



CROSS BORDER CONTINGENCY PLAN

U.S./MEXICO SISTER CITIES

Brownsville, Texas

Harlingen, Texas

Matamoros, Tamaulipas

Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas

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BROWNSVILLE/HARLINGEN, TEXAS and
MATAMOROS/VALLE HERMOSO, TAMAULIPAS

2015

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This contingency plan between the cities of Brownsville/Harlingen and Matamoros/Valle Hermoso is the second update of the original plan signed on May 6, 1997 and updated on May 13, 2002. This update was funded by an EPA Border 2012 grant awarded to the City of Brownsville.

CROSS BORDER CONTINGENCY PLAN

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE CITIES OF BROWNSVILLE /HARLINGEN, TEXAS, UNITED STATES, AND MATAMOROS/VALLE HERMOSO, TAMAULIPAS, MEXICO

FORWARD

Whereas the Federal governments of the United States of America and Mexico have recognized that it is advantageous for each to share resources and manpower in times of national disasters, so too the cities of Brownsville/Harlingen in Texas, and the cities of Matamoros/Valle Hermoso, in Tamaulipas, recognize their need to cooperate with each other in times of local disasters.

In the event of a disaster of serious proportions which may require a great deal of coordination and cooperation, a plan between these cities to meet emergencies and disasters will assure a full and effective utilization of resources and manpower essential to the safety, care and welfare of all people, property and environment within the two affected federal boundaries.

This standard Operating Procedure (SOP) provides an outline of the immediate action to be taken by elected and appointed officials, and organizations which would be involved dependent on the extent and nature of the disaster.

When a disaster has been declared, this SOP will not supersede any local, state, or Federal plan in effect, and authority of any local, state or regional plans still lies with the respective municipalities.

Moreover, nothing within this SOP, including but not limited to the attached Memorandum of Understanding and appendices, is intended as legally binding.

This Cross Border Contingency Plan will become an annex to existing city, state, regional and federal plans and an emergency under this plan will be declared if the severity and geography of the event warrant outside support services.

All regional, county, and local municipal elected and appointed officials with emergency responsibilities should be fully knowledgeable of the content of this document and be prepared to fulfill their responsibilities when requested.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON CROSS BORDER COMMUNICATIONS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE
STRATEGIES BETWEEN THE CITIES OF BROWNSVILLE/HARLINGEN, TEXAS /
AND MATAMOROS/VALLE HERMOSO, TAMAULIPAS, IN THE CASE OF AN
ACCIDENTAL RELEASE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND OTHER HAZARDS**

Due to the threat to the public health and safety of the communities of Brownsville/Harlingen, Texas and Matamoros/Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas, from the accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment, and natural disasters, this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is intended to reinforce the cooperation between the cities to be able to respond more efficiently to these hazards. The cities of Brownsville/Harlingen and Matamoros/Valle Hermoso have agreed to provide mutual cooperation to effectively respond to these releases as well as properly and timely notifying counterpart agencies in the event of an incident on either side of the border.

The following statement of principles is intended to be used as a guide to civil emergency authorities in both countries:

1. Nothing in this MOU is intended to revoke or diminish the application of United States law in the United States, or Mexican law in Mexico.

2. The agencies of all cities charged with emergency responsibilities will seek to ensure that in areas of common concern, plans of the cities for the emergency use of manpower, material resources, supplies, systems, and services shall, where feasible and practicable, be compatible. To this end, a bi-national exercise will be conducted at least every two years to evaluate the coordination of the sister cities' contingency plans.

3. Necessary personnel would work under the direction of supervisors and the assigned equipment, under ordinary circumstances, will be operated by the personnel of the city providing the assistance. The general directions related to work will be given by the authorized persons for the group receiving aid. The Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) for the spill receiving the assistance will be responsible for providing the necessary materials, food, shelter, temporary housing, gasoline and lubricants for the equipment any other such items needed to respond adequately, at the job site for the personnel lending their services.

4. In agreement with this MOU the cities mentioned above will provide voluntarily and to the extent possible support to implement actions to mitigate environmental contingencies.

5. With the exception of the ruling to carry out the assistance mentioned above, no other party in this agreement will be required to pay compensation to the other group, for services rendered. The mutual advantage and protection given by this agreement is of mutual consideration.

6. Each party agrees to retain responsibility for any act or omission of its own fire personnel during such time that said personnel are serving in the jurisdiction of any party for assistance pursuant to the terms of this agreement.

7. Every two years, the parties will examine the present agreement and contingency plan in light of its application, in order to decide if it must be modified. Nevertheless, the parties may examine this matter and propose changes to the other parties by personal service or registered mail. Changes will be considered effective starting on the date of the amendments' signing by all parties.

8. Any party to this agreement may withdraw at any time, giving thirty days' prior written notice to all the parties. On the thirty-first day after the notice, such withdrawal will become effective.

9. Any party may change its service address by five days' written notice to each of the other parties. On the sixth day after the notice, such change of address is effective.

10. Notice of withdrawal and change of address shall be served by personal service or by the respective party's Postal Service certified mail, addressed to:

Mayor, City of Brownsville, P.O. Box 911, Brownsville, TX, USA, 78522

Mayor, City of Harlingen, 118 E. Tyler Street, Harlingen, TX, USA, 78550

Presidente Municipal, Calle Sexta González y Morelos s/n, Zona Centro, H. Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México, C.P, 87300

Presidente Municipal, Calle Ing. Eduardo Chavez entre Tamaulipas e Hidalgo, Cd. Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas, Mexico, C.P. 87500

In witness, whereof, this Agreement has been executed on the 29th day of September, 2016.

Antonio 'Tony' Martinez
Mayor
Brownsville, Texas

Chris Boswell
Mayor
Harlingen, Texas

Lic. Norma Leticia Salazar Vazquez
Presidente Municipal
H. Matamoros, Tamaulipas

Ing. Jose Luis Hernandez Castellon
Presidente Municipal
Cd. Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas

"Approved as to Form and Legality
This 28 day of SEPT 2016
T. SAMPECK
Title ASST CITY ATTY
Office of the Brownsville City Attorney"

100 INTRODUCTION

In January 1988, the United States of America and the United Mexican States signed the Joint United States of America - United Mexican States Contingency Plan for Accidental Releases of Hazardous Substances along the Border. The Joint Contingency Plan (JCP) provides a framework for cooperation between Mexico and the United States in response to an accidental chemical release incident that may pose a significant threat to both countries, and that affects one country to such an extent that assistance is necessary. As a part of the preparedness and response component of the JCP, a Sister Cities program was established, which pairs 28 cities along opposite sides of the U.S./Mexico border from California through Texas. This program calls for the preparation of Sister City Hazardous Materials Incident Contingency Plans for each of 15 the pairs of cities.

