

# SERC NEWSLETTER



January 27, 2020

## SERC Chairperson

### *A Note from the TEMA Director*

As we continue to work through the implementation of EO 75 and support LEPCs across Tennessee's 95 counties, the SERC member agencies are working to increase transparency and access to information, and to build preparedness capabilities.

The SERC member agencies share information that is beneficial to communities and partners alike.

Sincerely,  
Patrick Sheehan  
SERC Chairperson  
Tennessee Emergency Management Agency Director

## SERC Update

We are pleased to introduce Michael Rinehart as the new Hazardous Materials Program Manager.

As a reminder, Tier II reports are due January 1st through March 1st, 2020. Tennessee uses [EPlan](#) for all Tier II reports.

## STATS FROM OPS

In 2019, TEMA State Watch Point responded to 3060 incidents and 197 missions. Data for HazMat incidents includes:

Air: 43	Fixed Facility: 74
Ground: 181	Highway: 201
Pipeline: 5	Water Related: 129
Rail: 34	Total: 625

# Department of Environment & Conservation

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### **Improving Resiliency by Reducing Extreme Weather Risks**

By: Ben Bolton, Energy Programs Administrator, TDEC Office of Energy Programs

Following serious floods last spring for much of the country, businesses are still susceptible to extreme weather events. There are several steps industries can take to improve resiliency and reduce risks associated with extreme weather and other natural phenomena:

1. Elevate electric utilities and HVAC systems above the base flood elevation. The severity of Superstorm Sandy's damage was compounded by flooding to facility basements which housed backup generation and utilities. Flood proofing critical pumps, HVAC systems, compressed air supplies, and utilities can protect from damage or loss of function during severe weather events that lead to flooding.
2. Install dual-fuel backup generation, or at least, install correct connectors for using a backup generator. Having a standby commercial generator can supply power during an electrical outage and may be fueled by natural gas, propane, or diesel. A dual-fuel option provides flexibility should one type of fuel become in short supply. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has developed an [Emergency Power Facility Assessment Tool](#). The tool is a secure, web-based tool for emergency power assessment for critical facility owners/operators and emergency response agencies. Knowing your backup generation needs for your critical operations can insure a more resiliency facility in the face of disasters.
3. Examine supply chains for single point failures. In 2011, several Tennessee businesses were impacted by the earthquake and tsunami in northern Japan and discovered damage to their Japanese suppliers lead to production delays here. While many modern companies cannot afford the constant cost of maintaining large inventories, they can focus on developing response plans to create flexibility during supply disruptions.
4. Conduct a vulnerability assessment of assets and prioritize mitigation projects. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency developed a [basic guide](#) to flood resilience for water and wastewater utilities. However, the step-by-step approach outlined in the document is applicable to most industries.

# TOSHA

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## Keeping Workers Safe during Flood Cleanup

Workers responding to the cleanup from floods may be exposed to serious hazards including electrical, fallen trees and debris, mold, and carbon monoxide. OSHA reminds employers that worker safety is a priority, and the agency has resources available to protect workers from hazards associated with flood response operations

- Generators – Use gas and diesel-powered generators outdoors to prevent exposure to carbon monoxide – a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas.
- Electrical – Keep a safe distance from downed or damaged power lines. Repairs must be performed by trained electrical utility workers.
- Downed Trees – Wear protective gloves, and foot, eye, hearing, head, and fall protection when using chainsaws and chippers to clear downed trees.
- Chemical/Biological Hazards – Wash hands with soap and clean water, and wear protective clothing, goggles, gloves, and boots to avoid contamination.

For more information on common hazards after a flood, visit OSHA's [Flood Preparedness and Reponse](#) Page.

## Training Opportunities

For TOSHA training opportunities and a course schedule, please visit the [TOSHA Training and Education website](#).

