Safety Council of Greater St. Louis
Risk Management Program Work Group

FACT SHEET

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Why was the Safety Council of Greater St. Louis RMP Work Group formed?

A. A regional group that includes manufacturers, public agencies and professional emergency response organizations joined together to educate citizens about safety procedures in place at local facilities. This effort is related to a federal Environmental Protection Agency rule called Risk Management Program, or RMP.

Q. Who belongs to the RMP Work Group?

A. Work Group members range from beverage manufacturers to chemical companies to public agencies that provide vital services. Geographically they represent the city of St. Louis, the Missouri counties of St. Louis and St. Charles and the Illinois counties of Madison and St. Clair, as well as the Regional Commerce and Growth Association and the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois. Work Group members are among the many facilities in diverse industries that are covered by the RMP regulation.

Q. Should we be concerned about information in the risk management plans?

A. Citizens of the greater metro area are safer today than ever before. That's because of the commitment to public safety and environmental responsibility on the part of industry, public agencies and other facilities.

Q. Why wasn't this information communicated before?

A. Most of the information included in risk management plans is available through documents which facilities have prepared over the years, either voluntarily or to comply with other regulations. RMP summarizes much of this information in one plan.

Q. Does this information mean the greater metro area is at risk for an incident?

A. Nothing has changed because this information has been communicated. There is no more risk today than before the data was made public.

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Q. How likely is it that one of the scenarios described in the risk management plans will actually happen?

A. The regulation requires eligible sites to determine the "worst case" that could occur. It assumes vessels are filled to capacity, an event occurs during the worst possible weather conditions, that all safety systems fail and that no emergency response occurs for at least 10 minutes. None of that is likely and in most cases the scenarios described in the plans have never occurred at that site or anywhere else in industry.

Q. Will the Y2K millenium computer bug add to the risk?

A. No. Members of the Safety Council of Greater St. Louis RMP Work Group have identified areas where computer programming corrections are needed and are making those corrections. Most computer-run operations associated with a facility's processes are not affected by the time and date and pose no potential concern. Where needed, detailed plans are in place to ensure a safe transition into the year 2000.

Q. What about the chances of a transportation accident?

A. All RMP Work Group members follow strict government guidelines that regulate how certain materials are transported, whether by barge, truck, or rail. These guidelines include selecting transport carriers with specially trained employees who use equipment designed to safely handle the material. In addition, employees at member companies who load or unload materials receive extensive safety training.

Q. What if I want more information about a particular company or material?

A. We encourage you to contact individual sites or companies for more information. Contact names and phone numbers are included with information in the RMP Work Group brochure.

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