This document is a first step in the preparation of a joint contingency plan for the Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Tamaulipas area, which includes the cities of Harlingen and Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas. It represents a summary of the hazardous materials notification and response protocols in place for Brownsville/Harlingen, Texas, Matamoros/Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas, and other jurisdictions, as promulgated by local plans. This plan specifically addresses the requirement under the JCP to prepare Sister City plans. It is not intended to replace or supplant any other plans in effect in the region, but is designed to aid in a bi-national response to hazardous materials emergencies, natural disasters, or other disasters or hazards that may affect the border.

This plan at no time usurps existing federal, state, county, regional, or municipal plans within the jurisdictional boundary addressed by this plan.

If the region affected declares an emergency under this plan to be in effect, the municipality affected will, subject to its own disaster plan, inform State and Federal officials, as identified in their respective plans. The Cross Border Contingency Plan is activated for the short term only and it will provide specifics for the coordination of resources and equipment.

The initial and prime responsibility for providing immediate assistance rests with the city, county or regional government affected. It is at this level that services such as fire, police, health, and social services, public works, and public utilities are located. An emergency under the Cross Border Contingency Plan may be declared when (1) a city, county or region so requests the head of government, (2) the emergency, due to geography, may dictate evacuation into a neighboring region, (3) that the city, county or region affected may request mutual aid support, supplying manpower, resources, social services, fire, public works, emergency health services, and other specialized expertise as deemed necessary by the affected municipality, or (4) the emergency may affect a neighboring municipality, county, or region.

The Plan promotes timely and effective coordination and response between private sectors (industry, other potentially responsible parties and citizens) and public sectors (local, state, and federal governments). The primary objective of the plan is to develop communication capabilities and encourage coordination of independent response resources acting within local jurisdictions.

The plan aids understanding of regional capabilities and resources and provides a background for planning coordination with state and local officials. Secondary objectives include the development of notification systems between response organizations in the different countries, and developing international mutual aid agreements. The secondary objectives are being addressed through ongoing cooperative efforts between local planners in Brownsville/ Harlingen, Texas and Matamoros/Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA Region 6), the Mexican Civil Protection Agency (Protección Civil), the Mexican Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) and the Secretaria de Gobernación. (SEGOB)

101 Brownsville/Harlingen, Texas and Matamoros/Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas Area

This plan covers the U.S./Mexico Sister City pair of Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, as well as the cities of Harlingen, Texas and Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas which is located just to the southwest of Matamoros (Figure 1).

Brownsville is the seat of Cameron County and is located in South Texas at latitude 25.55⁰N and longitude 97.30⁰W (Figure 2). Brownsville is the 16th largest city in the state of Texas and the 131st largest in the United States. As of April 1, 2010 the population was 175,023 as per the 2010 census. Brownsville is also the southernmost city in Texas and largest by both population and geographic size in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Brownsville is the principal city of the Brownsville–Harlingen Metropolitan Statistical Area. Brownsville has three international bridges: The Brownsville & Matamoros International Bridge (B&M), known locally as the "Old Bridge", Gateway International Bridge, known locally as the "new bridge" despite the fact that it's no longer the city's newest international bridge, Veteran's International Bridge at Los Tomates, or locally simply known as the "Los Tomates" or "Veteran's" bridge. Brownsville has its own city-owned airport, the Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport. Brownsville is served by the following U.S. Highways: U.S. Route 77 to Kingsville, Corpus Christi (U.S. 77 is a proposed part of the North American Free Trade Agreement's future Interstate 69), U.S. Route 83 to McAllen and U.S. Route 281 to Edinburg. The Rio Grande River is an integral component of the physical environment of the Sister Cities.

Harlingen is a city in Cameron County in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley of south Texas, United States, about 30 miles (48 km) from the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. The city covers more than 34 square miles (88 km²), and is the second largest city in Cameron County and the sixth largest in the Rio Grande Valley. As of the 2010 Census the city had a total population of 64,849 and grew 12.5% since the 2000 Census. It is also the city with the least expensive cost of living in the United States.

Harlingen is a principal city of the Brownsville–Harlingen metropolitan area, which is part of the larger Brownsville-Harlingen-Raymondville combined statistical area, included in the Matamoros–Brownsville metropolitan area.

Matamoros is a city in the northeast of the Mexican state of Tamaulipas. It is located at 25°52'N 97°30'W 25.867°N 97.5°W, across the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo) from Brownsville, Texas in the

United States. In the 2010 census the city of Matamoros had a population of 493,308. Matamoros is located across the Rio Grande River, southwest of Brownsville. By highway, the Sister Cities are approximately 275 miles southeast of San Antonio, Texas and 210 miles northeast of Monterrey, Mexico.

The climate is subtropical and humid with an average annual temperature of 74⁰F. The average summer temperature is 84⁰F, while the average winter temperature is 60⁰F. Average annual humidity is 75 percent. Prevailing winds are from the southeast at 15 mph. Rainfall averages about 25 inches per year, and even though the construction of dams and levees has mitigated most of the flood problems posed by sudden storms in the study area, hurricanes from the Gulf of Mexico may occasionally cause heavy rainfall and flooding. Flooding could pose a significant hazard due to the existence of some chemical facilities within the 100-year floodplain. Flooding of these facilities could result in the contamination of local waterways, including the Rio Grande River (U.S. EPA, 1992).

Valle Hermoso is a city in the northeastern part of the Mexican State of Tamaulipas, immediately southwest of Matamoros. At the census of 2010 the city had a population of 48,918 inhabitants.

The municipality of Valle Hermoso is located in the northeastern part of the State of Tamaulipas and belongs to the sub region Reynosa No. 2. The municipality covers an area of 916.43 square kilometers, accounting for 2.2% of the state total and is bordered on the north and east and southwest with the municipality of Matamoros and west and southwest by the Rio Grande.

The municipal seat is located in the city of Valle Hermoso, located at the 25°40' north latitude and 97°49' west longitude at an altitude of 27 meters above sea level. It is divided into 57 localities, most important are: Colonia Agricola, The Realito, Agricultural Colonia Anahuac, Town Empalme Ejido Ignacio Manuel Altamirano and Agricultural Colony Magueyes. The climate is semi-dry, with no well-defined dry season, semi with mild winter temperatures average 24 ° C, with maximum of 2 ° C.

The annual rainfall is 600 mm and the wettest months from July to October.

The prevailing winds are west: in winter blowing the "North" high speed, though short-lived. The municipality is located within the path of tropical cyclones originating in the Caribbean, which is exposed to such disturbances, especially between the months of July to September.

The municipal area, part of the irrigation district number 25 of the lower Rio Bravo, is superbly irrigated by canals and drains, as well as storage Palito Blanco.

102 Authority

This plan was developed in accordance with the following federal statutes and agreements for both countries.

103 Statutes

- "Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980," PL 96-510; and
- "Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986," PL 99-499 (Title III of "Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986," PL 99-499).

104 Regulations

- 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 300, "National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan," (Revised March 8, 1990); and
- 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910.120, "Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response," (Revised July 1, 1989).

