

**PLEASANT
SUN/CLOUDS**
High: 79,
Low: 62
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**Knights take
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Plants must have disaster scenarios

New rules require plan for chemical accidents

By LINDA N. WELLER
Telegraph staff writer

The accidental release of toxic methyl isocyanate gas in December 1984 in Bhopal, India killed more than 2,500 people.

It also disabled tens of thousands more, shocking Americans into realizing that such a disaster could happen on their soil.

Nearly 14 years later, fallout from the Indian disaster continues to have an impact on American industry and the public alike.

A new set of EPA regulations will go into effect June 20, 1999 that require facilities to publicly spell out "worst case" and "likely" scenarios of accidental chemical leaks.

Besides written reports, the facilities will compile maps

**What local companies
are doing, A-7**

**What chemicals are
being used, A-7**

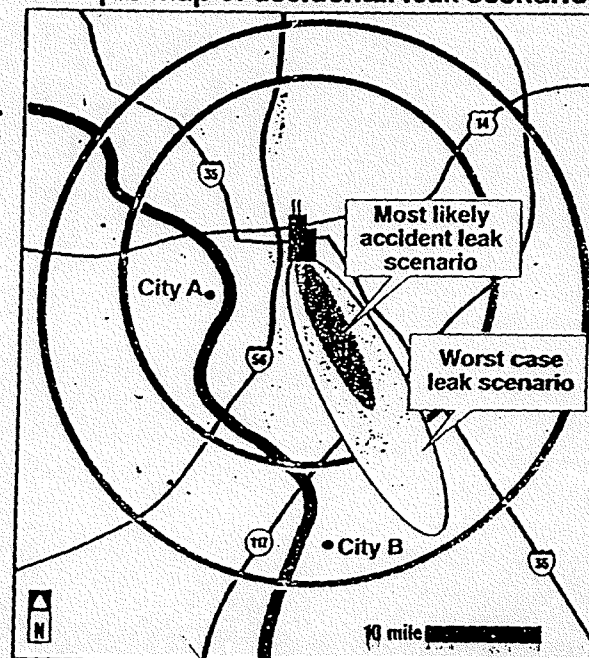
with chemical "plumes" spreading from their plants that will illustrate both threats, which may include "kill zones."

The facilities must reveal the likelihood of accidental releases, the potential magnitude of human exposure to accidental releases and severity of any adverse health effects in event of an accidental release.

The facilities also must formulate emergency plans which they will submit to their local disaster administrator,

□ See SCENARIOS, Page A-7

Sample map of accidental leak scenarios



The Telegraph

Madison County to put HAZ MAT team in place

By LINDA N. WELLER
Telegraph staff writer

In event of an accidental chemical leak, area fire departments for the most part are limited to evacuating people from the area and isolating the problem — but not stopping it.

By next fall, however, Madison County is expected to have a special hazardous waste team in place to plug leaks so less hazardous liquids and gases are released.

The 60-member crew will be comprised of firefighters from departments throughout the county, said Jack Quigley, director of the Madison County Emergency Management Agency.

Until the "HAZ MAT" team is in place, though, fire departments must "evacuate

and isolate" while awaiting arrival of experts to stem the leaks, potentially wasting precious time.

A recent such incident illustrates the difference:

Late May 16 someone discovered anhydrous ammonia was escaping from a tank in the 6100 block of Center Grove Road in Edwardsville, near the intersection of Illinois Route 157.

"We evacuated and isolated," said Edwardsville Fire Chief Mike Karlechik. "We evacuated (nearby) Imo's (pizza), which had the largest number of people in the area. We checked the (adjacent) warehouse for people."

"We isolated it (leak) by blocking off (Route) 157 and Center Grove Road. We called

□ See HAZ MAT, Page A-7

DSW 138251

Companies ready to comply

By LINDA N. WELLER

Telegraph staff writer

Although the Environmental Protection Agency's new risk management regulations will not go into effect for another year, local municipalities and industries began preparing last year for steps they will take to comply with the new rules.

The regulations ask facilities with hazardous materials to come up with "most likely" and "worst-case" scenarios in events of leaks, including causes, maps, predictions of amount of materials release and impact on population that is exposed to the chemical.

That information is supposed to be made readily available to the public.

Representatives from some facilities began meeting informally last year to discuss how they will comply with the regulations as well as taking internal steps.

John Bernbom, St. Louis-based vice president of Clark Oil and Refining Corp., said the new regulations that free up more information to the public are "fully consistent" with Clark's philosophy of openness about hazardous materials.

"Clark is working in conjunction with 10 or 12 other industries to work in coopera-

tion to meet these requirements," Bernbom said. "What we've found already in communicating with the community, in large measure, complies with the letter and spirit of the regulations that go into effect next June."