# Department of Transportation

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## TDOT Celebrates Two Milestones in 2019

TDOT's HELP program is celebrating 20 years of service in Tennessee. The HELP truck program began in Nashville and Knoxville in the summer of 1999. Service started in Memphis and Chattanooga in the summer of 2000. Since the program launched, TDOT's HELP drivers have provided over 2.5 million services statewide.

Each minute that a lane is blocked can translate into five minutes of delays for motorists. These delays can be dangerous for drivers and can lead to chain reaction accidents that further tie up Tennessee interstates. TDOT's HELP program works to reduce traffic congestion, improve safety and assist motorists who may be stranded on roadways.

TDOT HELP drivers receive extensive traffic control and emergency response training. Each truck is equipped with traffic control devices, first aid supplies, and defibrillators. Drivers also participate in more extensive training for natural disasters and specialized vehicle recovery techniques.

For more information about the HELP program, please visit: <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/traffic-operations-division/transportation-management-office/help-program.html>

TDOT's keeping the roads safe and clean. The Adopt-A-Highway program is celebrating 30 years of beautifying Tennessee roadsides. The program began statewide in 1989 as a means for individuals, community groups and civic organizations to clean-up their communities and receive roadside recognition. The completely free program has grown over time, removing more than 12 million pounds of litter from Tennessee roadsides. Today, more than 550 miles of roadside across the state have been adopted.

Adopt-A-Highway is a free program for the public to volunteer to clean up a 2 mile stretch of local state highway. Clean-ups are conducted quarterly and reported to TDOT. Local department staff provides safety equipment, trash grabbers and bags. For the effort, TDOT installs free roadside recognition panels along every adopted area, naming the adoptive individual, group, or organization. For help getting started, program resources are available electronically on the [TDOT website](#).

ADOPT--HIGHWAY

# Tennessee Highway Patrol

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## THP New Entrant Program

On May 13, 2002, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) published its New Entrant Safety Assurance Process Interim File Rule (IFR). The new regulations established minimum requirements for new entrant motor carriers (any carrier applying for a new USDOT Number on or after January 1, 2003) to ensure they are knowledgeable about the applicable Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) and Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMRs). It is FMCSA's intent to improve the safety performance of new entrants by providing educational and technical assistance to all new entrant carriers through the use of safety audits. Consistent with the IFR, safety audits are conducted on all new entrants within 12 months of the start of their operation. The carrier must pass the audit in order to receive permanent DOT registration. The safety audit and 12-month monitoring period serve to provide new carriers the opportunity to understand their safety obligations under our regulations.

A process review on the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) New Entrant Program was made in order to assess effectiveness and to seek improvements in the program wherever feasible. This review was conducted in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Volume 6, Chapter 2 of the Motor Carrier Administrative Training Manual which states that each division office conduct a program review of each MCSAP element (area) once every three years.

This review consists of visiting the headquarters office and visiting with the State of Tennessee's New Entrant Coordinator. Applicable files were made a part of this review. The lead agency, which administers the grant for the State of Tennessee, is the Department of Safety/Tennessee Highway Patrol. The MCSAP is assigned to the Tennessee Highway Patrol. Presently, all new entrant audits are conducted by MCSAP's lead agency.

# Environmental Protection Agency

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## U. S. EPA Tool Utilized to Improve Response Decision Making

Over the last several years, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency emergency response programs have increased the deployment of a monitor system to emergency incidents where air borne contamination may pose a threat to public health. The VIPER system, comprised of instrumentation, telemetry, and translation is a wireless network-based communications system designed to enable real time transmission of data from field monitoring equipment to a local computer, remote computer, or enterprise server and provide data management, analysis, and visualization.

The system provides monitoring data in real-time, processes data for comparison to human health benchmarks, and can immediately determine exceedances of health-based benchmarks and notify users of the exceedances. Access to the output from the system can be established for local, state, and industry stakeholders during the response to assist with situational awareness and real time decision making related to the protection of public health. For additional information, please visit

[https://response.epa.gov/site/site\\_profile.aspx?site\\_id=5033](https://response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=5033)

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