

PEOPLE

CAER



Mark Wetering is a municipal planner in the Lambton County Office. Recent changes brought about by Bill 148 have introduced a very specific formal requirement for all Ontario Municipalities in respect to

Emergency Planning. Mark has been given the task of ensuring the County is in compliance. It is a role he is very familiar with having been an active representative of the County in the CVECO organization for the past two years and also he attended several CAER Board meetings with the County Warden.

Mark is a member of the Response Review Committee whose role is to critique members calling of CVECO codes and the paperwork they subsequently provide additional information with. He is also the County's representative on the CAER Working Committee, the main guidance group of the organization. All of us appreciate Mark's attention to detail and protocol as this is what wins credibility in the long run.

Mark is a young man with several interests which include woodworking and not only playing guitar, but also repairing the intricate and delicate woodwork which go to make up the instrument. Thanks for all your good work Mark.

The **NEW** Bluewater Community Advisory Panel

The Bluewater Community Advisory Panel (CAP) has recently undergone a major reorganization of its structure and mandate thanks to a keen group of community members and a committed group of industry leaders.

Last year community members identified a need to revitalize the existing Bluewater CAP to better understand the purpose and provide more focus on the issues and interests of its members. After a grueling one-day "visioning session" held last autumn and several meetings later the group has finalized their new direction and membership.

This non-profit panel of senior industry leaders and interested community members serves as a forum for open and frank discussion between member company representatives and members of the Sarnia, Lambton and St.Clair County communities. Topics of discussion primarily focus on public health, safety, and environmental impacts of local industry.

Imperial Oil, Ethyl Canada Inc., Basell, Shell Canada Products, Nova Chemicals and TransAlta are the present industry members of the Bluewater CAP.

Our objectives are:

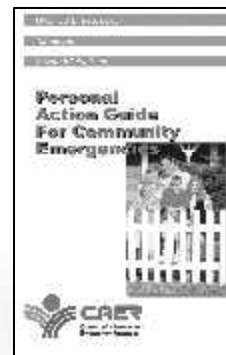
- Exchange health, safety and environmental information between the community members and industry members concerning company operations, and respond accordingly.
- Support industry members in fulfilling CCPA Responsible Care community awareness requirements.
- Respond to community awareness and emergency planning issues as they relate to industry member companies

The panel is a mechanism for the community members to convey their questions, comments or concerns to senior representatives of industry. At the same time, it provides a forum for the companies to respond directly to the community members. The CAP meetings are open to CAP members only and meet at regular intervals eight times per year.

We invite interested community members and industry to call us.

To learn more about the Bluewater Community Advisory Panel or become a member, please contact Heather Cooper at 481-1135 or send e-mail to heather.cooper@shell.ca or Tara McIntosh at 336-6129 or by e-mail at tara.mcintosh@aon.ca.

CAER to Release New Personal Action Guide



Soon you and your family will have a helpful, easy-to-use tool to aid your household in preparing for an emergency.

The CAER Personal Action Guide for Community Emergencies will soon be available to residents in the Sarnia area. The booklet contains a step by step guide to help you prepare your family for chemical emergencies, tornadoes and severe winter storms and a detachable personalized home action plan that you can complete and keep handy. The booklet stresses the importance of sharing your emergency plan with every member of your household and is designed to be easily understood by children.

You can download the CAER Personal Action Guide from the CAER website (www.caer.ca) or request a copy by calling the CAER office at (519) 336-3656.

To Stay Safe.....

In the unlikely event of an emergency that could threaten your safety, here are some safety tips to consider:

- Seek an enclosed shelter
- Close doors and windows
- Don't operate your furnace, clothes dryer, bathroom or kitchen fans, fireplace or other appliances that might draw air into your shelter
- Remain inside until advised by proper authorities that it is safe to leave.

Tune to a local radio station for further information. CHOK (1070 AM), K106.3 FM, The Fox (99.9 FM). Our local Emergency Alert Radio System can break into any Radio Sarnia Lambton station at night, with an immediate alert. Cogeco cable TV can interrupt all channels with emergency news, if you are a subscriber.

CAER Community Report is published three times per year by the Community Awareness and Emergency Response Organization. If you have any comments on information in this issue, or questions regarding your industrial neighbours, please call CAER at (519)336-3656.

Web Site: <http://www.caer.ca> Email: bhatfield@caer.ca

Spring 2003 Edition CAER Community Report

Keeping YOU informed on what local industries and community leaders are doing to ensure the safety of everyone living in Sarnia-Lambton



**GORD WILSON,**
Community Affairs Committee Chair & Ethyl Canada representative

Winter has indeed been upon us this year. Those who like the cold and snow are thrilled; the rest of us are just curled up by the fire waiting for spring. All that indoor time can give us a chance to think and plan.

One of the things we can plan for is what we and our families would do in an emergency. Winter can be a brutal time if an emergency situation is thrust upon us (ask the people of Badger Nfld.). A little time spent considering what provisions we might need or what actions we might take in the event of an emergency can be the difference between coming through a situation well and barely surviving or worse.

