



**Alabama Society of Hazardous
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ASHMM SPRING 2005 NEWSLETTER

Greetings from the President

It's spring-time in Alabama and that means it's time for our spring meeting! I hope to see you on May 5, 2005 as we tour the Vulcan Materials Company's Dolcito Quarry followed by our Chapter meeting. For planning purposes, please contact Sharon Burns at sburns@ttlinc.com or (334) 244-0766 and let her know if you plan on attending the meeting.

Your Board has been busy planning an exciting year for our Chapter. Please mark your calendars now with all our meeting and course dates listed throughout the newsletter and on our [Chapter website](#).

At our May 5 meeting we will be voting on our chapter's new By-laws – the rules and regulations which govern our Chapter's activities. The Board determined it was necessary to update our By-laws to guide our Chapter's operations and to align our rules with the guidelines of the Academy. In order to vote, your 2005 ASHMM dues must be paid. A dues notice is included in this newsletter. You can mail your dues to Mike Carter or bring a check with you to the meeting. If you can not attend the meeting, please complete the absentee voting form that was emailed to you with the proposed By-laws. The Board recommends you vote to approve the By-laws.

In addition to our Chapter meetings, the Board has planned another CHMM Review course in August. Eight eager professionals attended our February 2005 course which provided our Chapter the opportunity to promote the environmental, health and safety profession, gain new members and earn income for our chapter. The success of the August course will depend on each of us promoting the CHMM credential and the review course. So start talking about the course within your professional networks, and watch your emails and our website for information flyers. If you know someone who is interested in taking the review course, please have them contact Linda Zander at zanderl@anl.gov or (205) 437-0765. If you are interested in teaching part of the course, please contact Robert Tomlinson at rtomlinson@atn.org or (256) 331-5381. This is a great way to earn recertification points.

As our Chapter has done in the past two years, ASHMM plans to conduct an 8-hour HAZWOPER Refresher Course. The refresher course is conveniently being held the day before our annual ASHMM meeting (November 5, 2005). You do not have to be a CHMM to attend. This is a great opportunity for ASHMM, and we encourage you to sign up for this training. Watch your emails and our website for more details.

On behalf of your Board, thank you for your continued support of ASHMM and we look forward to a fun year. See you May 5th!

Linda

We are putting together an ASHMM Member Directory that will enable us to get to know each other a little better! The ASHMM Board Members believe that a Directory will be useful to our membership for a couple of reasons. First, we meet infrequently and unless you've been in the Chapter a while, members do not always get to know where one works and what kind of work they are doing. Second, there are times when we are looking for someone who specializes in a particular area. The Directory with a short bio may help networking and generate some business opportunities.

A template is attached to this email. Please add your information following the examples provided and email back to Sharon Burns at sburns@ttlinc.com. Please take the time to provide the information requested. Not only will it help your fellow CHMMs, it will also be an asset to you!

Leadership: An Exercise in Project Management Excellence!

Circle the Dates May 19 - 20, 2005 On Your Calendar!

You will not want to miss this year's ACHMM Leadership Workshop to be held in Pasco, Washington near the DOE Hanford Reservation. The theme for this year's workshop is: "Leadership: An Exercise in Project Management Excellence". This is a day and a half workshop, focused on developing project management skills that will help you in your CHMM Career and also to better serve as a leader within your local ACHMM chapter. This highly valued 12-hour training opportunity is available at no cost to all paid members of the National Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers. You will be responsible for personal travel and lodging expense.

Your Academy has a reputation of providing excellent Annual Leadership Workshops that have been highly rated by all attendees. However, this year's workshop will be even better since it will provide more Academy-focused practical (nuts and bolts detail) insights into how to strengthen your local chapter and your professional association at large.

The class will begin at 8 AM on Thursday May 19th and conclude at Noon on Friday May 20th. Professional networking opportunities with other fast-track CHMMs will be facilitated throughout the workshop. You are also invited to sit in on your National Academy Board Meeting which begins at Noon at the conclusion of the Workshop.

Register today for this workshop with the Academy National Office at 800-437-0137 before registrations close (we will be limited to only 50 total registrants). The full leadership registration brochure is available on the [Academy web site](#).

