

March 27, 2024
Greater Houston Local Emergency Planning Committee
Bi-Monthly Meeting Notes

Logistics

10:00AM – 12:00PM

American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77098

Welcome

Business

Welcome & Introductions

- Chair & Vice Chair Reports
- Pipeline Emergency Response Grant (PHMSA PERG 693JK323NF0001) Approved
- Upcoming Tabletop Exercise September 25, 2024 ← **NEW DATE**
 - Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center – outreach
 - Kickoff Planning Session Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 10:00 am, COH OEM & Virtual (Proposed)

PRESENTATION: Cyber Security Planning & Preparedness – Strategic Resources to Build a Resilient Cybersecurity Program



Crystal Grant, President of the Chatam Group Consulting firm, boasts 18 years of experience in IT, information security, program development, and management. Holding a master's in information security assurance with a focus on computer forensics and incident response management, Crystal offers services to a diverse clientele, including multinational corporations like Capital One and Goldman Sachs, government entities such as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, educational institutions like Nacogdoches ISD, and small to medium-sized businesses. Recognized for her expertise, Crystal has been featured in prominent magazines and trade publications. Chatam Group Consulting provides comprehensive services, including CMMC preparedness, cyber assessments (NIST 800-53, NIST CSF, ISO27001, etc.), digital transformation, strategic roadmap and project initiatives, business continuity planning, and incident response planning, both on-site and remotely, from their base in Houston, Texas. (Chatamgroup.com)

Business

Local Updates

TCEQ Updates

EPA Updates

Member Reports

Potential Fund Raisers

Meeting Notes (available at <https://ghlepc.org/information>)

New Business

Treasurer Report

PIO Report

Houston Fire Department Updates

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, May 29, 2024**
Tabletop Exercise with Amtrak to occur in September 2024

LOCAL UPDATES

1. **New Harris County Industrial Liaison OEM**, Clyde (Bubba) Coxie. He may be reached at clyde.coxie@oem.hctx.net, 713.294.8453.
2. **2024 HOTZONE HazMat Conference**, October 24-27, 2024, held at Wyndham Houston near NRG. The Greater Harris County LEPC meeting will be held during the conference on Friday, October 25, 2024.
3. Upcoming **Houston/Galveston PIO Network** meeting, Thursday, 5/16/2024, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Baytown's Fire Training Center, 7022 Bayway Dr; Baytown's Fire Training Center. Contact Morales, Johnny <moralesj@laportetx.gov> for more information.
4. On Tuesday, 3/25/2024 **Targa Galena Park** conducted a Worst-Case Discharge Emergency Drill providing the GHLEPC with a timely notification via email.
5. Flaring at a **Shell chemical plant in Deer Park** that started after a power outage around 3:45 p.m. Thursday, March 21st was still going on Monday morning, and could last days longer, according to the Deer Park Office of Emergency Management. Once flared, the hydrocarbon has been safely treated and potential emissions have been reduced by at least 98 percent. The company apologized for any inconveniences this activity may cause.

STATE UPDATES

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

1. **There are no pending proposals at this time.**
2. **Upcoming Grants:**
 - a. Seaport and Rail Yard Areas Emissions Reduction Program (SPRY), Projected Opening: April 2024
 - b. Rebate Grants Program, Projected Opening: May 2024
3. **Rulemaking** (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/whatsnew.html>)
 - a. **Rulemaking and State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision Draft Concept and Initiation Memo Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 114, Control of Air Pollution from Motor Vehicles Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) SIP Revision.** A rulemaking and SIP revision are necessary to implement two bills passed during the 88th Texas Legislature, 2023, Regular Session: **House Bill (HB) 32971** eliminates the mandatory annual vehicle safety inspection program for noncommercial vehicles, effective January 1, 2025; and **Senate Bill (SB) 21022** extends the initial registration and inspection period for rental vehicles to three years. Pending the results of a 2024 I/M fee study in progress, this rulemaking and SIP revision would also be necessary to adjust the maximum fee inspection stations are allowed to charge for an emissions inspection. Seventeen counties in Texas are subject to 30 TAC Chapter 114 I/M rules and the I/M SIP which includes Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Montgomery Counties.
 (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/rules/current/24013114_conceptmemo.pdf)
4. **TCEQ Pending Enforcement Action – TCEQ Cases**
 Below are new pending enforcement actions since January 1, 2024, within the GHLEPC jurisdiction. A complete list of all enforcement actions across Texas as well as file an open records request at <https://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/penenfac/>

