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# DAYTON, OHIO REGIONAL HAZ-MAT RESPONSE TEAM NEWSLETTER

June 2006

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## **Is it really Gasoline?**

Our buddy, Brian Mitchell, passed along the following info. (Thanks, Charlie!)

In a [Safety Alert](#) dated April 26, the U.S. DOT announced that new ethanol/gasoline blends pose substantially different hazards than gasoline. And these hazards may not be appropriately communicated under the hazardous materials rules. With the increased use of ethanol in fuel blends (including the popular E85 fuels that are 15% gasoline and 85% ethanol), this is posing an issue for hazmat transportation.

On an interim basis, the [Safety Alert](#) provides guidance on the proper shipping name to use for various mixtures and on appropriate emergency response.

### Proper Shipping Names

Although no existing names seem perfect for the new fuels, DOT has published the following preferences for naming gasoline/ethanol mixtures:

- Ethanol mixtures with up to 5% gasoline may be shipped as "Alcohols, n.o.s., 3, UN1987" or, domestically only, as "Denatured alcohol, 3, NA1987." This is allowed under special provision 172.
- Gasoline with up to 20% ethanol may be shipped as "Gasohol, 3, NA1203."
- Gasoline ethanol mixtures between 20-95% ethanol should be shipped as "Flammable liquid, n.o.s. (ethanol, gasoline), 3, UN1993."

DOT recognizes that emergency response guides for the latter two names both allow fires

to be extinguished with non alcohol resistant foams. They have advised first responders to follow the 2004 Emergency Response Guidebook guide 127 when responding to incidents involving fuel that may contain > 10% alcohol. Shippers are required to provide emergency response information appropriate to the specific hazards of the material they ship, and may wish to follow the same DOT guidance.

### **Hazard Differences**

Ethanol differs from gasoline in quite a few ways. Some of these differences make it more dangerous. Some make it less. Key differences include:

- Anyone who has ever thought to consume them knows that ethanol is less toxic than gasoline. However, since most ethanol fuels contain both ethanol and gasoline, this only reduces toxicity slightly.
- Ethanol is water soluble and can break down common non-alcohol resistant fire suppressing foams. Gasoline fires can be fought with any fire suppressing foam.
- Gasoline is an electrical insulator. Ethanol conducts electricity and is therefore more likely to ignite by electrical spark.

When it comes to DOT regulations responders must beware. The first page of the regulations dictates that each and every product will be properly identified; the remainder of the standard is exceptions and special provisions to page one.

## Training

### Forty Hour Technician Class

A *40 Hour Haz-Mat Technician Class* will be held on July 8, 9, 15, 16, 2006. Starting time is 0800 hours. This class will be held at the Cedarville Twp. Fire Department. Please contact the Coordinator for additional information. All new members who are not Technician certified are encouraged to attend this course. The Team Guidelines require members to achieve the Technician level during their first year on the roster.

June training will be conducted at **Appleton Papers, West Carrollton Mill, located at 1030 W. Alex Road 45449**. Park in the visitor's lot off of W. Alex Rd .and meet at the Guardhouse. All members need eye protection and a hard hat. Appleton uses a large amount of Chlorine. We will take a tour of the Mill and practice installing our Chlorine C Kit on their railcars.

### 2006 Training Schedule

#### June 15-16-17

0900-1200 hours, at Appleton Papers

June 15

1830-2130 hours, at Beavercreek Station 3

#### 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

**CAMEO review**

0900-1200 hours

November 16

1830-2130 hours

#### December

No Training