Richard Cartwright
Laureen McMurray
ACHMM Board Members & Workshop Co-chairs

P.S. If your travel schedule allows, the Eastern Washington ACHMM Chapter will be hosting scientific, technical and historical tours (for a very nominal fee) relevant to the Hanford DOE Reservation on Wednesday, May 18th. As an extra bonus, the local ACHMM Chapter will also be hosting recreational tours of the "world class" vineyards in the local area immediately following the Annual ACHMM Leadership Workshop.

Need Continuing Education Credits?

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The Federal Emergency Management Agency through its Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers more than forty independent study courses. These are self-paced courses designed for people who have emergency management responsibilities and the general public. For most of the courses you will need to download and print the materials. Others are interactive courses that you can take directly over the internet on the NETC Virtual Campus. All are offered free-of-charge to those who qualify for enrollment. Each Independent Study Course includes lessons with practice exercises and a final examination. Students who score 75 percent or better are issued a certificate of achievement from EMI.

Course completion times vary from two to fourteen hours, depending on the course and the student's background. College credit can be obtained after successful completion of a course. See the [website](#) for details.

Enrollment: Official enrollment in the courses, scoring of final exams, issuance of certificates, and maintenance of student records is limited to United States (US) residents with a US deliverable postal address including APO and FPO addresses.

Academy Award Nominations

Each year, the Academy honors the best and brightest amongst our membership but we can't do it without your help. All of us can name at least five people or organizations that have made a contribution to our credential in some way. It could be the consulting company who always let you use their copier and conference room for meetings, or the volunteer who tirelessly toils for some project that needs to be done, or the committee chair who make the committee worth working for. Whoever it is, show them you appreciate and value them by submitting a nomination form for one of the ACHMM awards.

There are awards for individual CHMMs as well as group awards for chapters. There are awards that may be given to non-CHMMs or organizations. The Friend Award is the first award specifically designated to honor a non-CHMM individual. The Sponsor Award is a way for the Academy to officially recognize an outside organization or agency that provided outstanding support of the ACHMM and its' mission. The Unsung Hero Award is designed to recognize an individual that has in some unique and significant way, contributed to a Chapter or the Academy as a whole, but for whatever reason, is not recognized through the traditional awards program.

Chapters can find recognition as well through the Chapter of the Year award or the Website of the Year Award. For those really outstanding individuals, the "Big Four Awards" (includes Pete Cook/ Founder's, Special Achievement, Young CHMM and HMM of the Year) can say thank you for all the wonderful efforts our members give year after year to our credential and the community.

Submittals for candidates are painless using the electronic nomination form available on the [ACHMM website](#). Descriptions of the various award criteria are also posted. A list of past winners is available as well. **Submittals are due by April 30th**. If you have questions regarding this process feel free to call the National Office.

This year in St. Louis we will be holding our awards reception at the City Museum. Once again, this will be a great opportunity to let someone know that their efforts are appreciated.

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

AN INTRODUCTION

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On February 28, 2003, President Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5. HSPD-5 directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents. You can also find information about NIMS at <http://www.fema.gov/nims/>.

NIMS makes America safer, from our Nation to our neighborhoods.

NIMS establishes standardized incident management processes, protocols, and procedures that all responders -- Federal, state, tribal, and local -- will use to coordinate and conduct response actions. With responders using the same standardized procedures, they will all share a common focus, and will be able to place full emphasis on incident management when a homeland security incident occurs -- whether terrorism or natural disaster. In addition, national preparedness and readiness in responding to and recovering from an incident is enhanced since all of the Nation's emergency teams and authorities are using a common language and set of procedures.

Advantages of NIMS:

NIMS incorporates incident management best practices developed and proven by thousands of responders and authorities across America. These practices, coupled with consistency and national standardization, will now be carried forward throughout all incident management processes: exercises, qualification and certification, communications interoperability, doctrinal changes, training, and publications, public affairs, equipping, evaluating, and incident management. All of these measures unify the response community as never before.

NIMS was created by representatives across America including:

- Federal government,
- States,
- Territories,
- Cities, counties, and townships,
- Tribal officials,
- First responders.

