

SAFER World

Quarterly Newsletter from SAFER Systems

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Ready to Use when Seconds Count

We see these words used in so many places and in countless ways. But in no place do these words take on a greater meaning than in the world of chemical emergency management. When a chemical emergency occurs, whether at a facility or in any populated location around the world, time is of the essence. For any delay, no matter how brief, can have significant consequences in terms of its potential impact on human life, property and commerce.

As an accidental or deliberate toxic release event unfolds, it is imperative that your emergency response plan and tools be in a "ready to use" state. Whether private or public responder; health, safety & environmental professional; military unit or government emergency management/response organization; you want to be ready to use all the tools at your disposal to make informed decisions in the event of an incident when seconds count.

How can you ensure that your emergency management systems are ready to use? The simple answer is by doing two fundamental things: invest and prepare.



INVEST

Invest in the right tools for planning for and managing a possible release...

We obviously feel strongly that for most of you reading this newsletter one of those tools should be an integrated chemical emergency management solution—a solution that provides the types and level of information needed to make the most informed decisions possible to protect human life and property; a solution that models, projects and maps the likely movement of a toxic plume using real-world, real-time information from a range of information sources including sensors of various types; a solution that provides critical GIS information to identify critical impacted locations. In SAFER Systems' case, this means an investment in one of our integrated chemical emergency management solutions – SAFER Real-Time®, Homeland Responder™ or Hazmat Responder™.

Invest in upgrade & support services...

Investing extends beyond the dollars required to purchase a chemical emergency management solution. In order to have any technology-based tool remain ready to use, one should include in their investment strategy ongoing upgrade and support services. In this way, their system will remain current in terms of its functionality and data, as well as ensure that there is continuously available 24/7 support should the need arise, even in the event of an emergency.

At SAFER Systems, we consider ourselves to be your partner when it comes to effectively managing an event. Providing effective chemical emergency response solutions is what we do and have been doing for over 25 years. As a support customer, you are able to tap into these decades of experience. As a support customer, you are able to receive the best possible integrated chemical emergency management solutions backed by 24/7/365 (make that 366 this year) support. Your investment in support truly is the cost-effective way to help you get the most from your SAFER Systems products.

Invest in training...

The final investment element involves the investment of time. Time for training, both initial and as necessary ongoing training, to effectively understand and know how to use your emergency management tools should the need arise. Training is about developing competence and confidence. In a chemical emergency, when every second counts, having the competence to effectively utilize your emergency management tools and the confidence that comes from quickly making more well-informed decisions really is priceless.



PREPARE

And then there is the matter of preparation. What could be more important in handling an emergency than advanced preparation? One can break preparation down into two components: planning and practice.

In the case of an integrated chemical emergency management system such as Real-Time or Homeland/Hazmat Responder, planning should include taking advantage of important product functionality like scenario development and execution. Scenarios are pre-defined events. Creating scenarios for possible chemical emergency events is an important facet of planning. By constructing these potential situations in advance and storing them in your SAFER Systems product, you'll be that much better prepared for responding to a toxic release. Planning also involves communication, knowing how and what to communicate during an emergency event. Your SAFER Systems product will help you to better understand the impact of an event as it unfolds so that you can more quickly and informatively communicate the right types of information, to the right parties, at the right time.

Ernie Gilbert
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