



May 11, 2013

The tragic incident that recently occurred in West serves as a stark reminder that disasters can occur at any time or place. The City of Corsicana, like most cities in the state, has facilities that store and utilize chemicals, flammable liquids, and gases that are used in manufacturing processes. Corsicana has these same type products that are transported by rail and by transport trucks over the roadways. The delivery and use of these products are a daily part of our lives but we must be aware of the dangers and take proper precautions to ensure the safety of our citizens.

The City has plans and procedures in place that guide and assist the City departments in the response to major emergency incidents. These plans and procedures include an All Hazard Emergency Operations Plan that is reviewed and approved by the Governor's Division of Emergency Management. The Fire and Police Departments also have standard operating procedures that are specific to these types of operations.

Annual inspections of businesses and industries are conducted by Fire Department personnel. The purpose of these inspections is to identify any code violations that may be found. In addition, the department makes sure these issues are corrected. The inspections also allow fire personnel to become more familiar with the building and obtain information to plan for an emergency. Additional vital information about local businesses and the type and quantities of dangerous and hazardous materials stored at a facility is obtained and reviewed on an annual basis by the Fire Department through reports required by the State of Texas.

Another critical part of emergency planning involves the City's capability to notify the citizens of an emergency situation and provide instructions on what to do for protection. This is accomplished through the Corsicana Emergency Notification System which allows individuals to receive emergency notification through their home phone, cell phone, text message, or e-mail. All citizens are encouraged to register with this emergency notification system on the City of Corsicana website at cityofcorsicana.com. Click on the Emergency Notification Program at the bottom of the page and enter the information requested. If assistance is needed in registering, please contact the Corsicana Fire Department administrative staff at 903-654-4956, Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The City Council is concerned about the health and safety of all the citizens.

Sincerely,

Chuck McClanahan
Mayor