Key features of NIMS:

- **Incident Command System (ICS).** NIMS establishes ICS as a standard incident management organization with five functional areas -- command, operations, planning, logistics, and finance/administration -- for management of all major incidents. To ensure further coordination, and during incidents involving multiple jurisdictions or agencies, the principle of unified command has been universally incorporated into NIMS. This unified command not only coordinates the efforts of many jurisdictions, but provides for and assures joint decisions on objectives, strategies, plans, priorities, and public communications.
- **Communications and Information Management.** Standardized communications during an incident are essential and NIMS prescribes interoperable communications systems for both incident and information management. Responders and managers across all agencies and jurisdictions must have a common operating picture for a more efficient and effective incident response.
- **Preparedness.** Preparedness incorporates a range of measures, actions, and processes

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2005 ACHMM National Conference

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ACHMM's National Conference, Gateway to the Future of EHS Management, is scheduled for September 25-29, 2005, in St. Louis, Missouri. The conference will be held at the [Hyatt Regency St. Louis](#). The conference is designed for environmental, health and safety professionals in mind. Mark your calendars to attend! More information can be obtained from the [conference website](#).

This is an excellent way to network and earn valuable recertification points to maintain your credential and learn new information. Last year we had four members of the Alabama Chapter attend the conference in Las Vegas, lets set a goal for six members this year!



(NIMS - Continued from page 5)

accomplished before an incident happens. NIMS preparedness measures including planning, training, exercises, qualification and certification, equipment acquisition and certification, and publication management. All of these serve to ensure that pre-incident actions are standardized and consistent with mutually-agreed doctrine. NIMS further places emphasis on mitigation activities to enhance preparedness. Mitigation includes public education and outreach, structural modifications to lessen the loss of life or destruction of property, code enforcement in support of zoning rules, land management, and building codes, and flood insurance and property buy-out for frequently flooded areas.

- **Joint Information System (JIS).** NIMS organizational measures enhance the public communication effort. The Joint Information System provides the public with timely and accurate incident information and unified public messages. This system employs Joint Information Centers (JIC) and brings incident communicators together during an incident to develop, coordinate, and deliver a unified message. This will ensure that Federal, state, and local levels of government are releasing the same information during an incident.
- **NIMS Integration Center (NIC).** To ensure that NIMS remains an accurate and effective management tool, the NIMS NIC will be established by the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess proposed changes to NIMS, capture, and evaluate lessons learned, and employ best practices. The NIC will provide strategic direction and oversight of the NIMS, supporting both routine maintenance and continuous refinement of the system and its components over the long term. The NIC will develop and facilitate national standards for NIMS education and training, first responder communications and equipment, typing of resources, qualification and credentialing of incident management and responder personnel, and standardization of equipment maintenance and resources. The NIC will continue to use the collaborative process of Federal, state, tribal, local, multi-discipline and private authorities to assess prospective changes and assure continuity and accuracy.

FEMA offers an online "course" at their [website](#).

National Response Plan (NRP)

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Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, our Nation has now resolved to better prepare to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States; reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies; and minimize the damage and recover from attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies that occur. These complex and emerging 21st century threats and hazards demand a unified and coordinated national approach to domestic incident management.

The National Response Plan, or NRP, specifies how the resources of the Federal Government will work in concert with State, local, and tribal governments and the private sector to respond to Incidents of National Significance. The NRP is predicated on the National Incident Management System, or NIMS. Together the NRP and the NIMS provide a nationwide template for working together to prevent or respond to threats and incidents regardless of cause, size, or complexity. **You can find more information about the National Response Plan by clicking [here](#).**

FEMA offers an online course on the National Response Plan. This course introduces you to the NRP, including the concept of operations upon which the plan is built, roles and responsibilities of the key players, and the organizational structures used to manage these resources. The NRP provides a framework to ensure that we can all work together when our Nation is threatened.

The course is designed for DHS and other Federal department/agency staff responsible for implementing the NRP, as well as State, local and private sector emergency management professionals.

Purpose of the course is to introduce the NRP, so that students can:

- (A) describe the purpose of the NRP,
- (B) locate information within the NRP,
- (C) describe the roles and responsibilities of entities as specified in the NRP,
- (D) identify the organizational structure used for NRP coordination,
- (E) describe the field-level organizations and teams activated under the NRP, and
- (F) identify the incident management activities addressed by the NRP.