Case #	RN	RE Name	Respondent	Enforcement Type	Order Type	Program	Status
65258	RN103015178	LANGHAM CREEK UD 17350 PATTIGLEN DR HOUSTON, TX 77084	LANGHAM CREEK UTILITY DISTRICT CN601361793	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 01/08/2024

Case #	RN	RE Name	Respondent	Enforcement Type	Order Type	Program	Status
65285	RN102390242	JAES ALL SEASON 2 3230 CAMPBELL RD HOUSTON, TX 77080	JAES ALL SEASONS MARKET INC CN602250383	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 01/19/2024
65317	RN111856290	JAGUAR FUELING SERVICES HUMBLE 77396	JAGUAR FUELING SERVICES LLC CN605186287	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 01/05/2024
65319	RN102966249	MONTGOMERY FOOD MART 7701 W MONTGOMERY RD HOUSTON, TX 77088	MONTGOMERY TRADING INC CN605430529 and SHAMIZ REAL ESTATE INC CN605430503	Administrative Order	1660	PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 01/26/2024
65342	RN109224832	FIVE STAR READY MIX 8001 LEY RD HOUSTON, TX 77028	FIVE STAR READY MIX LLC CN604791087	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 01/16/2024
65347	RN109666016	HOMESTEAD PROJECT 6001 HOMESTEAD RD HOUSTON, TX 77028	TEXAN CONCRETE ENTERPRISE READY MIX INC CN604045617	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 02/16/2024
65447	RN100210475	STOLTHAVEN HOUSTON TERMINAL 15602 JACINTOPOORT BLVD # A HOUSTON, TX 77015	STOLTHAVEN HOUSTON INC CN600124820	Administrative Order	Findings	AIR QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 02/13/2024
65498	RN111835740	SAMUEL WAIMUN SHUM 10226 ALTONBURY LN HOUSTON, TX 77031	LEUNG, ADA WING CN606196095 And SHUM, SAMUEL WAIMUN CN606196087	COURT ORDER	FINAL JUDGME NT	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening - 02/13/2024
65537	RN102075686	AMERI-FORGE HOUSTON 13770 INDUSTRIAL RD HOUSTON, TX 77015	AMERIFORGE CORPORATION CN603201906	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 02/15/2024
65699	RN102180569	COLONIAL HILLS PLANT 14910 SELLERS RD HOUSTON, TX 77060	AQUA TEXAS INC CN604062463	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 03/13/2024
65735	RN102739455	TRAIL OF LAKES MUD 2300 FIRST CITY TOWER 1001 FANNIN STREET HOUSTON TX 77002 - 6760	TRAIL OF LAKES MUD CN601356553	Administrative Order	1660	WATER QUALITY - HIGH LEVEL	Initial Screening – 03/19/2024
65763	RN101223634	HOUSTON SUBURBAN HEIGHTS MHP 11426 SUBURBAN RD HOUSTON, TX 77016	WEATHERFORD, EARNEST WAYNE CN600664650	Administrative Order	1660	PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM/SUPP LY	Initial Screening – 03/26/2024

Texas Department of Insurance (TDI)

Texas Department of Insurance Updates (effective 9/1/2023) (Visit

<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/rules/index.html> for details):

- 1. April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month.** According to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), there were 484 deaths and over 95,000 crashes in Texas in 2022

that involved distracted driving. (<https://www.txdot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-campaigns/distracted-driving.html>)

2. **TxDOT Talk. Text. Crash.** Distracted Driving Campaign offers online videos, printable posters, and other resources in both English and Spanish. (<https://www.txdot.gov/safety/driving-laws/texting-cellphone-laws.html>)
3. **Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Program (OSHCON).** Free on-site safety consultations are confidential and offered in person at your jobsite. OSHCON can help you find, reduce, and remove safety and health hazards, and learn OSHA standards. OSHCON also provides (a) training, (b) help with safety and health programs, and (c) free safety training materials and publications. (<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/oshcon/index.html>)

