

PEOPLE CAER



Tom Cooper is the Site Fire Marshall at Imperial Oil's Sarnia Manufacturing Site a role he has performed for over 16 of his 33 years service to I.O.L.

Tom has been one of the most active CVECO members over the years and has been responsible for the CVECO manual, has been the CVECO Chairman in 1994, a member of the fire committee and the Emergency Planning Committee. Tom and his fire crew played a significant role in the CVECO extinguishment of the Sunoco Tank 11 fire in 1996.

He is the proud father of two sons, David & Mark and as Tom puts it "he has been tolerated" by his wife Pat for 30 years. He is a member of the Lakeshore Optimist Club, The Bluewater Baptist Church and is an avid model railroader with a significant setup in his basement.

CAER/CVECO has benefited greatly from Tom who has worked very hard toward the organizations objectives.

Thanks Tom for all your efforts.

SADS 2002

This years Sarnia Area Disaster Simulation was designed and hosted by BP Canada on Plank Road on September 5th from 8:30 am till 11:30 am. followed by an intense review of activities that afternoon. As is the case for all disaster simulations there were several lessons learned. For those of you not familiar with SADS, it is the main CVECO exercise held to put CVECO's expertise and response capabilities to the test. Each of the members of CVECO regularly conduct both "Table Top" exercises and "in house" disaster simulations. In the SADS exercise these companies get to provide assistance to the hosting company. This year's SADS recreated a terrorist attack in which a disgruntled employee created two gas leaks and set a brush fire. A car accident on Plank Rd. ignited the fictitious vapour cloud causing a serious flash fire. Special thanks goes to the Lambton College Fire School for providing a smoke machine which made the event very realistic.

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- CVECO, through the former CAER Administrator, Dr. Allen Wells, actively prepared and later revised the standard manual for similar organizations, Guiding Principles for Municipal and Industrial Emergency Preparedness, published by the Major Industrial Accidents Council of Canada. He was the first "industry" co-chair to lead the Ontario Committee for Joint Municipal/ Industrial Preparedness when it began.
- In 1996, Lambton County was one of the first two communities in Canada to receive MIACC's national award for Prevention, Preparedness and Response when it began.
- Thousands of people around the world have become acquainted with CVECO & CAER through a website established by George Hatfield of Sunoco. <http://www.caer.ca>. One of the events featured on that site was the extinguishing of the largest, fully involved storage tank fire ever accomplished by a volunteer organization in 1996. Such major fires are handled effectively, year in and year out by CVECO. Minor fires are regularly dealt with by process operators or internal plant fire departments often made up of volunteers.
- CVECO helped create the Lambton College Fire School.
- CVECO has conducted local workshops both on "Gas Cloud Dispersion Modelling" and the natural threat in this area – Tomadoes
- CVECO pioneered early videos for responder training and resident education. This role has now been taken over by the Community Awareness Committee of CAER.
- CVECO has prepared supportive procedures, maps and a committee organization to deal with an important, largely unseen means of transportation – pipelines. Specific disaster simulations for pipeline operators have been held on many occasions. Traffic control was the earliest role for CVECO. Signed emergency routes have been established and continue to be maintained. White CVECO labeled boxes contain barricades and related equipment at key intersections for this purpose.
- CAER played a significant role in the purchase and installation of ten emergency sirens in the area and continues to seek out improved methods of emergency warning for residents.
- CAER (on behalf of several valley industries) operates the Bluewater CAP (Community Advisory Panel). This panel, consisting of citizens and industry officials meet throughout the year to discuss areas of mutual concern. This advisory panel is an important source of feedback to the industries from local citizens.

The ER portion of CAER has justifiably been proud of it's accomplishments and continues to work hard at maintaining and improving the ability to effectively respond and control chemical valley incidents. It is a 24 hour, seven days a week, 365 days a year operation that works to ensure the safety of Sarnia and area residents.

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The original concept of traffic control on which CVECO was founded in 1951 has been expanded on to not only become a mutual aid organization for it's members but most importantly Caer/CVECO constitutes an unparalleled collection of emergency response individuals who seek to improve safety in our unique industrial environment.

