



Emergency Response Assistance Canada
Assistance d'intervention d'urgence du Canada
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Message from ERAC President, Spencer Buckland



In our line of work, safety is the first consideration in all we do. Training not only provides the foundation of knowledge to quickly assess and address emergency situations but also reinforces safety habits so that safety is second nature.

The theme of this newsletter is **training**. Don Merriam, Operations Manager, LPG, has written about how at ERAC we are continually striving to improve the training programs we offer, and ongoing upgrades to our online training modules. Patrick Knight, Operations Manager, Flammable Liquids, shares why people should care about training, in a succinct but powerful statement. Cheryl Dahlager, Manager, Process Services, gives an update on SafetySync Training, including new WHMIS training requirements. And Louis-Philippe Ethier, ERAC Technical Advisor Update on LPG Firefighter Training. At the end of the newsletter we've included ERAC's key performance indicators.

ERAC provides safe, timely, effective, sustainable, cost effective flammable liquids and gas emergency preparedness and response assistance to all our Plan Participants. Training ensures that when an emergency response crisis situation occurs, everyone involved (from our teams to first responders to employees of Plan Participants) is on the same page to control emergency situations and keep communities and personnel safe. ERAC strives to continuously improve how we train, assess and approve our responders from coast to coast. With each exercise and training session we learn from our response teams, Remedial Measures Advisors (RMAs), Technical Advisors (TAs), rail Dangerous Goods Officers (DGOs), and regulators.

Our most recent event, held in Toronto, saw ERAC response teams, TAs and RMAs from across Ontario participating in a full-scale hands-on exercise involving three simultaneous live-transfers of flammable product (LPG and light synthetic crude) from rail cars. Overall, it was a very successful event, with many valuable lessons learned for both the response teams and ERAC assessors. Our team at ERAC appreciated the attendance of numerous Plan Participants, stakeholders and ERAC Board members, all of whom could see firsthand what an ERAC assessment exercise is all about. My thanks go out to ERAC staff who helped coordinate the event, CN for their support and the use of their facilities, Irving Oil for supplying the cars and Irving Oil and Factor Gas for supplying the products used in the exercise. At ERAC we consider it a duty and privilege to continue to offer activities like this controlled live-transfer exercise, as they provide our highly trained and experienced responders with critical experience to ensure they are ready to act when an incident occurs. Although we are pleased that our activations are down this year, we must remain vigilant in ongoing emergency preparedness. I want to encourage all of our response teams to get out and run their own drills and training exercises to ensure competency throughout the year.



I want to take this opportunity to remember a valued 24-year veteran of ERAC, Leo Sichewski, who passed away suddenly in July of this year. In speaking to ERAC/LPGERC responders across Canada, everyone shared kind words and the deepest respect for Leo as he trained, coached and mentored so many over the years. I had the pleasure of meeting Leo and working with him over the past three years, and I am struck at the profound impact he had on me in a short period of time, finding him to be so patient and understanding as he supported ERAC training exercises and responded to incidents. Leo always was a gentleman and never spoke an unkind word of any of those he worked with. Willing and eager to continue his own lifelong commitment to learning, I had the privilege of attending Texas A&M Fire School and completing Firefighter Training with Leo. When I started at ERAC, Leo helped me get on my feet by providing me with candid honest feedback that was always professional. In memory of Leo, I am pleased to announce the creation of the ERAC Leo Sichewski Memorial Bursary fund. This fund, subject to meeting eligibility requirements, will allow ERAC responders, Plan Participants, ERAC employees and family members of the previously mentioned who are enrolled in a certificate, diploma or degree program in safety, emergency management or first responder training to access up to \$2,000 towards their studies.

Leo and Spencer at Texas A+M

Please join me in welcoming the newest ERAC staff member, Lance Bushie, who is a full time Technical Advisor based out of our Calgary office. Lance is a career firefighter and fire chief who comes to us with extensive experience in training and responding to dangerous goods incidents.



Lance Bushie, ERAC Technical Advisor

We would also like to welcome our newest ERAC Board member, Bruce Moore of Moore Propane.

At the request of our Plan Participants, the Board recently approved our newest initiatives to have ERAC become more of a 'one stop shop' for emergency management services. ERAC will now be offering ERAP development, training and response for other ERAPable products. In addition, ERAC will also be providing support to organizations that need help with their Environment (E2) Plans and supporting exercises and drills to meet E2 requirements. Starting in the spring of 2017, ERAC will also be offering ICS training.

Finally, ERAC is proud to have launched the Plan Participant Readiness and Review Program. This program is a new tool for Plan Participants to determine their organization's level of readiness in response to an emergency response assistance plan (ERAP) activation. For more information on the Plan Participant Readiness and Review Program, contact Don Merriam, Operations Manager, LPG at 514-714-1075 or at don.merriam@erac.org.

Regards,



Spencer Buckland MLT, MALT, QM/OE, CRSP
President
Emergency Response Assistance Canada (ERAC)