105 Bi-National Agreements

- Agreement between the United States of America and the United Mexican States on Cooperation for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment in the Border Area (August 14, 1983); and
- Annex II to the Agreement (July 18, 1985).
- "Joint United States-Mexico Contingency Plan" for preparedness for and response to environmental emergencies caused by releases, spills, fires, or explosions of hazardous substances in the inland border area. June 1999. EPA 550-R-99-006
- Annex III- Hazardous Materials Response Plan- agreement on the 16th day of August of 2001.

106 Other Applicable Contingency Plans

Sections of the plans described below were adapted for use in various components of this plan.

107 Local Contingency Plans

- Brownsville/Harlingen/Cameron County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Emergency Management Plan: Annex Q, Hazardous Materials Response (1989)

This annex creates an umbrella to protect the health, safety and property of the public from hazardous material incidents. The plan identifies mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities relevant to hazardous material response.

- Matamoros/Protección Civil/Comité Local de Ayuda Mutua (CLAM) Emergency Management Plan: Annex III- Hazardous Materials Response Plan (2001).

This annex creates an umbrella to protect the health, safety and property of the public from hazardous material incidents for Matamoros. The plan identifies mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities relevant to hazardous material response.

- General manual of operations for state of emergencies/ municipal guidelines by Protección Civil (1999).

108 State Contingency Plans

- State of Texas DEM 10 Plan.

The state response plan, developed by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Division of Emergency Management (DEM), describes the procedures, responsibilities and methodology by which the State of Texas will respond to hazardous materials incidents. This plan provides for the support of many state agencies in large-scale hazardous materials incidents by establishing clear methods for interacting with local government.

- State of Tamaulipas Contingency Plan

Protección Civil of the State of Tamaulipas is responsible for developing a state contingency plan. This plan will be based on the Guía Técnica Para Implementación Del Plan Municipal De Contingencias. This guide, which is printed by the National Civil Protection Agency, provides a guideline by which the state and municipal civil protection agencies will prepare their plans.

109 Federal Contingency Plans

National Contingency Plan (9/5/94)

The National Response Team (NRT) developed the National Contingency Plan (NCP) for responding to releases or spills involving oil or hazardous material throughout the United States.

National System For Civil Protection Plan (1990)

Gobernación developed the National System for Civil Protection for responding to all disasters including releases or spills involving oil or hazardous material throughout the United Mexican States.

Civil Protection General Law (2012)

<http://www.proteccioncivil.gob.mx/work/models/ProteccionCivil/Resource/6/1/images/lgpc.pdf>

U.S. EPA Region VI - Regional Response Team (RRT 6)

RRT 6 is the federal component of the National Response System for the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. The Region 6 RRT is composed of representatives from sixteen federal departments and agencies and each of the five States.

The mission of the Region 6 Regional Response Team (RRT) is to protect public health and safety and the environment by ensuring coordinated, efficient, and effective support of the federal, state, tribal, local, and international responses to significant oil and hazardous substance incidents within Region 6, as mandated by the National Contingency Plan (NCP).

110 International Contingency Plans

Joint United States of America - United Mexican States Contingency Plan for Accidental Releases of Hazardous Substances along the Border (January, 1988).

The Joint Response Team (JRT) has developed a contingency plan to respond to spills requiring international coordination between the United States and Mexico.

Mexico-United States Joint Contingency Plan Preparedness for and Response to Emergencies and Contingencies Associated with Chemical Hazardous Substances in the Inland Border (March 2009) <http://www.epa.gov/oem/docs/chem/ipmjcp-e.pdf>

The U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Transportation and the Mexican Navy have developed a Gulf Coast Response Plan for hydrocarbon and other noxious substances spills in the marine environment requiring international coordination between the United States and Mexico.

200 CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

This concept of operations provides an integrated and coordinated joint bi-national response effort to supplement the local emergency response plans following the release of hazardous materials or other hazards or disasters in the geographical area covered under this plan.

201 Notification

Any release or substantial threat of a release of a hazardous material, or any threat or occurrence of natural disasters, or other emergencies affecting or likely to affect another party shall be reported to that party without delay. Appendix A is an emergency response assistance directory that provides contact information.

202 Private Response Mechanisms

As Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs), owners or operators of fixed facilities and transportation facilities, including truck and rail lines and pipelines, must comply with all local, state, and Federal hazardous material planning and reporting requirements.

203 Local Response

In Brownsville or Harlingen, the Fire Department will assume the lead role as Incident Commander (IC). If the incident is beyond the control and/or capabilities of the Fire Department, or the incident might impact the border with the United Mexican States, the IC will request activation of the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This request will initiate a bi-national notification response. This response will either be a request for mutual aid from Matamoros or Valle Hermoso, or a request for the State of Texas to initiate a JRT (Joint Response Team) response.

In Matamoros or Valle Hermoso, the system of response will follow established response Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). This response will be similar to the response in Brownsville or Harlingen. If the IC feels that the incident will exhaust the resources available, or that the incident might impact the border, a request will be initiated to the Brownsville or Harlingen Police Dispatch to request a bi-national response. As with the Brownsville or Harlingen response, the bi-national response will involve requesting mutual aid from Brownsville, or a request to Protección Civil to initiate a JRT response.

204 State Response

The State of Texas can provide assistance for hazardous materials incidents, natural disasters, or other emergencies to Brownsville/Harlingen, Cameron County, if the combined PRP and local capabilities or resources prove to be insufficient or inadequate. The State will appoint a State On-Scene-Coordinator (SOSC) who will assist the IC by providing and overseeing needed State resources.

The State of Tamaulipas can provide assistance through the State's Civil Protection System Coordinator for hazardous materials incidents, natural disasters, or other emergencies to Matamoros, if the combined PRP and local capabilities or resources prove to be insufficient or inadequate. The State will appoint a State On-Scene-Coordinator (SOSC) who will assist the IC by providing and overseeing needed State resources.

205 Federal Response

The U.S. Federal government can provide assistance for hazardous materials incidents, natural disasters, or other emergencies if combined local and state capabilities or resources prove insufficient or inadequate. Once the National Response Center (NRC) has been notified of a release, they alert the Federal On-Scene-Coordinator (FOSC), who may activate the Regional Response Team (RRT) or the National Response Team (NRT), depending on the severity of the incident. For incidents occurring in Brownsville/Harlingen the FOSC will be from the U.S. EPA Region VI, headquartered in Dallas, Texas.

Normally, the U.S. EPA contributes to hazard materials incidents responses by working with the local, state, tribal and Federal agencies and citizens to assure that the information needed to maximize the effectiveness of the response effort is easily accessible. If there is a spill where the PRP is not identified, does not respond to contain or clean up the material, or does an inadequate job responding, Federal responsibilities outlined in the NCP include assisting local responders in the response or, in some circumstances, taking over the response.

Federal agreements between the U.S. and Mexico require that each country notify the other of hazardous materials incidents if there is a release or substantial threat of release, which may impact both sides of the border.