Not many of us have the experience or patience to plan for something that may never happen. To make it easier the Community Awareness Committee of CAER has basic information about what our response might be to various industrial, municipal or transportation emergencies. This information is available from the CAER office, public libraries and even local video stores. In addition organizations such as the Red Cross can provide detailed requirements of what might be needed in a prolonged situation.

One of the key things in reacting effectively to an emergency is being aware of its existence. In previous reports we have talked about the new sirens, their testing and use. Very shortly a test program of an in-home device designed to give information about emergencies and other important situations will be undertaken by local emergency planners including CAER. A detailed article describing the Allport device, its uses and the testing that will be carried out is included in this newsletter. Other articles describing various aspects of emergency preparedness and safety are also included. We hope you will take time to read the information and consider if and where it might fit into your plans.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Check out our website at www.caer.ca or call us at 336-3656.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

In the face of tornado's , petrochemical incidents or any emergency requiring action on the part of people, the greatest problem facing the incident commanders is quick, accurate notification of the residents in the area.

This has not been an easy task, telephone call out systems using many lines is very time consuming and by the time it is employed, it can take up to 25-30 minutes to reach three or four thousand homes. By this time the danger has struck and the effort to notify people into action was too late.

Since the second world war, the preferred method of warning has been the siren and it has done a reasonable job of warning people who can hear it, however this has usually been only those who have been outside at the time and not engaged in a noisy activity such as being in an automobile with the radio on, or operating noisy equipment. It certainly does nothing for the hearing impaired. Sirens also require that people who hear them are well trained to react quickly. During the war it meant heading for bomb shelters immediately, Today in Sarnia and area it means go inside, tune to the local radio station for information and close doors and windows and shut down heating and air conditioning.

We have no idea how many persons are alerted when the sirens sound and there is no system on earth that will reach all persons effectively, however due to new technology developed in Canada there is a better way to reach households in Sarnia , Point Edward and Corunna (over 34,000) within minutes (2-3) and be able to tell whether or not the warning was received.

This system utilizes a small (5"X 4"X 2") plastic box equipped with a digital screen, warning lights, alarm and ports to accept devices to alert the hearing impaired and other handicapped persons. It is connected (by jack) to the phone line and from there to your phone. It is activated by the same system that activates the sirens.

Thanks to the efforts of Sarnia's emergency planning office, and the CAER organization a federal grant was obtained to test 400 units in selected homes, schools, seniors residences and businesses in south Sarnia, the Aamjiwnaang first nation, Froomfield and Corunna beginning in earl May

of this year. The test is not to verify the technology of the unit (it's well proven) but rather to test Bell Canada's ability to activate it's network of lines effectively and quickly and also to determine the operating costs of such a system.

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A device such as this cannot be mandated into every home. It requires that the homeowner or resident ask for it to be installed and accept a monthly fee for it's operation. We expect that the purchase price of the unit will be dependent on the number of units sold and that the monthly fee will be similar to such systems as user ID etc. The purchase price to dependent on the number of units sold and like all new technology it will go down as the number of users increases.

Here in the CAER group, all of us are very excited about this new system as it has many uses beyond notification of an impending incident. It can generate a silent, light flashing alarm to notify you of a non life threatening incident that happens at 2:00 am and will give you a number to call if your home or property is affected. It can warn you to be on the lookout for missing children, it can advise of school closures or any public safety issues that can happen in the area of the unit. These units can be activated along one side of one street in a community, or selected blocks of homes etc. It can advise persons to stay indoors in the event of police action. It's potential uses are many.

The four hundred locations for the test have been determined by CAER to ensure that all areas, and situations are covered by the test. The results of this four month testing will be publicized and hopefully we will be able to see these units available by year end 2003 or early 2004.

If and when the system is in place, it will make our area the only community in North America capable of reaching a high percentage of it's residents in the event of an emergency.

Stay tuned to the media for more updates as the test progresses.

**DOUG MARTIN,**
C.V.E.C.O. Chair & Dow Chemical representative

Well it's been quite a year in the Sarnia area. We've seen a greatly increased sense of security in our valley industries. This is of course based on a belief that we may be targeted by terrorist activists because of our proximity to the US border.

Some may not consider Canada a target, however, in a diligent fashion we have indeed kept pace with our industrial brothers in the United States.

This increase in security highlights, more than ever, the need to maintain the highest standards in dealing with the effects of possible terrorist action. This has always been our goal and we have been advancing the standard quite a bit in the last few months. We have completely reformatted our CVECO Operating Manual, Reviewed our unique "Incident Management" (Industrial & Municipal) structure and introduced a fire ground personnel accountability system designed to monitor and protect our combined mutual aid firefighters in the event of a major incident.

All of this has come about through the efforts of many of our members and I would like to thank them all for the many hours of meeting and discussing the technical aspects of these changes. The learning and the changes never cease.

As an organization we must also improve our communication between our member companies and all of their respective representatives. A major boost in this communication effort has been the updating of our website and the creation of a "Members Only " section where we can post minutes and drafts of proposed changes for all of the members to review.

I'm looking forward to another year of positive progress in the never ending business of keeping pace in the vital business of Emergency Response.