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

1. **TxDOT Talk. Text. Crash.** Distracted Driving Campaign offers online videos, printable posters, and other resources in both English and Spanish. (<https://www.txdot.gov/safety/driving-laws/texting-cellphone-laws.html>)
2. Texas eclipse April 8, 2024, the moon will pass over the sun in Texas from 1:30 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. the first total solar eclipse over Texas since 1878, and the last total eclipse viewable from the -United States until 2044. Totality will occur through the areas of Dallas, San Antonio, Austin and Fort Worth. TxDOT is also preparing highway signs to share messages saying, “NO STOPPING ON HIGHWAY TO VIEW ECLIPSE” and “NO PARKING ON SHOULDER, KEEP MOVING.” (<https://www.txdot.gov/about/newsroom/stories/total-guide-to-texas-eclipse-travel.html>)

FEDERAL & BEYOND

AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act of 2023.

bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to issue a rule that requires all new motor vehicles to have devices that can access AM broadcast stations installed as standard equipment. (AM broadcast stations are often used to deliver emergency alerts and news and entertainment programming; some newer vehicles do not include AM equipment.) Until the law passes, Congressman Gottenheimer (NJ) is calling on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NTSB) to require automakers to label vehicles without AM receivers as “unsafe in certain emergencies.” (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1669>)

United Nations (UN)

The UN’s UNESCO agency is promoting the “education, science, culture, communication and information to foster mutual understanding.” The agency designated February 13, as “World Radio Day,” by releasing a broadcast-quality public service announcement, calling broadcast radio a “vital lifeline” and encouraging the “protection of emergency radio frequencies for the public dissemination of vital information.” (<https://theradiosource.com/sounds/World%20RadioDay.mp3>)

Smell MyCity is a smartphone app designed to crowdsource reports of pollution odors travelling through our cities. All smell reports submitted through the app are visible on our map, and this information is publicly available through our website (smellmycity.org). Local residents, organizations and regulators can use smell report data to help track down potential sources of pollution in their neighborhood. (<https://smellmycity.org/>)

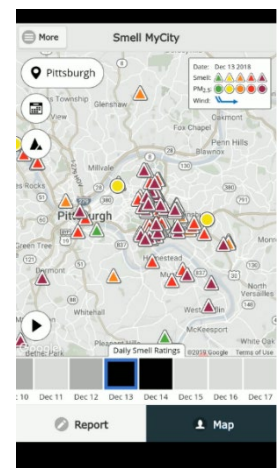


Figure 1. Smell MyCity App Screen

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, Fire Prevention and Safety Grants. Focus on providing training and resources for firefighters in our jurisdiction. A discretionary grant.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

1. **EPA webinar “The Impact of Ventilation and Particulate Matter on Indoor Air Quality”**
 April 16, 2024 1:00-2:00 PM (Eastern Time). Free Spanish-language Webinar where you will learn how to identify particulate matter and its impact on indoor air and some measures to maintain a healthy indoor environment. Register at
https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/47855580810649944?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=
2. **AirNow.** AirNow is a one-stop source for air quality data. The site highlights air quality in your local area and provides air quality information at state, national, and world views via an interactive map. AirNow reports use the official U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI).
<https://www.airnow.gov/?city=Houston&state=TX&country=USA>)



