FEMA TTX video scripts

Version August 18, 2010

SCENARIO: Chemical Accident

CHEMICAL VIDEO #1

On-screen title: Exercise Exercise Exercise

VNN ANCHOR

Good morning, welcome to VNN -- local officials are celebrating this morning as a new industrial park is being christened in our community, there’s a ribbon-cutting scheduled for 10am this morning.  Officials say the new Hampton Industrial Park will bring millions of dollars of new tax revenues and thousands of new jobs to state and local communities.  But a group of activists are holding a protest on the street outside the park, they are criticizing the placement of the park in such a populated corridor of the state.  They say citizens will be at greater risk now, since chemicals will be transported by truck and rail to and from the park.

VNN spoke with a representative for the chemical park who argued there have been more than 2 million rail shipments of chlorine in the past four decades in the U.S., and only four resulted in fatalities.

VNN also contacted the state’s emergency manager, Anna Christy, who responded that businesses are far more likely to be impacted by a flood or storm than from man-made incidents. But she added that businesses and community leaders should be prepared for any emergency.  Christy invited any organization to contact the state’s emergency management agency to work together on community planning.

CHEMICAL VIDEO #2

On-screen title: Exercise Exercise Exercise

VNN ANCHOR

Breaking news tonight, a hazmat train has derailed and exploded on the Hampton rail line near Pine Road, releasing a large quantity of lethal chlorine gas, this accident occurred less than 20 minutes ago. The plume cloud from the accident is extremely dangerous, it is being carried downwind of the site, toward the East, and is reported to be nearing the Pine Road business district and the residential neighborhoods surround it. No word yet on the cause of the accident, but many 911 calls have been received from the scene, and dozens of fire and emergency responders are on the scene and in transit.  Now minutes ago our studio here at VNN received a call from an alarmed worker at a building near the accident, reporting he could smell the chlorine and he was feeling burning skin and eyes, and having difficulty breathing. We lost that call though when the signal was dropped, the area’s phone lines and cell service providers are being overwhelmed by the volume of calls.

Ladies and Gentlemen, if you are at home or at work, officials are asking that you shelter in place, close the windows and stay indoors.  But many residents have not heard these warnings, our traffic cams here in the newsroom are showing a quick rush of traffic away from the area onto local highways. We’re seeing a number of accidents now.  And we’re also seeing fire trucks and ambulances trying to navigate the traffic, another reason to stay at home, stay indoors. Please stay tuned for more breaking news as we receive it.

CHEMICAL VIDEO #3

On-screen title: Exercise Exercise Exercise

VNN ANCHOR

Good morning, thank you for joining us this morning. it’s been 36 hours now since the Hampton rail accident, and while officials are saying it’s safe for residents to go outdoors and try to get back to their routines, for many residents, life will never be the same. Dozens have died and hundreds are hospitalized, while thousands more were treated for injuries.  We also have thousands of residents still in shelters this morning, and untold numbers have just left the area and they are waiting for word that it’s safe to return.

Federal and state officials are still investigating the cause of the accident and would not speculate, but they are saying that, thankfully, due to the late hour of the explosion, most people were home or were indoors and they were able to effectively shelter-in-place. Still, an estimated 50,000 people tried to self-evacuate before hearing the warnings, or despite the warnings, unknowingly putting themselves, their families and our first responders in harm’s way. Today, local schools and many businesses are still closed. The state environmental agency is continuing to test local waterways for contamination, they have determined that the reservoirs that hold the region’s drinking water were not affected. But countless residents are not taking chances, they’re still streaming into stores to buy bottled water wherever they can find it, or they’re waiting in long lines at state points of distribution for emergency water and other supplies. We’ll have more on the aftermath of this accident later tonight, but officials are saying that the recovery from this disaster will take weeks, and the economic impact to our community will be in the millions of dollars.