



Message from the President

Spencer Buckland MLT, MALT, QM/OE, CRSP

As fall approaches, I trust all of you had a safe and enjoyable summer. Here at ERAC, we continue to manage ongoing change to ensure we are supporting our Plan Participant members, ERAC responders and first responders from coast to coast.

Recently, Transport Canada, indicated it is setting new requirements for High Hazard Flammable Trains (HHFTs); specifically, fire suppression support activities that will be required, and the need to continuously improve and update ERAPs.

ERAC has been proactive in working with Transport Canada, and is continuously developing and updating our Plan Participants' ERAPs. The initial work completed in the ERAP contains a potential accident assessment, taking into consideration fires for HHFT. Additionally, ERAC has:

- Purchased six foam, fire suppression trailers and conducted fire suppression trailer training for the fire departments that house these units
- Secured access to foam caches, which we have mapped for access throughout Canada, through the support of our Plan Participants
- Conducted preliminary industrial firefighting team training at Lakeland College
- Ensured specialized training and certification for all of our Technical Advisors
- Provided technical advice on the phone and on-site during transportation emergencies involving HHFTs on behalf of our Plan Participant members



In addition to our proactive efforts with HHFTs, ERAC continues to develop and offer to our Plan Participants best practices in preparedness and response for flammable liquids transported by truck. We have also improved our response capabilities for LPG through the ongoing development of equipment caches in Canada, and our online training will receive an update over the coming months.

After the addition of two full-time Technical Advisors to ERAC, we rolled out Environmental Emergency (E2) plan support to help our Plan Participants comply with mandatory Environment and Climate Change Canada regulations for substances that exceed the threshold requirements. Services include creation of new E2 plans, review of existing plans and development/execution of mandatory annual exercises.

ERACs Plan Participant members' ongoing support is what strengthens our network of trained, assessed and approved ERAC responders. Our industry and contracted responders have shown their willingness to learn and work to improve their response capabilities. Although incidents involving flammable liquids and gases are rare, we must continue ensure the safety of all responders while providing effective response. I know I can speak for all of us here at ERAC when I say we are proud to support industry and first responders across this vast country.