If it appears that incidents will reach a level at which local and state resources will be insufficient to bring the event to a successful conclusion, the FOSC in conjunction with the RRT, will initiate a JRT response, and implement the JCP. Procedures for following the JCP, and initiating a U.S./Mexico JRT operation are detailed in Section 400.

The Mexico Federal Government can provide assistance through the National Civil Protection System for hazardous materials incidents, natural disasters, or other emergencies to Matamoros, if the combined PRP and local capabilities or resources prove to be insufficient or inadequate. The State will appoint a State On-Scene-Coordinator (SOSC) who will assist the IC by providing and overseeing needed State resources.

300 INCIDENT RESPONSE OPERATIONS

This plan employs the phases of operational response to an incident as outlined in the JCP.

301 Discovery and Notification

Upon the discovery of a hazardous materials release or threatened release, or either an occurring natural disaster or threatened natural disaster or other emergency with or potentially with bi-national implications within the City of Brownsville, a notification is made to the appropriate emergency organization. The initial notification will involve calling 911 or the local fire department. The agency receiving the initial contact will follow the Brownsville/Harlingen Police Department's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the notification of all other appropriate agencies. The PRP is also required to notify appropriate Federal and state agencies by contacting the National Response Center (NRC)

The City of Matamoros/Valle Hermoso will follow their standard reporting procedures for that include calling 066, Protección Civil and/or the Fire Department. Also, is required to notify the appropriate Federal and State agencies by contacting the National Communications Center (CENACOM) see Appendix A for the Emergency Response Assistance Directory.

The authority of local government, municipalities, and counties for spill response is similar to authority for other emergency responses for protection of public health and safety, such as response to fire, flood, and civil disturbance. Federal and state laws impose notification requirements to ensure a coordinated response.

Agreements between the Governments of the United States and Mexico require that the countries notify each other in the event of a release or substantial threat of a release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant affecting, or likely to affect the other country (JCP Section 202.1). Brownsville/Harlingen and Matamoros/Valle Hermoso shall also notify each other during occurring or threatened natural disasters, or other emergencies with or potentially with bi-national implications according to the terms of this plan.

302 Preliminary Assessment and Initiation of Action

The first official on a disaster or hazard scene will assume the role of IC. This duty will be relinquished to the appropriate official upon their arrival at the incident. All agencies report to the established IC for all response and recovery operations. Each agency will provide its own special equipment and reference data, and will function within its field of expertise. If an incident exceeds the resources of the local or county agencies, the appropriate state agency may assume IC duty and coordinate the response and resources of the state agencies. This function may be transferred to the FOOSC, if a Federal response is activated.

302-1 Preliminary Assessment

The first response unit to arrive at a disaster or hazard scene will determine whether a potentially hazardous material was released. The first official on the scene assumes the role of IC until the designated official arrives to coordinate the response.

302-2 Initiation of Action

Upon arrival on-scene, the pre-designated IC will implement the following actions:

- Relieve the first official on-site;
- Establish an Incident Command Post (ICP) and implement the Incident Command System (ICS); and
- If the incident threatens the border or the cities of Brownsville/Harlingen and Matamoros/Valle Hermoso, the IC will insure the appropriate notifications are made to the JRT, and if mutual aid will be required, insure that the proper notifications are made to implement a bi-national response.

303 Containment

The IC will implement appropriate measures to contain, restrict, reduce or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous materials at the incident, as well as downstream or downwind from the site. This includes defensive action to prevent, minimize, or mitigate an incident to protect public health and the environment.

304 Documentation and Cost Recovery

All actions taken during hazardous materials incidents will be carefully documented so that sufficient and accurate information is available to support the response and recovery operations, and to recover costs, if applicable. Documentation should be self-descriptive to prove the source and circumstances of the incident, identity of the PRPs, and impact or potential impact to public health and the environment. Documentation may be written, graphic, audiovisual, or in other form and will include the location of the incident, time, date and duration of the spill, source and cause of the incident, name of the PRPs, description of the released material, resources affected or threatened, status of response and cleanup efforts, and accurate accounting of public costs incurred.

Examples of other forms of documentation of hazardous materials incidents include:

- Daily or personal logs in bound notebooks, to record all relevant response activities for evidential purposes;
- Photographic documentation at the source of the release, pathway of discharge, and affected biota;

- Samples of released material and material from the suspected source collected according to established chain of custody procedures; and/or
- Statements of witnesses identifying the source of a release.

305 Evacuation or Shelter-In-Place

It is the responsibility of the IC to assess the hazardous materials release or potential release. If there is a threat to the public, immediate action needs to be taken for their protection. Actions that protect the public include first aid, search and rescue, designation of an exclusion zone, shelter-in-place, fire suppression and evacuation.

If evacuation is necessary, the IC will determine the area that will require evacuation. The IC is also responsible for estimating the number of people in the evacuation area and number of people needing transportation assistance. The IC will follow all the appropriate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) outlined in the local plans.

The IC will coordinate with law enforcement to identify major evacuation routes and establish traffic control points. Law enforcement will establish evacuation assembly points, monitor traffic flow on evacuation routes and establish security patrols and access control procedures. In a toxic environment, agencies with more appropriate protective clothing and equipment may be called upon to perform these tasks.

If the incident is of sufficient magnitude that the potential for a cross border evacuation exists, the IC will insure that the appropriate border agencies such as immigration, customs, and bridge authorities are notified (see Appendix B).

306 Post Incident Management

The IC, or a designated replacement, is required to remain on-scene until the immediate danger to public health and the environment has been abated. Primary responsibility for the actual cleanup and restoration costs will remain with the PRP. In the event that the PRP is unknown, cleanup is the responsibility of the parcel manager, the lessee, the landowner, the affected jurisdiction, the county agency, the state agency, or the Federal agency having jurisdiction.

Cleanup and disposal of the spill should be accomplished as soon as possible. Prompt action is important to minimize damage to the environment. The first step is to establish the cleanup priorities at the site. Once the priorities are set, determinations of appropriate cleanup methods are necessary. The cleanup actions must be constantly monitored to ensure the cleanup priorities are being properly addressed.

Specific methods should be utilized to evaluate the cleanup and determine its effectiveness. The evaluation process should assess impacts on the habitat and organisms, effectiveness of removal,

public concerns, aesthetics, and costs. The IC must develop criteria to determine when the cleanup is complete, using applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements. The IC will ensure proper transportation and disposal of hazardous substances in compliance with local, state and Federal laws.

307 Response and Cleanup Funding Availability

The IC will attempt to identify and have the party accountable for the release assumes responsibility for containment, removal and disposal. In Mexico, this will be responsibility of the Civil Protection Authorities in accordance with the National Protection System.

If it is determined that the PRP is not acting promptly, taking or proposing to take appropriate actions, or if the PRP is unknown, state and Federal funds may be made available to ensure proper cleanup.

Funds may be made available by the SOSC or the FOSC. Depending on the circumstances, money may be made available from one or more of the following funds.

