NEWS

Monsanto

FOR RELEASE

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ST. CLAIR COUNTY TO HOLD FIRST AREA-WIDE DISASTER DRILL

The scene: Sauget, Illinois, 11:00 a.m. -- A tank trailer truck collides with a loaded rail tank car on the A&S Railroad spur at Route 3, releasing flammable and toxic liquid. Other tank cars contain hazardous materials. The truck driver is trapped and unconscious in the cab. The potential for an emission exists. The wind is in a northwesterly direction, heading for St. Louis. Evacuation may be necessary. Mid-day traffic is congested, due to cars stopping to take a look.

Places everyone. This is a drill.

On Friday, April 24, fire and police departments, public officials, industry personnel and government agencies will participate in the first area-wide disaster drill, as part of an ongoing commitment to the St. Clair County Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER) program. The drill is an essential training/evaluation element of the CAER program, which coordinates community and industry representatives in the formation and maintenance of a community emergency response plan.

The field exercise will be held in Sauget, Illinois, from 10:50 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Alton & Southern Railroad spur at Route 3, south of Monsanto's William G. Krummrich Plant. Traffic on Route 3, from the intersections of Queeny Avenue to Monsanto Avenue, will be re-routed onto Falling Springs Road beginning at 10:50 a.m.

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The scenario will simulate a potentially real emergency situation: a tank trailer truck has just collided with a railroad tank car, both carrying hazardous materials (in acutality, the trailer and rail cars involved will be empty). The participants will perform their roles as if the situation was an actual disaster. The exercise will be evaluated on the timeliness of response; communication to proper authorities; effectiveness of emergency, industry and agency resources; and utilization of proper safety procedures.

"We want the public to know that the scene on April 24 will not be a real incident -- it is only a drill, and emergency workers at the site will be participating in the exercise. There will be absolutely no danger to the public," said Don Mayer, St. Clair County CAER coordinator. "We urge people not to get alarmed, and because of roadblocks which will be set up on Route 3 during the exercise, we ask that motorists avoid the area from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m."

Participants in the drill include the Sauget Fire and Police Departments (First Responders), Emergency Services and Disaster Agencies (ESDA) of Cahokia, East St. Louis and St. Clair County, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the Chemical Transportation Emergency Center (CHEMTREC), Monsanto Company, Ethyl Petroleum Additives, Rogers Cartage Company, Alton & Southern Railroad, Union Pacific Railroad, Amax Zinc Company, Inc., Slay Bulk Transportation and Braun Colonial Ambulance Service.

"This is the first of many drills we plan to have to make sure St. Clair County emergency personnel are prepared for any type of emergency that could arise. The exercise on Friday will provide valuable feedback on what we're doing right, and where we need to improve," Mayer said.

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The St. Clair County CAER program was spearheaded in 1986 by St. Clair County ESDA and industry sponsors: Amax Zinc Company, Inc. (Sauget), Cerro Copper Products Company (Sauget), Chemtech Industries (Alorton), Ethyl Petroleum Additives (Sauget), Pfizer, Inc. (East St. Louis), General Chemical/formerly Allied (Fairmount City), Monsanto Company (Sauget), Phillips Pipeline Company (Cahokia), Alton & Southern Railroad, Illinois Central Gulf Railroad, Terminal Railroad, Rogers Cartage Company and Slay Bulk Transportation. The program has developed specific community emergency procedures for St. Clair County and Sauget, and has conducted First Responder training sessions for East St. Louis Fire Department, Sauget Fire and Police Departments, and Cahokia and Camp Jackson Fire Departments. St. Clair County Supervisor Jerry Costello has given this area program his support.

The public is urged to not get alarmed if they see emergency workers at the scene on Friday. Remember: the 'players' are real; the 'disaster' is only a drill.

Questions should be directed to Andi Smith, Communications and Public Relations Supervisor, William G. Krummrich Plant; (618) 271-5835 or (314) 621-4075.

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