Border Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response
EPA Southwest Region

United States and Mexico

Inland Joint Response Team Meeting

February 15, 2006

PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS

- **All six Region 9 sister city plans signed, operating with exercises**:
  - San Diego/Tijuana
  - Imperial County/Mexicali
  - San Luis, AZ/San Luis Rio Colorado, Son.
  - Nogales, AZ/Nogales Son.
  - Cochise County, AZ/Naco Son.
  - Douglas AZ/Agua Prieta Son.
- **Three binational Emergency Preparedness and Response Task Forces meet 4 times/year**:
  - San Diego/Tijuana
  - Imperial County/Mexicali
  - Arizona/Sonora

San Diego – Tijuana
Emergency Preparedness and Response Task Force

PREPAREDNESS

State Civil Protection Training Center

Tijuana Baja California, Sept. 2005

PREPAREDNESS

Border Emergency Management Academy

- Partnership: SD Co, PROFEPA, Protection Civil Baja California, Tijuana Fire Dept, Centro Industrial for Gestion Ambiental, USEPA, Universidad ABC
- Governor of Baja California letter of Support (9/05)
- Interim Organizational Structure (10/05)
- Binational Convenio (Federal, State and local agencies 2006)

UABC-Tijuana

Imperial County-Mexicali Emergency Preparedness and Response Task Force

PLANNING

Imperial County & Mexicali 05/05

Mexicali Cultural Center

RISK REDUCTION

First Industry Outreach Event

CANACINTRA Training Centre, Mexicali, Nov. 2005

RISK REDUCTION

CANACINTRA
MEXICALI

BORDER 2012 FUNDING PROPOSAL

Collaboration by Imperial County, Mexicali, Yuma, AZ and San Luis R.C., Sonora

- Recipient: Ayuntamiento de SLRC, Sonora
- Results:
  1. Local planning committee established
  2. Targeted training, binational exercises, joint risk reduction effort in four-city region

BORDER 2012 FUNDING PROPOSAL

Project: Border-crossing protocols and agreement with Mexican Customs

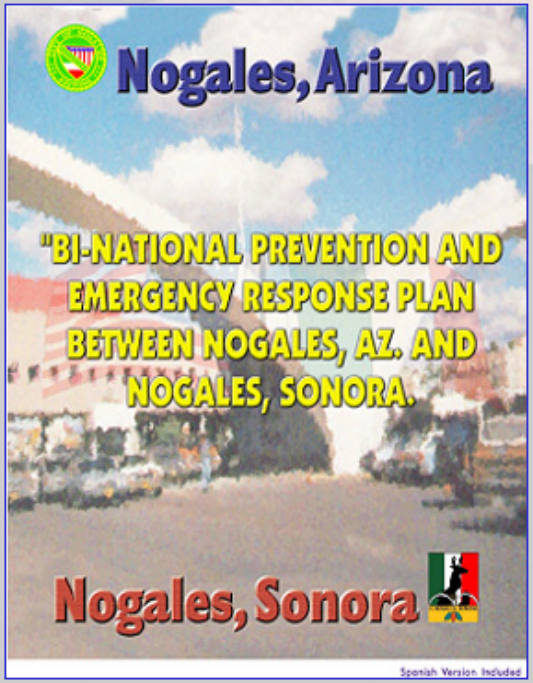
- Results:
  1. Agreement with Mexican Customs
  2. Standard Operational Procedures for natural and chemical emergencies
  3. Maps, satellite pictures

ADUANA MEXICO

Arizona-Sonora Emergency Preparedness and Response Task Force

PLANNING

Ambos Nogales
- **Original Plan: March, 2000**
- **Update: April, 2006**



- **Update Binational Plan:**
  - ✓ **All Hazards**
  - ✓ **Updated Notification Procedures**
  - ✓ **Ambos Nogales Binational Planning Committee established (09/05)**
- **Cochise County and Douglas, Arizona/ Naco and Agua Prieta, Sonora**
- **San Luis Rio Colorado / Yuma, Imperial County / Mexicali**

PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS

- Arizona/Sonora EPR Task Force meeting on Tohono O'dham Nation 11/29
- Tribal preparedness and Home Land Security
- Needs identified: Training and Tri-National Planning

