

An aerial photograph of a river valley with a prominent mesa in the background. The river flows through the valley, and the surrounding landscape is a mix of green vegetation and brownish terrain. The sky is overcast with light clouds. The text is overlaid on the image in a brown color.

**Border 2012—Emergency Preparedness and
Response Border-Wide Workgroup**

U.S.-Mexico Inland JRT Meeting

February 16, 2006 • San Diego, California

Border 2012 Emergency Preparedness & Response Border-Wide Workgroup (BWWG)

- BWWG works on federal border-wide issues
- Border 2012 created the Emergency Preparedness and Response Border-Wide Workgroup (BWWG) to coordinate and implement Border 2012's Goal #5 and its three objectives
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Border-Wide Workgroup (BWWG) created as the steering committee of Joint Response Team (JRT):
 - JRT established by Annex II of the 1983 La Paz Agreement
 - JRT co-chaired by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPa)



Border 2012 Emergency Preparedness and Response JRT Partners



Goal and Objectives of BWWG

(Border 2012 Goal #5)

- **Reduce exposure to chemicals as a result of accidental chemical releases and/or acts of terrorism**
 - **Objective 1:** By 2004, a chemical emergency advisory/notification mechanism between Mexico and the U.S. will be clearly established
 - **Objective 2:** By 2008, all 14 sister cities' joint contingency plans will be in place and operating (including exercises), with the establishment of bi-national committees for chemical emergency prevention
 - **Objective 3:** By 2012, 50% of sister city joint contingency plans will be supplemented with preparedness and prevention related efforts, such as risk and consequence analysis, risk reduction, and counter-terrorism

BWWG 2006 Priorities

- Finalize the proposed revisions to the U.S-Mexico Joint Contingency Plan
- Successfully conduct JCP notification drills with updated notification system
- Finalize our U.S. proposed expedited cross border response protocol initiated in 2005 with DHS Customs and Border Patrol, U.S. EPA and U.S. Coast Guard
- Identify next steps for Mexico's cross-border response
- Continue to expand opportunities for training and exercises
- Invigorate the JRT by working in strengthened partnerships with US and Mexico federal, state and local offices
 - Work with USCG, DHS CBP, Northcom and all other JRT members
 - Mexico will work in partnership with Proteccion Civil, CENACOM, and Aduanas

Action Items from Inland U.S.-Mexico JRT Meeting

- Revisions to the U.S.-Mexico Joint Contingency Plan (JCP)
 - Mexican and other U.S. Federal agencies within our workgroup will be reviewing the proposed changes to the JCP
 - Comments due by March 1 from the JRT meeting participants
 - Incorporate PROFEPA/SEMARNAT new emergency notification protocol for Appendix A
 - U.S. and Mexico are aiming to finalize the JCP by the end of April 2006 for the National Coordinator's Meeting
- Expediting cross-border emergency responses
 - EPA will identify the broad categories of response equipment and likely personnel (EPA and contractors) that may respond to a cross-border emergency by utilizing the revised ICS 204a form
 - Procedures for notifying Mexico will be established with the National Response Center
 - U.S. and Mexico customs officials, PROFEPA, and EPA will set up a meeting in March 2006 to identify next steps with Aduanas
- Establish a coordinated schedule of Mexico and US cross border exercises/drills
- Provide support in establishing an emergency training academy in Region VI
- Location for next JRT meeting

Emergency Preparedness & Response BWWG Contact Information

México

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