Figure 2. EPA AirNow Webpage

3. **EPA Grant Opportunity**
 Austin FY 2021 – FY 2023 EDA Planning and Local Technical Assistance Grant focus on disaster resiliency plan for the GHLEPC jurisdiction. A discretionary grant.
4. **Fifth Ward/Kashmere Gardens UPRR Update**
 On February 27, 2023, EPA announced an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent with UPRR. The consent order compels UPRR to investigate and evaluate potential contamination in and around the former wood preserving facility in the Greater Fifth Ward area of Houston, Texas. UPRR will conduct the investigation and evaluation and EPA will oversee their work. The field work is expected to begin in early Spring 2023.
<https://www.epa.gov/up-houston-fifth-ward>)
5. **KMCO Chemical Facility.** U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board Fatal Equipment Rupture, Explosion, and Fire at the KMCO Chemical Facility, Crosby, Texas | Incident Date: April 2, 2019 | No. 2019-02-I-TX Investigation Report Published: December 2023 is now available. The three primary safety issues were SAFETY ISSUES: 1) Emergency Response, 2) Remote Isolation, and 3) Hazard Evaluation...”KMCO filed for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy (liquidation) in May 2020, and the facility was sold to Altivia Oxide Chemicals, LLC

("Altivia"). In July 2020, Altivia informed the CSB that it planned to dismantle KMCO's sulfurized isobutylene equipment involved in the incident as part of the company's efforts to install and operate new oxide reaction equipment at the Crosby, Texas, facility. "https://www.csb.gov/assets/1/6/kmco_report_2023-12-21_final_post.pdf).

6. **Tier2 Submit and CAMEO Data Manager Software** Updates were released in early 2024. The official versions of Tier2 Submit 2023 and CAMEO Data Manager 4.3.0 for report year 2023 are now available on the EPA website.
7. EPA has finalized new requirements for certain facilities to develop **response plans for worst-case discharges of Clean Water Act** hazardous substances, or threat of such discharges, into or on navigable waters or conveyances to navigable waters. The requirements apply to facilities that could reasonably be expected to cause substantial harm to the environment, taking into account proximity to navigable waters and types and quantities of hazardous substances on site. (<https://www.epa.gov/hazardous-substance-spills-planning-regulations>)

Department of Labor (DOL)

DOL seeks to expand and establish protections for Emergency Response Workers. **OSHA** will publish a proposal in January 2024 to update an existing standard and expand safety and health protections for emergency responders, including firefighters, emergency medical service providers and technical search and rescue workers. OSHA will issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to modernize the agency's "Fire Brigades" standard as its protections for a narrow set of industrial and private firefighters have become outdated. (<https://www.osha.gov/emergency-response/rulemaking>)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

1. **ChemLock: Introduction to Chemical Security Training Course, Virtual**
This course introduces identifying, assessing, evaluating, and mitigating chemical security risks. This easy-to-understand overview identifies key components and best practices of chemical security awareness and planning to help kickstart chemical security discussions at a facility. This course runs 1-2 hours in length and is appropriate for all personnel regardless of their level of involvement with dangerous chemicals. Register for April 8, 2024 – Noon-2 pm ET (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chemlock-introduction-to-chemical-security-training-tickets-464542588387>)
2. **ChemLock: Secure Your Chemicals Security Planning Training Course, Virtual**
This course teaches how to create a tailored, scalable security plan that meets the business model and unique circumstances of a facility. Participants will learn the key elements of a chemical security plan and benefit from examples, lessons learned, and best practices. The course runs 2-3 hours in length and is designed to help leadership, facility security personnel, and other applicable personnel understand, develop, and implement a facility security plan. Register for May 6, 2024 – Noon-3 pm ET. Email ChemLock@cisa.dhs.gov for on-site training.
3. Visit www.ghlepc.org/training for listing of training.
4. **TCEQ, the State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System (STEERS), Tier II Reporting (TIERII)** visit <https://www3.tceq.texas.gov/steers/>
5. **ONLINE & IN-PERSON HazMat Training. TRANSCAER®**
(Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response).
<https://www.transcaer.com/training> .
6. **Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC)**. Visit <https://txssc.txstate.edu/tools/pipeline-safety/> for details.
7. **FEMA Virtual Instructor Led Courses**
Register on the OBP/CDP Schedule & Registration Page at: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/obp> to receive updates. Note: FEMA Student Identification (SID) number and password are required to apply. To obtain a FEMA SID, go to: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register> .
8. **Other Training Opportunities:**
 - <https://preparingtexas.org>
 - www.fema.gov

- www.harriscountycitizencorps.com
- <https://houstonuasi.com/regional-training-registration-2021/>
- Texas Department of Insurance