PREPAREDNESS

- Training
  - Rail Car Response with Union Pacific
    - 60 binational participants
    - Nogales (12/04)
  - OREIS
    - 40 Binational participants:
    - Rio Rico (12/04)
  - First Responder 3 Day Training
    - San Luis Rio Colorado (2 sessions)
    - Nogales, Maquiladoras
    - 35 Attendees per session

PREPAREDNESS

- **Agua Prieta/Douglas Binational Tabletop Exercise**
  - Title: “Friends in Danger”
  - Douglas, AZ (03/05)

- **Scenario:** tanker-truck with sulfur dioxide overturned in Agua Prieta

- **Objective:** Evaluate:
  1. Communications
  2. Incident Command System
  3. Response logistics
  4. Health and medical impacts
  5. Binational plan activation

PREPAREDNESS

Agua Prieta Exercise, Cont.

- Lessons Learned:
  - Need appropriate PPE
  - Training needs:
    - ICS
    - Hospital decontamination
    - Clean-up design
  - Plan Updates
    - Maps
    - Contact numbers
    - Combine regional plans
  - Involve Mexico health agencies/ facilities for mass evacuations

January 9th, 2005 Day One- Afternoon Session

- The Entry Team entered the structure and found a leaking cylinder.

January 9th, 2005 Day One- Afternoon Session

- Drill Two

Tri-National Partnerships

Tri-National Partnerships

- Partnerships
- Communications
- Tri-National Plans
- Training & Exercises
- Real Life Events

PARTNERSHIPS

- Police
- Fire
- Hospitals
- Emergency Management
- Private Sector

COMMUNICATIONS

- Develop Relationships
- Develop Infrastructure
- Develop Protocols

Tri-National Plans

- Sister City
- Sister County/Municipio
- Sisiter State

Training & Exercises

- Red Cross
- Public Safety Courses
- Maquiladora Training

REAL LIFE – August 8, 2005

Real Life – August 12

San Lazaro, Mexico Rail spill

- Mexico Players:
  - Civil Protection Sonora, Nogales, Santa Cruz
  - PROFEPA, SEMARNAT, COAPES, CNA, Regulacion Sanitaria
- US Participants:
  - Arizona: Environmental Management, Environmental Quality
  - Pima County
  - Rio Rico Fire
  - Federal: State Department, NRC, EPA, Coast Guard, Border Patrol
  - Nogales FC US Incident Commander
  - Santa Cruz County: Emergency Management, Sheriff, Public Works, Health, Board of Supervisors
  - City of Nogales: Fire, Water Treatment, Public Works, Finance, Mayor's Office

Real Life – August 12

San Lazaro, Mexico Rail Car spill (Aug. 2005)

- 2 tank cars ruptured; 24,000 gallons of 98% sulfuric acid to Santa Cruz river 10 miles south of international border
- Response
  - Binational Plan activated
  - Well shut down on the Santa Cruz River
  - Ranchers and well owners downstream advised to shut down wells.
  - Emergency drinking water supplies in AZ
  - Mexico Impoundments to divert flows
  - Lime Treatment

REAL LIFE – August 18, 2005

REAL LIFE – August 25, 2005

BINATIONAL RESPONSE

- Naco Landfill Fire
  - September 2005
  - Players
    - Bomberos Naco, Sonora
    - Naco, Arizona
    - Cochise County
    - ADEQ
  - State of Emergency Declared
  - Binational Plan Activated
  - Air quality monitoring
  - Equipment loan

- More Emergencies :
  - VH Fire, Nogales, July 14
  - Floods, Nogales, August 8
  - Raw Sewage, Nogales, August 18

RISK REDUCTION

High Risk Reduction Pilot (prop.)

Partners:

- AZ/Sonora Commission
- Mexico/US Consulates
- Border Governors´ Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness
- Academia
- Community-based groups
- Industry (APSA, Pilot Industry)

Results:

- Binational emergency notification exercise
- Priorities identified from San Lazaro hot wash & after action report
- Risk Report/Maps
- Improved communication/notification procedures
- Action plan/convenio