



## **NORTHEAST REGION CAER STATUS REPORT ON COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION PROGRAM**

### Industry And Public Have Role In Maximizing System

**May 28, 2003 Fort Saskatchewan and area:** 232 calls were made to Northeast Region CAER's UPDATEline in April, its first month of operation. Callers to the information line heard from both industry and municipal members of Northeast Region CAER on activities such as short-term flares, unusual traffic levels, emergency response training and a grass fire.

"Our members are committed to providing this information and we are pleased at the level of public interest and use of the UPDATEline," says Calvin Eyben, Chair of Northeast Region Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER).

Also launched at the end of March was the automated call-out notification system. With it, industry and municipal members of Northeast Region CAER can notify residents of a more serious incident in their immediate vicinity.

Currently, the call-out system uses contact information available from the white pages, which is about 70% accurate. The CAER group is encouraging residents of the region to verify their contact numbers and addresses to improve the accuracy. "We are building the system together with residents of our communities," Eyben says. "For the system to work at its full potential, residents should confirm their physical address and provide us with two contact numbers. This ensures we have the information in our contact list to reach the right people at the right time."

In addition to the new notification system, previous notification methods remain in place as all members make the transition to the new system. Training was conducted for all members, and the system is being integrated into more than 40 member emergency response plans. In this transition period, municipal members of Northeast Region CAER are able to activate the call-out system on behalf of any industry member.

Northeast Region CAER covers a 700 square kilometre region including Fort Saskatchewan, Bon Accord, Bruderheim, Gibbons, Lamont, Morinville and Redwater and portions of the counties of Strathcona, Sturgeon and Lamont.

Contact information can be provided to Northeast Region CAER by calling 424-0162 or by logging on to [www.nrcaer.com](http://www.nrcaer.com). The UPDATEline can be called toll-free at 1-866-653-9959.

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### **For further information, contact:**

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