



DAYTON, OHIO REGIONAL HAZ-MAT RESPONSE TEAM NEWSLETTER

February 2006

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ERG vs. MSDS

When operating at an incident we should attempt to make decisions based on information we have gathered and confirmed. First arriving units will sometimes have very little information and may even need to assemble a Recon Team to gather any information at all. Once you have gathered your information, what are you going to do with it?

One of your first steps may be to consult the Emergency Response Guidebook (**ERG**). If you look in the lower right-hand corner of the front cover you will find this statement, "A Guidebook for First Responders During the Initial Phase of a Hazardous Materials Incident." If we look deeper into this statement it is quite evident that you (we) are First Responders, but what is the initial phase of an incident? We can safely say the ERG is not intended to be used in place of chemical or material specific information and data. The ERG will aid the first responder in quickly identifying generic hazards and help in making decisions to protect responders and the general public during the initial phase of the operation. You should seek additional information about the material you are attempting to control. You may need to contact and communicate with the manufacturer or the end user of the product.

Every effort should be made to obtain a copy of the Material Safety Data Sheet (**MSDS**) for the material. The MSDS may be available from the carrier in a transportation incident or from the occupant at a fixed facility. If these sources don't work out contact CHEMTREC

or one of the other emergency phone numbers listed in the back of the ERG.

After securing the MSDS the first step should be to confirm that this is the correct MSDS for the material that has been released or the one you are dealing with. If the MSDS describes the product as a greenish, yellow gas and you are looking at a red liquid, you may just have the wrong MSDS. Next thing should be to consult the reactivity section of the MSDS. Look for things that can cause violent, explosive or any other type of reaction that could cause a container to fail or otherwise ruin your whole day. The use of a chemical or MSDS dictionary may be necessary to interpret the information correctly.

Proceed cautiously no matter what your data says and question everyone involved. Remember, we should not be in a hurry when there are no victims or potential victims to deal with.

Training

February Training

February training will be conducted by **Brian A. Mitchell, Compliance Manager, Spill Team Leader** at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. We will be at the Dayton FD Training Center on McFadden Ave. which is off of Springfield Street.

The *Thursday Evening Training* will be conducted at Beaver Creek FD Station 3 on Kemp Road, east of North Fairfield Road

2006 Training Schedule

February 16-17-18

0900-1200 hours

Dayton Fire Training Center

Hazardous Waste Operations

Presenter: Brian Mitchell, WPAFB

February 16

1830-2130 hours

Beavercreek FD Station 3

March 16-17-18

0900-1200 hours

Tour DuPont Facility

March 16

1830-2130 hours

April 20-21-22

With Dayton Bomb Squad

Location TBA

0900-1200 hours

April 20

1830-2130 hours

May 18-19-20

0900-1700 hours

All day Tech. Refresher

No Thursday Evening Training

June 15-16-17

0900-1200 hours

June 15

1830-2130 hours

July 20-21-22

0900-1200 hours

July 20

1830-2130 hours

August 17-18-19

0900-1200 hours

August 17

1830-2130 hours

September 21-22-23

0900-1700 hours

All day Tech. Refresher

No Thursday Evening Training

October 19-20-21

0900-1200 hours

October 19

1830-2130 hours

November 16-17-18

0900-1200 hours

November 16

1830-2130 hours

December

No Training