307-1 State Funds

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Emergency Response Strike Team maintains funds that can be used for the response to hazardous materials incidents. These funds are available on a case-by-case basis, generally for incidents that a responsible party has not been identified, or when there is an immediate threat to life and health. Contacting the TCEQ at (512) 239-1000 can access these funds.

307-2 Federal Funds

Hazardous Substance Response Trust Fund (Section 2.1.1, "Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act") is administered by the U.S. EPA. The fund can be accessed by contacting the NRC at (800) 424-8802, or the FOSC.

Local Government Reimbursement Program is administered by the U.S. EPA. Contacting the RCRA-Superfund Hotline at (800) 424-9346 can access the fund.

<http://www2.epa.gov/emergency-response/local-governments-reimbursement-program>

308 Communications

Communications will be established as per the local municipal SOPs. In the event of a bi-national response, communications must be effectively established as soon as possible.

Due to the numerous radio frequencies used by the various response agencies in the sister cities area, the IC must define a primary response channel or rely on cellular communications.

Appendix A provides a listing of the various phone numbers available. The communications between the Brownsville/Harlingen and Matamoros/Valle Hermoso Commands must be established and maintained throughout a bi-national response. This will ensure a secure and reliable flow of information between the commands.

309 Health and Safety

The IC will be responsible for appointing a Site Safety Officer (SSO) for the incident. The IC and SSO will be responsible for developing and implementing a Site Safety Plan to ensure the health and safety of all response personnel. For response across the border, the IC and senior official of each response agency will ensure that the appropriate state and Federal worker health and safety laws of their country are observed while in the neighboring country.

400 INTERNATIONAL NOTIFICATION AND/OR RESPONSE

The JCP has been signed and implemented by the United States and the United Mexican States.

401 Mutual Aid Response

In the event that a hazardous materials incident or natural disaster or other disaster with or potentially with bi-national implications has overwhelmed the resources of either, Brownsville/Harlingen or Matamoros/Valle Hermoso, the IC or the Commandant de Protección Civil will implement a request for mutual aid from the other sister city.

401-1 City of Matamoros/Valle Hermoso Request

Protección Civil Matamoros/Valle Hermoso will initiate a request for mutual aid by contacting the Brownsville Police Dispatch. Upon receipt of this request, the Brownsville/Harlingen Fire Chief will make a determination of appropriate actions. The City of Brownsville/Harlingen will decide if they may respond with the appropriate resources to aid in the request utilizing the 911 Emergency Dispatch.

A Joint Command established between the Brownsville/Harlingen and Matamoros/Valle Hermoso Fire Chiefs will determine these resources. The responding resources will report to the IC and work under the IC's direction. Brownsville/Harlingen will also activate an EOC on the Brownsville/Harlingen side of the border. The EOC will evaluate the ongoing situation, and will assist the IC with resources and technical information. The EOC will also be responsible for ensuring that response personnel from Brownsville/Harlingen are adequately utilized in an effective and safe manner, by coordinating with the senior on-scene response official from each responding agency.

The Mayor of Matamoros/Valle Hermoso may initiate a request for mutual aid assistance to chemical spills emergency events by contacting the Brownsville/Harlingen Mayor directly.

Upon receipt of this request, the Brownsville/Harlingen Mayor will make a determination of appropriate actions. The City of Brownsville/Harlingen will decide if they will respond with the appropriate resources to aid in the request.

401-2 City of Brownsville/Harlingen Request

The Brownsville/Harlingen Fire Department may initiate a request for mutual aid by contacting Matamoros/Valle Hermoso Protección Civil representative. Upon receipt of this request, the Protección Civil representative may implement the mutual aid request by providing necessary action, information and/or assistance resources.

The City of Matamoros/Valle Hermoso may respond with the appropriate resources to aid in the request. The IC's of both cities will determine these resources. The responding resources will report to the IC and work under the IC's direction. Matamoros/Valle Hermoso may activate its equivalent EOC in accordance with the Protección Civil municipal authorities. The EOC will evaluate the ongoing situation, and assist the IC with resources and technical information.

The IC is also responsible for ensuring that response personnel from Matamoros/Valle Hermoso are adequately utilized in an effective and safe manner by coordinating with the senior on-scene response official from each responding agency.

The Mayor of Brownsville/Harlingen may initiate a request for mutual aid assistance to chemical spills emergency events by contacting the Matamoros/Valle Hermoso Mayor directly. Upon receipt of this request, the Mayor of Matamoros/Valle Hermoso will make a determination of appropriate actions. The City of Matamoros/Valle Hermoso may respond with the appropriate resources to aid in the request.

401-3 Response Duties

Local agencies are responsible for emergency planning and preparedness within their jurisdictions. The agencies are expected to assume lead roles during the emergency phase of the incident. Local agencies will conduct response activities within the scope of department training and capabilities. Local agencies will provide emergency response services including, but not limited to:

- notification;
- initial hazard identification;
- initial sampling to determine concentrations of materials, if possible;
- communications;
- rescue and emergency medical service;
- firefighting;

- security (site perimeter, traffic, and crowd control);
- on-scene liaison with other agencies and organizations; provide public information;
- evacuation; and shelter.

Local government assignments in Brownsville and Harlingen, Texas are generally shared among the Fire Department, Police Department, Cameron County Sheriff's Department, Cameron County Emergency Services, emergency medical services, public works and health department. Detailed roles and responsibilities of these agencies can be found in the Brownsville/Harlingen and Cameron County plan. Specific actions to be taken in response to a bi-national response can be found in Appendix D through G of this plan.

When responding to requests for mutual aid, local response agencies from both sides of the border will adhere to their department SOPs. At no time should personnel from either city be requested to perform duties outside their training and capabilities; nor shall personnel from either City be compelled to perform duties under this agreement when personal safety issues related to country/regional stability are a concern. Incident Commanders in both cities will become familiar with the capabilities of the agencies available for response, and use the personnel from the agencies in an appropriate manner. If concerns arise, the IC's and respective EOCs will be notified and an appropriate decision will be made at that level.

402 Joint Response Team

When the magnitude of an incident exceeds local and state response capabilities, or when a response involves more than one state jurisdiction, or Federal lands, the Federal government will coordinate the response operation and provide assistance as necessary.

The U.S. EPA RRT and national level contingency planning through the National Response Team (NRT) perform regional level contingency planning. In Mexico, Protección Civil has jurisdiction of hazardous materials incident planning. The JRT performs U.S./Mexico border area contingency planning and training activities. The JRT is chaired by the U.S. EPA for the U.S. and by Gobernación for Mexico.

402-1 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. EPA activates and operates the Federal response system for inland hazardous materials incidents and provides an FOSC who can assess technical resources to provide expert advice on public health and environmental effects of a release.

402-2 Regional Response Team

The Regional Response Team (RRT) is co-chaired by the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard and consists of representatives from selected state and Federal agencies. It plans, prepares and responds to hazardous materials incidents, providing advice and recommendations to the FOSC. It may request resources from local, state or Federal agencies and the private sector.

