



Emergency Response Assistance Canada
Assistance d'Intervention d'Urgence du Canada
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Greetings!

These past few months have been busy leading up to a very successful National Training Forum, which saw almost one hundred Remedial Measure Advisors, Technical Advisors, Team Leaders, Rail DGOs and guests from Transport Canada in attendance. My own highlight, besides seeing all of our committed leaders there, was having the privilege to listen to Lieutenant-General The Honorable Roméo Dallaire speak to all of us and share some of his learnings and experiences. What really resonated for me was his statement about “If you remain status quo you are actually falling behind”. I also want to take this time to thank all of the other presenters who made the National such a great success. Also a very special thank you to Carley Milhausen who was our key organizer in making this year’s National Training Forum such a success.

Don, Patrick and Louis-Philippe have been out across the country performing Regional Training and Assessments for many of the 21 Response Teams of the ERAC. We look forward to seeing all of the training completed in the fall along with the required online web based ERAC training modules compliance.

The ERAC Board of Directors has made some significant changes in the past couple of months; we now have 11 Board members. In April of this year, Chris Bunce with Canadian Pacific Railway resigned as a Board member. At the beginning of June, Vlad Grigore had stepped down as the Chair and Wolfgang Wenk from Canwest Propane, previous Vice-Chair, was appointed the new Chair of the Board. In addition, we also have some new members that we would like to welcome; Glen Wilson with Canadian Pacific Railway and Steve Wilson with Wilson Fuel Co. Limited. At the last Board meeting the members agreed to create a Strategic Planning Working Group to look at the future of ERAC moving forward over the next few years.

We are currently in the process of final selection of a new Manager of Safety and Quality Improvement. This role will be helping to continue to develop our Quality and Safety Management Systems including review and revision of ERAC policies, procedures, guidelines and training material. The role will also support the Operations Managers in the training and assessment of ERAC responders.

Over the past year, ERAC has been involved with and contributing to the Transport Canada Emergency Response Task Force and numerous sub-committees. This committee was created to provide recommendations to the Minister of Transport on how to improve safe transport of bulk flammable liquids transported by rail. Likely, many of these recommendations will impact all dangerous goods transported by any mode. We are already seeing the staff of Transport Canada increase from 35 to 85 inspectors and RMSs. They will be ensuring ERAPs are assessed and what is written in the ERAP is what can be expected when there is an incident and activation is required. It was noted by Transport Canada, that in the event there is an incident and there is potential for imminent release or an actual release, their expectation is to have the ERAP activated as it is written and approved by Transport Canada for the ERAP holder (our Plan Participants). If an ERAP holder chooses not to activate their ERAP, and they respond with their own response team, they are not covered by any liability protection under section 20 of the Act. If the ERAP holder is also an ERAC Plan Participant, they would not be covered by our liability protection insurance either.

ERAC is excited to have partnered with National TransCAER initiatives held across Canada and will be attending Regional TransCAER meetings and events from coast to coast. We are also an associate member of CERCA and we will be getting involved with TEAP III response team documentation assessments. In addition, ERAC is a proud sponsor of Rail Association of Canada (RAC), TransCAER safety train and the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) National conference.

I want to wish you and your families a very safe and happy summer!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Buckland', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Spencer Buckland MLT, MALT, QM/OE, CRSP
President
Emergency Response Assistance Canada (ERAC)