Response at the US/Mexico Border
EPA Region 6
US / Mexico Border

U.S.A.
New Mexico
Texas

Mexico
Chihuahua
Coahuila
Nuevo Leon
Tamaulipas
Region 6 Priorities for 2005

- Update existing local contingency plans (Sister City Plans)
- Provide training to local first responders
- Conduct binational exercises to test and improve Local and Federal Contingency Plans
- Perform risk analysis of hazardous chemicals that may pose a threat to local communities.
EPA Region 06
Accomplishments FY 04 / 05’

- 7 binational forums on emergency preparedness and response
- 1 binational emergency response plan signed;
  - 8 total plans in place; 1 is ongoing

- 2 Border ER Task Force Workshops conducted:
  - Texas/New Mexico/Chihuahua area
  - Texas/Coahuila/Nuevo Leon/Tamaulipas area

- Several high profile, binational hazardous material exercises
- Bilingual technical training on a variety of preparedness, disaster management, and emergency response topics
Activity Definitions

- **Commodity Flow Studies** provide baseline information concerning the transportation of hazardous materials.
- **Sister City Plans** provide first responders a tool in improving coordination, communication, and response.
- **International Exercises** address the movement of resources in a cross-border response.
- **Joint Response Team** is a binational team of federal, state, and local agencies from the US and Mexico that is responsible for coordinating emergency preparedness and response along the US / Mexico Border.
Commodity Flow Studies

- El Paso, Texas
- Eagle Pass, Texas
- Cameron County, Texas
  - Brownsville Veteran’s Bridge
  - Los Indios Free Trade Bridge
Local Sister City Plans

- Brownsville/Matamoros - May 2002 - Revised
- Weslaco/Rio Bravo - April 2003
- McAllen/Reynosa - December 2005 - Revised
- Laredo/Nuevo Laredo - December 2001
- Eagle Pass/Piedras Negras – March 1998
- Del Rio/Ciudad Acuna - August 2001
- Presidio/Ojinaga – February 2004
- El Paso/Ciudad Juarez (Pending)
- Columbus/Las Palomas – November 2002
Since September 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 has been involved in eight (8) binational field exercises along the border region.
Binational Exercise Training

Topics:

- Incident/Unified Command
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Decontamination
- Identification of Hazardous Materials
- FRP, NRP, NIMS
- CBRN Response
- Spanish CAMEO
- FOG Manual Spanish
- HazMat Training
- WMD/CST
- Hospital Decontamination
Region 6 Border 2012
Future Activities

- Field / Table Top Exercise
  - El Paso / Juarez - 06’
- Notification System Drill
  - NRC / CENACOM - 06’
- EPA Border Crossing Response Drill
  - Laredo / Nuevo Laredo - 06’
- MOU / Sister City Plan – El Paso / Juarez
- LEPC / CLAM Taskforce Workshops
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