402-3 Protección Civil

The Sistema Nacional de Protección Civil shall establish, in each federal and municipal entity, civil defense organizations to handle emergencies occurring in each jurisdiction. Protección Civil has prepared the "ANEXO III - Plan de Respuesta a Emergencia Con Materiales Peligrosos de la ciudad de Matamoros" (Annex III - Hazardous Materials Response Plan). This plan is designed to be used by all entities in Mexico to aid in developing contingency plans for Hazardous Materials.

403 JRT Responsibilities

For inland releases, the U.S. EPA provides the FOSC. Upon notification of a release of hazardous substances that is crossing or is likely to cross the U.S./Mexico border, the NRC will notify the FOSC, who will determine as quickly as possible the need for activating the RRT, the JRT, the Environmental Response Team (ERT), or the NRT. For incident notification in Mexico, Protección Civil maintains a 24-hour telephone number in Mexico City.

When the U.S. and Mexico have agreed to initiate a joint response to an incident, the function and responsibilities of the JRT include:

- Advise the FOSC about measures needed to respond to the incident and what resources are available to carry out those measures;
- Evaluate and make recommendations concerning the measures taken by the FOSC;
- Provide continuing advice to the FOSC;
- Coordinate and use as appropriate the resources that agencies or persons of the U.S. or Mexico or a third party can contribute;
- Assist the FOSC in preparing information releases for the public; and
- Participate in the termination of response.

500 TRAINING AND EXERCISES

The Cross Border Contingency Plan, as written pursuant to the U.S./Mexico JCP, is an administrative summary of the relevant hazardous materials emergency response plans, which have jurisdiction within the planning area. Each of the operational plans referenced require training and exercising to ensure that responders are always in a state of readiness. The concepts and resources for training and exercising are important to emphasize as bi-national relationships and activities develop.

Preparing a written plan with well-defined operational roles, policies and resource acquisition procedures is an essential step. The written plan should contain training requirements and procedures for responders. Exercising the plan provides training, allows response personnel to become thoroughly familiar with response procedures, resources and systems, and enables planners to identify areas of the plan that need improvement.

501 Training

Individual agencies are responsible for their own training. Internal training, private contractors, and state or regional training resources are some of the options available to local agencies. Agencies must ensure that personnel are adequately trained for response operations that they may perform. This training must comply with all applicable local, state, and Federal worker health and safety regulations.

502 Exercises

Local and regional hazardous materials contingency plan exercises, as well as exercises of local and regional contingency plans in response to natural disasters, or other hazards are encouraged, as they are the best means of keeping the plans current and active. Brownsville/Matamoros routinely conduct joint exercises that allow for cross training of personnel. This ensures that deficiencies in response activities are identified. In keeping the Brownsville/Harlingen and Matamoros/Valle Hermoso Sister Cities Hazardous Materials Incident Contingency Plan current, the plan should be exercised every two yea

FIGURES

FIGURE 1: BROWNSVILLE/HARLINGEN AND MATAMAORS/VALLE HERMOSO



APPENDIX A

EMERGENCY RESPONSE ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	
MEXICO	U.S.
Telefono de Emergencia: 066	Emergency Phone: 911
To dial to Mexico from U.S, dial the code (01152) + (area code) + phone number	To dial to U.S from Mexico Dial (001) + (area code) + phone number
<p>Centro Nacional de Comunicaciones (CENACOM) Desde México 01 800 0041 300 (55) 5128 0000 Ext 11470 al 11475 cenacom@segob.gob.mx</p>	<p>National Response Center (NRC) 1 800 424 8802 1 202 267 2675</p>
<p>PROFEPA Oficina Central Ciudad de México COATEA / PROFEPA 01 800 710 4943 (55) 5449 6300 Ext 16129 coatea@profepa.gob.mx</p>	<p>U.S. Customs and and Border Protection</p>
<p>Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional (SEDENA) (55) 2122-8800</p>	<p>US EPA Office of Emergency Management, Emergency Operations Center (202) 564-3850 (phone) (202) 564-8729 (dedicated fax)</p>
<p>Comisión Nacional de Seguridad (55) 1103 6000</p>	
<p>Secretarará de Marina (SEMAR) (55) 5624 6500 01 800 627 4621</p>	
<p>Dirección General de Protección Civil 01 800 0041 300</p>	
<p>Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (CILA) Representación de la CILA en Reynosa, Tamaulipas (899) 924 8249 cila_reynosa@cilamexeu.gob.mx</p>	<p>International Boundary & Water Commission (IBWC) (956) 565-3150 or (956) 565-3159</p>

STATE GOVERNMENT

TAMAULIPAS

TEXAS

To dial to Mexico from U.S., dial the code
(01152) + (area code) + phone number

To dial to U.S from Mexico (001) + (area code) +
phone number

Delegación de la PROFEPA en Tamaulipas
(834) 312 8663
(834) 312 2456

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
(512) 239-1000

Coordinación General de Protección Civil en Tamaulipas
(834) 305 6596
(834) 305 7132
01 800 718 89 88
(834) 305 7052
(834) 305 7134
proteccioncivil@tamaulipas.gob.mx

State of Texas State Operations Center (SOC)
(512) 424-2208

Secretaría de Seguridad Pública / Policía Estatal
Tamaulipas
(834) 318.62.00
01 800 633 3333

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	
MEXICO	U.S.
Telefono de Emergencia: 066	Emergency Phone: 911
To dial to Mexico from U.S., dial the code (01152) + (area code) + phone number	To dial to U.S from Mexico (001) + (area code) + phone number
MATAMOROS, TAMAULIPAS	BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS
Presidencia Municipal Matamoros, Tamaulipas (868) 810 8000 (868) 810 8000 Ext. 53256	Mayor of Brownsville, Texas (956) 548-6007
Dirección de Protección Civil y Bomberos de Matamoros (868) 824 4721 (868) 824 4722 (868) 816 6141 proteccioncivil@matamoros.gob.mx	Fire Department of Brownsville, Texas 911 Emergency Management Coordinator (956)504.7405 ext. 2802 Fire Department 956.546.3195
Policía Municipal de Matamoros 066	Police Department of Brownsville, Texas 911 (956) 548.7050
VALLE HERMOSO, TAMAULIPAS	HARLINGEN, TEXAS
Presidencia Municipal Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas (894) 84 2 0829	Mayor of Harlingen, Texas (956) 428-9191
Dirección de Protección Civil y Bomberos de Valle Hermoso (894) 8420202 (894) 8420829	Fire Department of Harlingen, Texas 911 (956) 216-5701
Policía Municipal de Valle Hermoso 066	Police Department of Harlingen, Texas 911 (956) 216-5404
Administración General de Aduanas, Aduana Matamoros (868) 811 0101 (868) 811 0130	

APPENDIX B

PROPOSED U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION RESPONSE

In the case of an emergency and/or disaster that may occur in Mexico or the United States which requires emergency aid from various U.S. local, state or federal agencies, including the Brownsville Fire and Police Departments, a call from the municipality which has requested the aid will be made notifying one of the following:

- 1) U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- 2) Cameron County Bridge Department

Upon receipt of the call from the municipality which has requested the emergency aid, Customs and Border Protection or Bridge personnel will immediately notify their “cross the border” counterpart. Figure A-1 presents a flow diagram of response notification phone numbers.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection shift supervisor at the bridge of concern will be contacted and will take whatever immediate action is necessary to facilitate the crossing of the emergency equipment and personnel. Once arrangements have been made to facilitate the cross border emergency aid, the supervisor will notify the Assistant Director, Inspection and Control or in his/her absence any available Chief Inspector.

