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# DAYTON, OHIO REGIONAL HAZ-MAT RESPONSE TEAM NEWSLETTER

January, 2024

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## **Where Did We Come From**

I was reading an article about the creation of a new “hazmat team concept” in California. The article talked about how, in 1995, a group of departments had come together to form a regional team. The article further states how that concept has been doing quite well over the years, responding to numerous, hazmat related, calls for service. While reading this article I thought back to the formation of our own Dayton Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team and thought it would be worth sharing.

Sometime in 1980 the vision for a hazmat team for our area was created. This vision was transformed into a reality.

In April of 1981 a document was generated by a gentleman by the name of Larry Collins (destined to be a Fire Chief). This *Initial Report for the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team* laid the ground work for the Team, its direction, and the documents that would need to be developed to manage the Team. This “White Paper for Hazmat”, I’ll call it, also spoke of the need to inventory and organize the equipment that would be needed to respond to hazmat incidents.

That vision, developed so long ago, has come to fruition and has grown into the Team we have today. Our Team is one of ten Type 1 Hazmat Teams in the State of Ohio with millions of dollars of equipment and instrumentation, highly trained and respected personnel, well developed and executed Team

Policies, Procedures, and Standard Operation Guidelines. None of this would have been possible without that vision and the hard work of so many dedicated people over the years contributing to the Team’s success.

At the end of the report is the author’s name, Larry Collins, and the title Hazmat Coordinator to describe what his responsibility was at the time. That title has survived 43 years later. Since the beginning of the Team there have been only five Hazmat Coordinator’s with Denny Bristow fulfilling that role for over 20 years.

I would like to say, Thank You to all of those who have been a part of the Team; as a member, supporter, instructor or otherwise. The Team is what it is today because of all of you.

## **In the News**

The Chemical Safety Board recently release its findings on the Nitrogen release that killed six workers and injured several others at the Foundation Food Group facility in Gainesville, GA, in January of 2021. We spoke about simple asphyxiants in the May 2023 Newsletter and their effect on humans and our area has a large number of chemicals that are simple asphyxiants. If you have facilities within your jurisdiction that create hazardous atmospheres and there is a question of the need for atmospheric monitoring, this article will give you a good perspective.

See the link to view the full report.

**<https://www.csb.gov/foundation-food-group-fatal-chemical-release/>**

## **Training**

Training for this month is **February 12, 13, & 14 at 0900 - 1200hrs at the Task Force Building at Dayton Fire Department Training Center.**

We will have **Dr. James Augustine**, presenting on **Medical Response to Hazmat**. It has been my experience over the years that we find ourselves on a “hazmat call” that initially was dispatched as a “medic call.” Good situational awareness is what helped to identify the problem and upgrade the response. Dr Augustine does an excellent presentation of how to be “situationally aware.”

## **2024 Training Dates**

January – No training

February – 12-13-14 - Dr Augustine

March – 18-19-20 – Scott Tippen

April – 15-16-17 -

May – 13-14-15 – LEPC Exer

June – 10-11-12 -

July – 15-16-17 -

August – 12-13-14 -

September – 16-17-18 Railroad

October – 21-22-23

November – 18-19-20 -

December - No training