From: Mason, Steve
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2013 1:58 PM
To: Jennings, Kim; Belke, Jim
Subject: Workgroup

Kim, Jim:

You know I will help any way I can… 26 years of working with States and LEPCs might be valuable…

However, I would like to still push the issue that if we are using West as the poster child, it may not be the best one…

Many of the fire fighters knew the ammonium nitrate was at the facility, so it was not a lack of knowledge…

It was more a lack of training (HAZWOPER) and a lack of hazard awareness (even if a firefighter knows a chemical is at a location, do they really know what the hazards are)…

From most of the people I have talked to, most had no idea that ammonium nitrate could explode unless there a fuel source added to the AN…

The MSDS clearly states it can explode if heated to a high enough temperature for a long enough period… My bet is most, if all the firefighters, had not taken the time to look at the MSDS, thinking they already knew the hazards with AN, as well as anhydrous ammonia…

In Region 6, 80-90 % of our firefighters are still volunteer, and the overwhelming majority have still not taken HAZWOPER training above awareness level, if even that…

Stephen Mason
EPA Region 6 (6SF-PE)
1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202
214-665-2276
mason.steve@epa.gov

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