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The Spring is the time of year that we, as an Association, must review of Federal Emergency Response Assistance Plan (ERAP) in order to update the program the process, the contacts and so on. This exercise is always an administrative challenge to get completed. In any case let me back up to give you a flavour of the ERAP and how it relates to Associations.

From the Federal TDG Regulations – Part 7

#### 7.1 Requirement for an Emergency Response Assistance Plan (ERAP)

(1) A person who offers for transport or imports a consignment of dangerous goods must have an approved emergency response assistance plan when the quantity of dangerous goods exceeds the ERAP limit referred to in subsection (4).

This has been an area of confusion for our membership for some time. The term “offer to transport” in essence refers to the company or person who has control of the dangerous good in question (in our case explosives) and may use others for transport. In our industry this would refer to the seismic company, the project management company, or drill push that controls the explosives magazine and dolls out the explosives to the drillers. Generally the drillers do not require an ERAP except in a circumstance where they may control the job and ultimately may be supplying the drill push.

The Federal Government has worked closely with a number of Associations over the past few years to encourage Association based ERAP’s thus ensuring somewhat of a generic approach by companies in the same business genre. The CAGC provides the catalyst to ensure a situation involving explosives is handling quickly and correctly.

Each company provides the CAGC with Emergency Response Contacts for their company. The CAGC maintains written commitments from each of the four explosive companies to provide technical assistance within regulated allowances within Canada as it pertains to their own products.

In the event of an emergency call regarding a transportation accident involving explosives, respond as follows:

1. Immediately obtain the name and call back number of the caller in the event telephone contact is disrupted.
2. During work hours the C.A.G.C. office, or after hours the twenty-four answering service (as the case may be), will give the caller the names and phone numbers of the involved prime contractors Response Management Team (R.M.T.). Either have the caller remain on hold while contact with the R.M.T. is being made or

if preferred; the caller may wish to contact the prime contractors' Response Management Team personally. This ends the emergency response responsibility of the C.A.G.C. receptionist and/or the 24-hour answering service.

Response Management Team's (R.M.T.) Responsibilities: The R.M.T. will request the information, as shown on the situation appraisal form, from the caller. Once the information has been completed, the R.M.T. will notify their regional response coordinators who will then following the instructions received from the Resource Management Team.

#### SITUATION APPRAISAL

Upon receiving a call or report about a Transportation Emergency the following information must be obtained:

- Name of Caller
- Phone
- Prime Contractor's Name
- Location of Emergency
- Products Involved
  - Trade Name
  - Quantity
- Manufacturer or Distributor's Name

#### PLAN ACTIVATION

The CAGC maintains a 24-hour emergency number. When an emergency call is phoned in, the person receiving the call will record the name and call back number of the caller. The caller should expect to be in communication with the responder within a short period of time. The caller may remain on hold while contact is being made with a regional response coordinator or the person receiving the call may have the necessary training to activate the emergency response plan. If required, the caller may contact one of the explosive suppliers for assistance.

The CAGC provides all ERAP member companies with ERAP business cards for their filed personnel to carry on their person. These cards outline the situation appraisal questions and provide the 24-hour numbers to reach the CAGC and the four explosive companies.

The CAGC conducts quarterly testing of our ERAP member responsiveness. These include testing of receptionists and/or phone answering personnel during normal business hours. In addition the CAGC tests after-hours contacts of its ERAP members as part of its commitment to the Federal TDG system.

The ERAP system is required by law under Section 7.1 of the TDG Regulations. It is imperative that companies working for you in such a situation have a valid ERAP number. These may be verified through the CAGC should you wish to verify validity of such. Our numbers begin CAGC ERP2-0150- XXX. Each member company with an

ERAP has its own 3-digit number. Failure to have a valid ERAP number not only breaks the law but also causes liability to be pushed back to the client. Be careful out there.

**From The Thursday Files:**

*Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidise it.*

**Ronald Reagan**