



THE HOT ZONE

Official Newsletter of the North Carolina Association of
Hazardous Materials Responders

Spring 2011

OUR NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the NCAHMR newsletter, "The Hot Zone". Hazmat responders can now stay updated between NCAHMR meetings via this quarterly publication. If you have any information to include in the newsletter, please forward to Secretary Tim Hartsell at jhartsell@ci.charlotte.nc.us

WEBSITE UPDATE



Visit www.nchazmat.com to access our enhanced website with many user-friendly features. We would also like to thank Joey Davis for his many years of service to the NCAHMR as Webmaster. Due to the recent expansion of his duties as Chief of the Tryon Fire Department to include serving as Town Planner, he has "passed the torch" of NCAHMR Webmaster to Past President A.C. Rich. We are also continuing to work on the roll-out of a "Members' Only" section to allow NCAHMR Members to access and share pertinent information. We appreciate your patience as there has been an extended phase-in duration due to ensuring that the Members' Only section will perform as needed and the login assignments will seamlessly operate. Stay tuned for news of the roll-out in the near future. Also, please remember that the website is only as good as the information that is provided for inclusion. Forward any information, pictures, training information, or other items to Webmaster A.C. Rich at ac_rich@mindspring.com

MEETING DATES/LOCATIONS



May 6, 2011 **11:00 a.m.** - At the NCSFRI Conference in Asheville (Crowne Plaza Resort)

August 11, 2011 **1:30 p.m.** - At the SAFRE Conference in Raleigh

Meetings convene at 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY OF FIRE RESCUE INSTRUCTORS CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES



Please make plans to attend the North Carolina Society of Fire Rescue Instructors Conference in Asheville, North Carolina

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/FireAndRescueCommission/FR_instructor_conference.asp

NCAHMR May Meeting – May 6, 2011 at 11:00 a.m., at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Asheville

"Sacrifice or Safety, Why Must We Choose?" session, sponsored by the NCAHMR – May 6, 2011 1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m., Dogwood Room at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Asheville.

TRAINING CALENDAR



Hazmat Technician

Charlotte Fire Department May 16 – 27, 2011

TRANSCAER Anhydrous Ammonia/Railroad Training

May 2, 2011 Chocowinity
May 7, 2011 Greensboro

ASTM E2458-06 SAMPLING STANDARD

As hazmat teams in North Carolina continue to respond to calls involving unknown products that may present biological hazards, the need for the development of a consistent biological sampling standard has come to the forefront. In response to this identified need, the NCAHMR has formed a working group to develop such a sampling standard. The working group - chaired by Garry McCormick of the Charlotte Fire Department - has determined that the ASTM International (formerly American Society for Testing and Materials) E2458-06 Sampling Standard would serve well as a sampling standard to be considered for support by the NCAHMR. The intent of the sampling standard would be to provide a model standard that could be voluntarily adopted by hazmat teams in North Carolina to ensure safe, accurate, and consistent sampling. A summary of the salient points of the ASTM Standard is as follows, including the differences between the ASTM and NC Public Health Preparedness and Response Standards that currently exist:

- While the ASTM Standard allows for the conduction of field assays utilizing swab samples, the PHP&R Standard precludes the use of field assays.
- The ASTM Standard requires the use of CDC Laboratory Response Network (LRN) labs.
- Both standards require screening for radiation and explosives.
- Both standards regard testing of “credible threats”.
- The ASTM Standard applies only to solid, nonporous surfaces.
- The ASTM Standard references a limited sampling area (20cm x 20cm).
- The ASTM Standard utilizes the concept of “Clean Person” and “Dirty Person” in two-person sampling teams.
- Whereas the PHP&R Standard utilizes bulk, large bulk, swab, and wipe Samples, the ASTM Standard utilizes bulk sampling followed by a swab sample to collect product for possible field assays.
- ASTM Standard sampling procedure:

Bulk A Procedure:

- Swab and sterile laminated card is utilized to transfer sample into sterile collection container (specimen container) with minimization of aerosolization and sample loss.
- Sample collection container with sample and laminated card is placed in 1 gal. self-sealing plastic bag.
- Source of powder (letter or small package) is placed in a 1 gal. self-sealing plastic bag and then double-bagged in another if source fits.
- Swab used to transfer sample is placed into original tube and bagged.
- Sampling may be repeated to capture all powder in up to a 20cm x 20cm area.
- All plastic bags are placed in a sample transport container and carried to the decontamination area, properly decontaminated with a bleach solution, and then placed in separate self-sealing plastic bags with a chain of custody maintained.

Bulk B Procedure

- Utilized to collect residual powder for field assay (biological screening and presumptive testing).
- Sterile solutions for moistening swab are pre-prepared (0.5mL Phosphate Buffered Saline Solution with 0.1% “Tween-20” and possibly buffer solution recommended by biological sampling device manufacturer).
- Sterile culture swab is moistened in proper buffer vial, then S- or Z-strokes are used to sample product. Swab is then rotated and process is repeated. Area sampled should be less than 400cm² (64in²).
- Swab is then placed in original tube, bagged, decontaminated, and then placed in another self-sealing plastic bag.

A summary of the working group benchmarks and future actions are as follows:

- Base procedures development is ongoing.
- Sampling order list and documentation sheet have been developed.
- A list of consumable supplies has been developed.
- Recommended training standards almost complete.
- A draft version of the standard should be distributed on or before the May Meeting for comment .

TRAINING AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT



The Training and Outreach Committee is working on the upcoming Hazmat Challenge, which will be held on Saturday, August 13th at the SAFRE Conference in Raleigh, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The content of the Challenge is being revamped to provide challenging and entertaining evolutions for all. Registration information and Challenge rules will be shortly forthcoming.



NEXT GENERATION RAIL TANK CAR FITTINGS CHLORINE RAILCAR INFORMATION

The NCAHMR has discussed the evolution and implementation of enhanced fittings technologies for twenty-five chlorine railcars in the recent past. The most recent information concerning these railcars and the mitigation of leaks from same utilizing the Chlorine "C" Kit can be found at:

<http://www.chlorineinstitute.org/files/PDFs/CHLOREP%20BULLETIN%2020110124%20NRTC%20CKit%20Final%20%28Rev%20%29.pdf>



NATIONAL HAZMAT FUSION CENTER UPDATE

Unfortunately, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) recently advised the International Association of Fire Chiefs that due to budget considerations, all Hazmat Fusion Center activities shall be ceased. It is not known if the cessation of activities will be temporary or is a permanent action. This announcement was a shock to all persons involved with the Fusion Center. As the loss of this great resource at such a pivotal time and as the inherent programs were making a large impact on the hazmat community would be felt throughout the nation, please voice your support if the occasion arises. Hopefully this shutdown will be temporary, and further information will be provided when available. The Web Portal is still currently accessible at www.hazmatfc.com