Emergency equipment of this nature is admissible under section 10.107 of the Customs Regulations.

APPENDIX B (cont.)

PROPOSED UNITED MEXICAN STATES CUSTOMS CROSS BORDER CONTINGENCY PLAN

In the case of an emergency and/or disaster that may occur in Mexico or the United States which requires emergency aid from various local, state or federal agencies, including the Matamoros Fire and Police departments or aid from a similar U.S. agency, a call from the municipality which has requested the aid will be made notifying one of the following:

- 1) Mexico Customs Service
- 2) Mexico Immigration and Naturalization Service
- 3) Matamoros Bridge Department

Upon receipt of the call from the municipality which has requested the emergency aid, the Customs, Immigration or Bridge personnel will immediately notify the other two groups, who will be responsible for notifying the “cross the border” counterpart.

The Mexico Customs shift supervisor at the bridge of concern will be contacted and will take whatever immediate action is necessary to facilitate the crossing of the emergency equipment and personnel. Once arrangements have been made to facilitate the cross border emergency aid, the supervisor will notify Protección Civil.

APPENDIX C

ACTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

GENERAL

In any type of disaster that evokes an international response, law enforcement will be involved in a multitude of areas. The need for security, traffic control, crowd control, and to supply effective information on separated persons, specifically in relocation areas, will be paramount.

PROCEDURES

In the event of a disaster being declared by the municipalities, counties, states, or countries represented in this plan, Law Enforcement Agencies will follow their appropriate municipal, county, or regional contingency plans. The Cross Border Plan is considered an annex to the standing municipal, county, or regional plans and law enforcement agencies responsible to these plans will work within the same framework of the individual plans adopted by law.

In the event that evacuation from a disaster area into another municipality, county or country takes place, Law Enforcement Agencies will supply the following:

RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

- i. To protect life and property and prevent and investigate crime that may be generated due to the evacuation.
- ii. To alert persons endangered by the effects of the disaster.
- iii. To alert and assist other emergency services, including Protección Civil.
- iv. To control traffic and crowds and ensure clear entrance and exit to and from cross border bridges and the control of traffic to designated holding areas.
- v. To maintain law and order at the holding (reception) areas to prevent unauthorized entry into these areas.
- vi. To evacuate citizens from danger areas when necessary.

To establish communication links with all law enforcement agencies affected and to supply constant information through the affected municipality, subject to law enforcement needs.

APPENDIX D

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR FIRE AGENCIES

GENERAL: Three distinct fire disaster situations could arise requiring the assistance of cross border fire service. A level-one incident or situation occurs when specialized equipment and/or manpower are most readily or exclusively available across the border or the municipalities usual local mutual aid resources are fully engaged. Second-level situations are defined as incidents where countywide or region-wide fire resources are fully engaged and additional fire service assistance is needed beyond the capability of the county or region. Level-three fire disasters require an executive declaration of the emergency by Protección Civil, being either from a state or local executive.

I. Worker's Compensation Benefit

- A. Liability for workers' compensation for fire fighters involved in a cross border situation remains with the fire fighters' home fire company.

II. Procedure

Agencies will operate according to the standard operating procedures of individual fire agencies.

APPENDIX E

ACTION BY SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS

GENERAL

1. In any type of disaster that invokes an international response, there will be a need to house, feed, and provide medical and support services to a large number of people. Coincidental to the meeting of these needs will be a requirement to register displaced persons, effect reconciliation between the separated persons within the disaster area and provide information and respond to inquiries from outside the disaster area.

NOTE: EACH OF THE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES HAVING RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS PROCEDURE MAINTAIN INDIVIDUAL OPERATING PLANS.

IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, THE OPERATING PROCEDURE OF THE REQUESTING AUTHORITY WILL PREVAIL.

PROCEDURE

2. In the event of a disaster, the services of Social Services staff, on either side of the border, will be activated through a call-out originating as provided for in their respective Standard Operating Procedure.
3. Requesting authority:
 - a. The requesting authority will establish an assembly point as close as possible to an international border crossing point. This location should be on a main highway or an easily accessed secondary highway that is well marked and easy to locate.
 - b. It will be the responsibility of the responding agency to assemble their personnel at a site of their choice and to provide transportation from that site to the assembly point as designated by the requesting authority.
 - c. The requesting authority will provide sufficient space to receive and, if necessary, store any transportation used by the responding authority in travelling to the assembly area.
 - d. The requesting authority will provide transportation to move the responding personnel to the respective work areas.

APPENDIX E (cont.)

- e. During the time that the responding personnel are on the site, it will be the responsibility of the requesting authority to provide shelter, food, equipment, and any medical needs to the responding personnel.
- f. The responding authority will arrange for all necessary relief for any and all responding personnel.
- g. The requesting authority will arrange to register and provide identification of responding personnel and will keep this information updated and available at the EOC.
- h. Upon receipt of an official declaration that the emergency situation has been terminated, the requesting authority will ensure that all personnel are so advised and will provide the necessary transportation to return the responding personnel to either (1) their own transportation or (2) to a satisfactory drop-off spot in the responding agency's area.
- i. The responding agency will be attached to and will work under the command of the requesting authority.

GENERAL

It is generally understood that the responding authority will be asked to provide personnel to assist in the following areas:

- (i) registration
- (ii) care and supervision of evacuees
- (iii) assistance at emergency welfare centers in areas of counseling; grief counseling; general inquiries; location of persons; reconciliation of families; supervision of children; etc.

APPENDIX F

CROSS BORDER EMS RESPONSE SEQUENCE

- Report is made.
- Confirm the incident.
- Activate the Response Plan; request that neighboring municipality be placed on standby alert.
- Place hospital on standby.
- Request status of available resources.
- Assume EMS command and report to Unified Command Post.
- Decon Sector established.
- Staging Sector established.
- Triage Sector established.
- Establish hospital communications.
- Obtain initial hospital capability/bed inventory from hospitals.
- Upgrade neighboring municipality from standby to operational mode if mutual aid will be necessary, and advise the municipality of resource needs.
- Establish Treatment Sector (Pre-Hospitalization).
- Develop listing of receiving hospitals and identify access routes.
- Begin transportation of patients from Transportation Sector by priority to appropriate hospital. (Patients being transported across the border will be double tagged per guidelines by the triage.)
- Provide appropriate pre-hospital care prior to transport if treatment sector has been established.
- Continue to monitor hospital candidates.
- Advise Medical Examiners and mortuaries if necessary.