RON LEVEL,

C.V.E.C.O. Chair & NOVA Chemicals representative



S.A.D.S.
(Sarnia Area Disaster Simulation) Exercise at BP Amoco, held Sept.5th, 2002. Organized by the C.V.E.C.O. emergency planning committee.



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), WPHM (1380), K106.3, WHLS (1450), The Fox (99.9), Real Country (1590), WKSQ (107), WNFA (88.3) or WBTI (96.9) 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>

Summer 2002 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



Working to Ensure the Safety of Sarnia-Lambton



Welcome to the autumn CAER Community Report for 2002. The hot hazy days of summer are behind us, the children are back in school, and everyone's schedules are filling up once again.

Throughout the spring and summer the Community Awareness Committee was occupied with several community outreach efforts. CAER members were active in the one day Petrochem Forum, held at the Ramada Inn in Sarnia. A panel of five CAER members presented an overview of the past and present structures to the CAER and CVECO organization. Good feedback was received by those in attendance. An emergency response and siren awareness presentation was also conducted for the residents of Thompson Gardens in Corunna.

The Bluewater Community Advisory Panel (CAP) has also been very engaged this year, with added activities and meetings. A community members only meeting was held to develop a more community focused agenda. The CAP Bylaws and Guidelines are being reviewed and there is good interaction and exchange of ideas by all members. Additional CAP orientation meetings are also taking place this year, with the planned industry/community sessions being held at three separate industry sites.

Thank you to Nova for hosting the May Bluewater CAP meeting and we look forward to visiting the Imperial Oil and Shell refineries this fall.

Local emergency response and "siren" information has been added to the CAER video and the updated version is now complete and available through the CAER office.

The Community Awareness Committee (CAC) goals continue to be to keep our community informed as to the nature of our local industries, accident prevention measures and the steps to take in the event of a municipal or industrial emergency.

We want your feedback. Please let us know what we are doing well and where we can improve. Please contact us by visiting our website at www.caer.ca or telephone at 336-3656

HEATHER COOPER,

Community Affairs Committee Chair
& Shell Products representative

Emergency Response Is A Critical Part of the CAER Concept

CAER is made up of two organizations. Community Awareness/ Emergency Response. In this issue we'd like to tell you of the ER (emergency response) organization known as CVECO (Chemical Valley Emergency Coordinating Organization).

CVECO

While the first oil well in North America was drilled at Oil Springs in 1858, exploitation of the gum beds in Enniskillen Township had actually begun in 1851. Oil refining moved from Oil Springs to Petrolia and finally to Sarnia. Imperial Oil established its refinery on the banks of the St. Clair River, just over 100 years ago.

During the Second World War, Japanese troops occupied most of the world's rubber producing areas in Southeast Asia. The Canadian government invited Dow Chemical Company to locate a plant in Sarnia, to produce monomer styrene. That chemical and the petroleum resources of Imperial Oil, were used by a consortium of four rubber producing companies, to produce a form of artificial rubber at the Polymer Corporation of Sarnia. The plant was completed, as a priority project second only to the production of the atomic bomb in 1943. Today that plant is operated by Bayer Inc.

Production of artificial rubber continued until after the war. At 10:30 pm on the night of May 6th, 1951, the most massive explosion in South Western Ontario occurred – heard as far away as Detroit and London – at one of the Polymer Corporation's producing units. Some Sarnians abandoned their homes in fear and slept on nearby road sides, others, seeking entertainment, drove to the industrial area to watch the rubber plant blow up. In the process, they put themselves in grave danger and hampered the movement of emergency response vehicles.

Representatives of the Sarnia Police Service, Dow, Imperial Oil and Polymer met, that week to form the Chemical Valley Emergency Traffic Control Committee. Later that same year, The Chemical Valley Mutual Aid Association was formed to share fire-fighting resources as needed among industries. In 1971 the two organizations joined to form the Chemical Valley Emergency Control Organization.