Bernbom said data about hazardous materials stored at Clark's Hartford plant already are filed with fire, police, county and EPA officials. The information also is available to the public at local libraries.

The company has a community advisory panel that communicates hazardous materials-related issues with the public.

Clark is working on charting the accident "scenarios" required June 20, 1989.

Bernbom said plans continue to evolve as to how the information will be released to the public.

"It's on an ongoing and expanded basis," Bernbom said. "The emergency response plan is a living document in the process. There is a recognition that the more the community is informed, the better."

"While we are focused on complying with the letter of the law, the real point is community understanding."

Monica Bristow, communications and public affairs coordinator for Olin Corp., in

East Alton, said Olin representatives meet with those from other area industries to discuss the new risk management requirements.

They also discuss their plans with the Community Awareness and Environmental Response Council — a group of representatives from area industries, and fire and police departments.

Internally, she said, "We're managing regulated materials, limiting quantities and container sizes on site. Whenever possible, we're using a safer substance."

Before writing their prevention and reaction plans, Bristow said Olin first is "eliminating some of the risks."

She said there are plans for creating a corporate-wide brochure on hazardous materials but she does not know how information will be disseminated locally.

When the emergency plans are submitted to the Madison County Emergency Management Agency, director Jack Quigley said he will sit down with local representatives to discuss if their plans are workable.

He also wants to come up with universal measurements of released materials for an even way of measuring them.

HAZ MAT

Continued from Page A-1
for an expert on anhydrous ammonia and we called Farm Service, the owner of the tank."

While emergency workers waited for an ammonia expert to arrive to determine the cause of the leak — which turned out to be caused by an open valve — both Edwardsville and Glen Carbon police were routing hundreds of cars from the two thoroughfares and blocking some residents from reaching their homes in the area for about an hour.

Anhydrous ammonia spreads across the ground and can be fatal if it is inhaled.

Had the HAZ MAT team been in force, members quickly could have determined the problem and put the valve cap back on, stopping the leak.

"Even if it were not something as simple as a valve leak, they would be equipped to handle that, too," Karlechik said. "Now we don't do any mitigation. This will make a big difference. It's a much needed resource in the county."

Quigley agreed: "If we had an incident right now, all we can do in Madison County is evacuate. What we want to do is go in and plug the leak, and stop it from getting worse. Now we back off. There is an assumption from John Q. Public that 'somebody' is going to take care of it."

"Until we get people trained and ready to go, all we can do now is evacuate."

In complex situations, outside experts still will be used.

The chief said 11 of Edwardsville's 18 firefighters are trained to join the HAZ MAT team.

Quigley said organizing the team has been a two-year process. Paperwork still remains left to do, including getting participating municipalities to sign cooperation agreements.

The team members also need baseline physical examinations — which Madison County has agreed to pay for at \$220 apiece — and pagers so they can be reached immediately.

Donations of cash and equipment are helping make the team a reality.

So far, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the Fire Service Institute have contributed more than \$45,000 to cover training costs.

Quigley said four "level A" protective "moon" suits have been donated, and four more are on the way. The suits fully encapsulate the emergency worker and supply an hour's worth of oxygen.

"Close to \$70,000 worth of equipment has been donated," Quigley said.

The biggest donation is a former beverage delivery truck which holds the equipment inside its various compartments. The truck holds the protective suits, decontamination equipment such as buckets and shovels, body

cleansing materials and other equipment.

Once the HAZ MAT team is in force, the truck will rotate through the county, spending three or four months at each fire department. While the truck is at a certain location, that department is responsible for the vehicle's maintenance.

The truck has been at Alton Fire Station 2 since the beginning of the year, said Alton Fire Chief Donald Dugan.

Alton firefighters have been organizing and mounting the equipment on the vehicle. Between 15 and 20 Alton firefighters will be on the HAZ MAT team, Dugan said.

"Getting HAZ MAT equipment for every department is impossible," Dugan said. "It (team) won't be called in that often, but you never know. You have to be prepared."

He said the suits will offer much better protection to firefighters. With current protective suits, "we just don't have the capability" to handle such disasters, he said. Dugan said the team could be called into action today if needed.

In event of an accidental leak, Quigley would set up a command post with his computers and radio equipment and direct the operation. Quigley divided the county into thirds, with 20 emergency workers from each section.

If necessary, all could respond, he said.

Who is using what chemicals?

By LINDA N. WELLER
Telegraph staff writer

Some 67 facilities in Madison County are required to report yearly hazardous materials and their whereabouts on their properties to the Environmental Protection Agency and to Jack Quigley, director of the Madison County Emergency Management Agency.

Quigley also is the EPA-designated disaster administrator for the region — which is conterminous with county lines — and is in charge of the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Besides facilities which are required to report hazardous substances, an additional 150 more choose to report toxic chemicals on their properties to officials.

