



When every second counts

## A Proven Online Tool for First Responders

E-Plan offers authorized response personnel an Internet-accessible database of on-site hazardous materials, emergency contacts and more.

Thousands of different chemicals and hazardous materials are used commercially and transported across America everyday. When there is an accident involving a chemical plant, a warehouse, a refinery, or a transportation vehicle, the first responders assisting the plant or refinery fire brigade need critical information **fast** to protect themselves, possible accident victims, and surrounding communities. E-Plan is a **secure**, Internet accessible repository of facility and hazardous material information that does just that. The system provides critical chemical information at the scene and is in use in many communities **nationwide**.

### E-PLAN ~ HAZMAT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

In October of 2000 the Hazmat Emergency Management Information System known nationally and internationally as "E-Plan" was funded at The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In December of 2001 the initial hazardous chemical program development was successfully completed and the beta test started in Corpus Christi, Texas. The beta test was successfully completed in the spring of 2002. E-Plan provides various kinds of hazardous chemical information from the database to local, state and federal officials in several formats for their use in intelligence gathering and disaster planning. UT Dallas is now recognized as a foremost service provider and system developer in hazardous materials for hazardous chemical intelligence information and emergency management, preparedness and response.

E-Plan allows authorized users to log on to its homepage at <https://erplan.net> and gets virtually instant access to the important data needed at the scene by the first responders. If the accident occurs at a facility, such as water treatment plant, a chemical plant, a warehouse, a poultry plant, or a refinery, the dispatcher or emergency responder has access to the facility's Tier II or RMP data. Clicking on a name of a chemical brings up its associated DOT Emergency Response Guide. With another click, responders can pull up MSDS, chemical profiles and data from the U.S. Coast Guard's Chemical Hazards Response Information System (CHRIS). Having involved many first responders in the design process, E-Plan data is presented in a format easy to read and understand at times of extreme pressure.

- ❖ Information Security: The Internet security system built into E-Plan uses 128-bit secure sockets layer encryption, firewalls, and other industry-standard and state-of-the-art information security mechanisms.
- ❖ Physical Security: E-Plan data is assured by storing in redundant servers located in a locked, shielded and secure location. Uninterruptible power supplies and redundant network connections to the Internet help ensure the system's **reliability**. Written and video records are maintained of all personnel that gain access to the storage location.

More than 9,000 emergency personnel have been trained as authorized E-Plan users in 45 states. E-Plan is used by DHS, EPA, state agencies, local governments, and fire departments for hazardous chemical facilities incident pre-planning, management of hazardous chemical site information, and risk and vulnerability analysis. E-Plan database contains records for over 400,000 Tier II facilities in 38 states, all RMP facilities in 50 states and four U.S. territories, and 24,655 of the most common hazardous chemicals in use in the U.S.

E-Plan provides enhanced GIS and Google maps with school and hospital locations near hazardous chemical material sites for quick identification in cases of emergency. E-Plan also provides the following hazardous chemical material search functions;

- ❖ Search for a specific hazardous chemical in a county, zip code and/ or state
- ❖ Search for all fixed facilities in an area that houses a specific hazardous chemical
- ❖ Search for a specific hazardous chemical in different facilities

**TIER II REPORT FILING.** E-Plan is offering companies an online Tier2 Submit system at <https://tier2.erplan.net> that will allow companies to create Tier II report to meet the federal and state requirements for filing of (SARA Title III) Tier II Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Reports.

**HOW TO GET E-PLAN.** Only authorized users can access E-Plan. To become authorized, local county officials must approve response personnel. Once the user's identity is authenticated, the E-Plan administrator sets up an account with unique user name and password. Many of the features such as chemical search and the useful web-links are available without having to log-on by simply going to the E-Plan home page. For more information about E-Plan, please go to the E-Plan webpage <http://eplannews.utdallas.edu/>.