On December 3rd, 1984, a release of toxic vapour in Bhopal, India killed 2,700 residents and injured more than 20,000. All over the world the Chemical Industry organized to form (a) mutual aid organizations to deal with plant incidents and (b) public awareness organizations to help residents cooperate in ensuring their own safety. From these national and strong local efforts a new organization arose, January 1, 1986. Community awareness was addressed by a new Community Awareness Committee (although CVECO had done much in this area for many years.) Emergency response continued to be the duty of the Chemical Valley Emergency Coordinating Organisation (CVECO). Together Community Awareness, (CA) and Emergency Response (ER) merged to form CAER – Community Awareness Emergency Response – 16 years ago.

EARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The first industrial mutual assistance organization in Ontario and probably in Canada.

- Began a series of full scale field disaster simulations (as opposed to table-top exercises) called the Sarnia Area Disaster Simulation in 1980. As a consequence, Sarnia was the first of only four early communities in Canada to receive the Canadian Chemical Producers Association's highest Achievement Award symbolizing having " developed, organized and tested an integrated community awareness response program.

- Established the first international municipal mutual aid agreement in North America between the cities of Sarnia and Port Huron.

- Produced a pattern of municipal and industrial co-operation on which was built a wide range of similar organizations across Canada and, under United Nations sponsorship, in more than thirty countries around the world. Residents of Sarnia have been personally active in this organization in North and South America, Europe and Asia. The World Bank in 1994, on the 10th anniversary of the Bhopal incident, brought representatives of the government of India to Sarnia to study and use as a model what had been accomplished here.

LATER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Sarnia had too small a population to statistically warrant installing a burn care unit at a local hospital. Through fund-raising and lobbying, CVECO helped establish that unit.
- CVECO paid for an early computerized program, Poisindex as a guide to the treatment of industrial and other poisoning accidents.
- CVECO funded a mobile Command Post bus and a few years ago, joined with other organizations to establish a modern replacement vehicle.
- After four years study, CVECO established an Incident Command Structure to unify the municipal and industrial efforts to bring an incident under control.
- CVECO has established a network of radio communications facilities and procedures known as codes. This includes including a Tactical Fire Channel used by the Incident Commanders during an incident.
- For years CVECO built and maintained an organization to deal with oil spills to the St. Clair River. This role has been taken over by the Eastern Canada Response Corporation as part of a national program to preclude shipping disasters.
- Similarly, Sarnia was the site of the first Regional Environmental Emergency Team to unify activities by local, provincial and federal responders. The pattern is now implemented across Canada.

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The activities of the CVECO group since our last Community Report have been quite extensive. The following are just a few of the things we are actively engaged in;

The Response review Committee reviews all codes called each month and where deficiencies are noted, the checklists are sent back to the originating company representative for correction.

The Emergency Planning Committee is finalizing the 2002 SADS (Sarnia Area Disaster Simulation) exercise. It is slated for early September.

Primarily through the efforts of Sarnia's Emergency Planner, Cal Gardner, our new siren system is being fine tuned and procedures have been updated to ensure that public communications are initiated (EARS) for all Siren activations including false alarms.

Emergency Response Staging Areas and Site Maps Manual have been completed and distributed to Police, Fire, Ambulance and mutual aid response companies to assist them in locating gates, staging areas and other emergency response locations at each facility.

We have begun a series of presentations on risk management and emergency response at our regular CVECO General Meetings. These presentations conducted by outside experts are designed to educate and inform members of new developments.

We also conduct a "Table Top" simulated exercise at each meeting designed to educate and "sharpen" member's knowledge of CVECO protocols. (Use of codes etc.)

The CVECO Manual has been revised to make it easier to navigate and a lot of work has been done to completely revise the Incident Management System (IMS). This revision will ensure that a unified command structure is in place for all mutual aid responses. Many thanks to the committee members who worked very hard to complete this work and to Doug Martin for drafting the revisions to the manual.

CVECO have acquired a digital photograph of the entire valley, which can be used by member firms for emergency response planning or response. This map will be presented with Mr.SID format which will allow users to zoom, measure distances or print sections etc. Costs will be distributed based on the number of users and the map is expected to be updated in approx. 2-3 years. ... continued on page 8