APPENDIX F
(Continued)

GUIDELINES FOR AMBULANCES
REQUESTED TO PROVIDE CROSS BORDER ASSISTANCE

When requested by to provide assistance to EMS across the border for major incident/disaster situations, etc., all ambulance crews will follow these guidelines:

- 1) Report to meeting area as directed by dispatch (usually a border crossing).
- 2) Police will meet and escort vehicles to site.
- 3) Maintain communications with dispatch on assigned channel.
- 4) On arrival at site, report to staging area as directed or site commander.
- 5) Advice EMS command whether crew is Advanced Life Support (ALS) or Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU).
- 6) Provide appropriate pre-hospital care prior to transport if treatment sector has been established as directed by EMS command.
- 7) Transportation of patients from transportation sector by priority to appropriate hospital as directed by the triage. Patients being transported cross border will be double tagged as per guidelines by the triage.
- 8) Return to site, of transportation sector, after delivering patients to appropriate hospital.

Clear and return to home base when directed by dispatch.

APPENDIX G

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AGA	General Customs Administration (Mexico)
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (US)
CBP	Customs and Border Protection (US)
CENACOM	National Communications Center (Mexico)
CENAPRED	National Center for Disaster Prevention (Mexico)
CLAM	Local Committee of Mutual Support (Mexico)
COATEA	Orientation Center for the Attention of Environmental Emergencies (Mexico)
CONAGUA	National Water Commission (Mexico)
DHS	Department of Homeland Security (US)
DOD	Department of Defense (US)
DOS	Department of State (US)
DOT	Department of Transportation (US)
DPS	Department of Public Safety (US)
EOC	Emergency Operations Center (US)
EMS	Emergency Medical Services (US)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (US)
ERC	Environmental Response Team (US)
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency (US)
GSA	General Services Administration (US)
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services (US)
IBWC	International Boundary and Water Commission (US-Mexico)
IC	Incident Commander
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
JCP	Joint Contingency Plan US-Mexico)
JRT	Joint Response Team (US-Mexico)
LEPC	Local Emergency Planning Committee (US)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCP	National Contingency Plan (US)
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US)
NRC	National Response Center (US)
NRT	National Response Team (US)
OEM	Office of Emergency Management (US)
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator (US)
PFP	Preventive Federal Police (Mexico)
PROFEPA	Federal Attorney General for Environmental Protection (Mexico)

APPENDIX G (cont.)

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

PRP	Potentially Responsible Party (US)
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (US)
RP	Responsible Party (US)
RRT	Regional Response Team (US)
SCT	Secretariat of Communications and Transport (Mexico)
SEDENA	Secretariat of National Defense (Mexico)
SEGOB	Secretariat of the Government (Mexico)
SEMARNAT	Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico)
SINAPROC	National Civil Protection System (Mexico)
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRE	Secretariat of Foreign Relations (Mexico)
SS	Secretariat of Health (Mexico)
SSP	Secretary of Federal Public Safety (Mexico)
USCG	United States Coast Guard (US)
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture (US)
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (US)
TGLO	Texas General Land Office (US)

APPENDIX H

DEFINITIONS

Area Contingency Plan: As defined by sections 311(a) (19) and (j) (4) of CWA, as amended by OPA, means the plan prepared by an Area Committee, that in conjunction with the NCP, shall address the removal of a discharge including a worst-case discharge and the mitigation or prevention of a substantial threat of such a discharge from a vessel, offshore facility, or on-shore facility operating in or near an area designated by the President.

Bulk: Material that is stored or transported in a loose, unpacked, liquid, powder, or granular form capable of being conveyed by a pipe, bucket, chute or belt system.

Cleanup: For the purposes of this document, cleanup refers to the removal and/or treatment of oil, hazardous substances, and/or the waste or contaminated materials generated by the incident. Cleanup includes restoration of the site and its natural resources.

Coastal Waters: The waters of the coastal zone (except for the Great Lakes and specified ports and harbors on inland rivers). Precise boundaries are identified in USCG/EPA agreements, Federal Regional Contingency Plans and Area Contingency Plans.

Comité Local Ayuda de Mutua (CLAM): A group of local representatives from Mexican industries and agencies who assist in the preparation plans for emergencies involving hazardous materials along the Mexican Border.

Decontamination: The removal of hazardous substances from personnel and their equipment necessary to prevent adverse health effects and secondary contamination.

Discharge: Any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying or dumping.

Dispersant: Those chemical agents that emulsify, disperse, or solubilize oil into the water column or induce the surface spreading of oil slicks to facilitate dispersal of the oil into the water column.

Drinking Water Supply: As defined by section 101(7) of CERCLA, means any raw or finished water source that is or may be used by a public water system (as defined in the Safe Drinking Water Act) or as drinking water by one or more individuals.

Environmentally Sensitive Area: An especially delicate or sensitive natural resource that requires protection in the event of a pollution incident.

Ground Water: As defined by section 101(12) of CERCLA, means water in a saturated zone or stratum beneath the surface of land or water.

Hazardous Material: Any non-radioactive solid, liquid, or gaseous substance which, when uncontrolled, may be harmful to humans, animals, or the environment: including, but not limited to, substances otherwise defined as hazardous wastes, dangerous wastes, extremely hazardous wastes, oil or pollutants.

Incident: Any event that results in a discharge of oil or hazardous materials. Action by emergency service personnel may be required to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and/or natural resources.

Inland Waters: Those waters of the United States in the inland zone, waters of the Great Lakes, Lake Champlain, and specified ports and harbors on inland rivers.

Inland Zone: The environment inland of the coastal zone excluding the Great Lakes, Lake Champlain, and the specified ports and harbors on inland rivers. The term inland zone delineates an area of Federal responsibilities for response actions. Precise boundaries are determined by EPA/USCG agreements and identified in Federal Regional Contingency Plans.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC): A group of local representatives appointed by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) to prepare local oil and hazardous materials spill response plans as per the mandates of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, Title III.

Natural Resources: Land, fish, wildlife, biota, air, water, ground water, drinking water supplies, and other such resources belonging to, managed by, held in trust by, appertaining to, or otherwise controlled by municipal, state, or federal governments or private parties.

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC): The government official at an incident scene responsible for coordinating response activities.

Primary Response Contractor or Contractors: An individual, company, or cooperative that has contracted directly with the plan holder to provide equipment and/or personnel for the containment or cleanup of spilled oil or hazardous material.

Regional Response Team (RRT): The federal response organization (consisting of representatives from selected federal and state agencies) which acts as a regional body responsible for planning and preparedness before an oil spill occurs and for providing advice to the OSC in the event of a major or substantial spill.

State Emergency Response Commission (SERC): A group of officials appointed by the state governor to implement the provisions of Title III of the Federal Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA). The SERC approves the State Oil and Hazardous Substances Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan and Local Emergency Response Plans.

