

Safety & Emergency Preparedness in the Heartland

April 2011

Results from the 2010 Life in the Heartland survey show high resident satisfaction rating for safety and emergency response in the region. For industries in the Heartland, commitment to facility safety and overall emergency response planning are ongoing activities that begin during construction and remain throughout daily operations.

Industrial plants are engineered, designed and built to ensure process safety. Computerized control systems, along with containment and automated safety systems provide inherent levels of process protection. Highly trained employees monitor processes, and can quickly investigate any unusual circumstances or respond to incidents at their sites. Local industries and municipal emergency services work together closely through the local mutual aid emergency response organization, Northeast Region Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER).

Northeast Region CAER celebrates 20 years of partnership in 2011. Its members share best practices in emergency response management, conduct routine training exercises and work toward a safer, more informed community through its community awareness initiatives.

Since 1991, the group has promoted that everyone has a role in safety – industry, municipal fire departments and the public. A prepared community is one who understands risks in its area, and the safety precautions to take in an emergency.

Shelter-in-Place

In our region, there is potential for an airborne release of a hazardous substance. This can occur at one of the industrial sites, or in a transportation related incident such as a train derailment, truck roll over or pipeline break. **Shelter-in-Place** is the recommended community first response to a major release incident. Shelter-in-Place protects people from exposure to peak chemical concentrations in the air until they can be dispersed by wind and weather conditions.

Northeast Region CAER actively promotes Shelter-in-Place, which includes these steps:

1. Take family members and household pets inside. Turn on local radio/TV.
2. Close all doors, windows and openings.
3. Shut off ventilation systems that draw outdoor air inside.
4. Listen to radio or TV for further instructions.

Know what to do. Learn more about Shelter in Place at www.nrcaer.com. For current information on industry activity, call the UPDATEline 1-866-653-9959.

*Brought to you by **Life in the Heartland**, a partnership aimed at improving access to information, contacts, and resources for residents in and around Alberta's Industrial Heartland. For more information, visit www.lifeintheheartland.com or email info@lifeintheheartland.com.*