Records of some 125 such materials which are either in inventory or in transit are filed in Quigley's office, at the EPA and at local police and fire departments.

As the information comes in, Quigley plugs it into a computer.

"The program tells me what to do in case of a fire, for example, and another is a mapping program," he said.

The latter program can tell emergency crews how to deal with leaks or emissions, it can predict how far a gas might travel — the dangerous "plume" — once wind speeds

and other weather conditions are plugged into the computer.

The Telegraph recently obtained a recent list of chemicals from the Madison County Emergency Management Agency that area facilities have reported to local, county and state officials.

Below is a sampling of some of those hazardous substances and where they are located:

■ Acetone — Cope Plastics, Godfrey.

■ Acetylene — Chemetco Inc., Hartford.

■ Anhydrous ammonia — Amoco Petroleum Additives Company, Wood River; BOC Gases, Hartford; Illinois American Water Co., Alton.

■ Ammonium chloride — Laclede Steel Co., Alton.

■ Ammonium nitrate, Bluff City Minerals and Jefferson Smurfit Corp., both of Alton.

■ Atrazine — Hamel Feed and Farm Supply.

■ Benzene — Amoco Oil Wood River Terminal and Amoco Petroleum Additives Co.

■ Carbon dioxide (refrigerated liquid) — Fire-Safety Inc., Wood River; Illinois Power, East Alton; Nestle Beverage Co., Granite City.

■ Chlorine — Alton Mental Health Center; Capri Sun Inc., Granite City; Conagra Inc., Illinois American Water Co., Jefferson Smurfit Corp. — all of Alton; Godfrey Utility (water), Illinois Power Co. and

Olin Corp. of East Alton; Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and Wood River Wastewater Facility.

■ Chromium — Laclede Steel Co. of Alton.

■ Ethyl alcohol — Piasa Motor Fuels Inc., Hartford.

■ Formaldehyde solution — Precoat Metals, Granite City.

■ Hydrochloric acid — Granite City Pickling and Warehouse Inc., SIUE.

■ Hydroquinone — Intaglio Designs Ltd., Alton.

■ Metolachlor — Hamel Feed and Farm Supply.

■ Nitric acid — Olin Corp.

■ Nitrogen — Air Products & Chemicals Inc., Granite City; BOC Gases, Hartford; Laclede Steel, Alton.

■ Petroleum naphtha — Chemetco; Koch Pipelines Inc. — Wood River Pipelines Division.

■ Phosphoric acid — Laclede Steel, Alton; Jefferson Smurfit Corp., Alton; Precoat Metals, Granite City.

■ Polychlorinated biphenyls — Illinois Power.

■ Podium chlorite solution — Illinois Power.

■ Sodium cyanide — Olin.

■ Sulfuric acid — Affiliated Metals, Inc., and Air Products Manufacturing Corp., both of Granite City; AT & T, Collinsville; BOC Gases, Hartford; Laclede Steel, Alton; Illinois Power Co., East Alton; Nestle Beverage Co., Granite City; Olin, Precoat Metals.

Scenarios

■ Continued from Page A-1
fire departments and state and federal EPA offices.

The facilities also will report programs they have implemented to prevent such leaks.

Industries and municipalities which will be affected by the new regulations, section 112(r) of the amended Clean Air Act, have started preparing for the stricter requirements.

Besides making internal preparations, personnel from facilities that house eight classes of dangerous substances have been meeting since last year with fire and police representatives, and representatives from industries that are not affected by the new regulations. Also included are 25 members of the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Jack Quigley is administrator of the local EPA region, which the Illinois EPA broke down by county. He also is

report hazardous substances without being required for "good neighbor reasons" or because they think they have to, he said.

Besides the obvious oil refineries and manufacturing plants in Madison County, municipal water plants, storage facilities, dairies and power plants also have dangerous substances that must be reported.

"There are eight classifications of chemicals and I have no doubt we have all eight in Madison County," Quigley said.

The new regulations are simply the latest in a series of reactions to the Indian disaster.

After the Bhopal release, the Environmental Protection Agency established the voluntary Chemical Emergency Preparedness Program to raise awareness of hazardous substances and for states and local agencies to develop

hazardous substances inform the public of the risks.

The Clean Air Act of 1990 then placed the responsibilities of risk management planning and public disclosure of risks on the facilities which house the substances.

Those facilities must prepare risk management plans that include a hazard assessment, accident prevention program and emergency program. Under provisions of the same act, the EPA determined types and threshold quantities of substances that must be reported.

COTTONWOOD CINEMA

Today's movie schedule at the Cottonwood Cinema in Cottonwood Mall is:

"Odd Couple II" (PG-13) — 7:30 and 9:50 p.m. daily; 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and

DSW 138253