FEMA offers an online "course" at their [website](#).



A letter from the ASHMM Chapter President from the ACHMM Government Affairs (GA) Committee.

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February 14, 2005

Dear Chapter Presidents:

The Government Affairs Committee is now under new management. Tom Brown, who has so ably led this committee, has been elected to the ACHMM Board. We congratulate him on his new assignment and are looking forward to his continued involvement with and support of the Committee. Tom laid the groundwork for a strong and vibrant and blazed the trail that we are now charged with following into the future. Thanks Tom.

We are the new management of the Government Affairs (GA) Committee of the ACHMM.

Jim Foster, CHMM-Chairman - Currently working for EMCOR Facilities Services (formerly Consolidated Engineering Services) as the Director of Environmental Consulting. Jim can be reached at jfoster@emcor.net, 703 769-1151.

Lisa Hughey, CHMM, Co-Chair - Lisa works for Nissan and can be reached at lisa.hughey@nmm.nissan-usa.com. 615 355-2113

George Karpin, CHMM, Co-Chair - George works for the US Postal Service. George can be reached at george.c.karpin@usps.gov. 502 454-1925

Dr. James Harless, CHMM, Co-Chair - James is a principal and environmental consultant with Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc.. James can be reached at harless@sme-usa.com. 734.454.9900.

The GA Committee is currently looking for an individual to fill the position of secretary. The committee requests that you pass this information along to your members and encourage those, who you believe may have an interest in serving, to contact any one of the committee chairs.

The GA committee has about 80 members and Tom assures me they are energetic. We will harness that energy, identify areas where we can improve, and meet new challenges together. The ACHMM Board has provided direction and resources to accomplish our mission.

The GA Committee's mission will expand recognition of the CHMM certification. The committee will support local chapter GA committees, and will reach out to the Federal agencies, state environmental agencies, and other commercial and governmental organizations to gain licensure, aid in defining Environmental Professionals, and promote CHMM credentialed individuals as professionals in bid solicitations and contractual requirements.

Victories have been achieved in some areas. New Jersey has recognized the CHMM and added the certification to certain approvals. Other states are in the process of approving/accepting CHMMs.

We have some work to do. The committee will define the tasks, attempt to track opportunities to enhance legislation on our behalf, and identify organizations where we can make inroads to gain recognition for the CHMM Certification.

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(A Letter—Continued from page 8)



We are asking for your support and will ask for specific help as we identify needs. Tom Brown sent a letter to you requesting some information. If you haven't responded please take some time now to respond. If you need a copy of the letter please contact Jim Foster and he can send you a copy. Our immediate need is for examples of where and how you have seen our certification recognized in your state's regulations, in your state's professional licensing board, in your company's specifications and job requirements.

We are building a nationwide network of volunteers, organized by EPA Region and state, to track and exploit opportunities to expand recognition of our credential. Many of your chapters include a standing GA Committee. Please focus on getting your members to join your chapter GA committee and participate in the network.

We promise to increase the effort to help gain recognition. We will support efforts in your states or organizations with speakers, copies of draft legislation, specifications, letters and phone calls. We will track changes to rules that may present opportunities for us and communicate them to the committee in a timely manner. Our main means of communication with each other will be through the CyberChapter webpage. As new material is prepared or victories achieved we will post them there. We will always welcome your suggestions and help.

We look forward to supporting the Academy and board of directors. We are proud to serve the CHMM membership.

Best regards,

The Government Affairs Committee

cc: Tom Brown
Lauren Boyle



GET INVOLVED!



Whether it is in the local chapter, at the national level or in both, it is important to get involved otherwise what is the point of becoming a CHMM? Our very own Sally Smith, who has served our chapter as a director in the past is now lending her talents at the national level as a Bucket Leader for the National Overview Course (NOC) and is responsible for reviewing several modules as well. These modules are used by Chapters through out the United States to instruct other qualified individuals so that they can become CHMM's. Kim Perry is one of our newest members who moved to Anniston from Columbus, Ohio and Theresa Jablecki-Kriel, current the ASHMM Vice-President have also volunteered to review modules.