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EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS



PRESS RELEASE

ETCOG and Tyler Junior College to Host First Responder Safety Training

November 12 - 13, 2010

Tyler, TX, November 4, 2010: First responders in East Texas will have the opportunity to learn how to keep drivers and themselves safe during a training that teaches them how to more efficiently respond to accidents involving alternative fuel vehicles. ETCOG and Tyler Junior College (TJC) will host the Clean Cities Learning Program First Responder Safety Training on November 12-13 at Tyler Junior College West Campus at 1530 SSW Loop 323 in Tyler.



The First Responder Safety Training consists of four modules, which include biofuels and biofuel vehicles, gaseous fuels and gaseous fuel vehicles, hydrogen and hydrogen-powered vehicles, and electric drive vehicles. The two-day workshop will teach emergency personnel what they need to know about alternative fuel vehicles and how to respond at an accident scene, especially when involving extrication.

U. S. Department of Energy

"Alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles are the future of transportation," said Rick McKnight, ETCOG Environmental Manager. "These next generation vehicles will reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil and help keep our air clean. "Because alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles are becoming more prevalent and will continue to increase in popularity, first responders must understand the differences between these cars and trucks and conventional, gasoline-powered vehicles," McKnight added. "The First Responder Safety Training provides a proactive approach to keeping emergency personnel and the citizens they serve safe."

The First Responder Safety Training is open to firefighters, law enforcement officers, paramedics, emergency medical technicians and hazardous response officials. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be given for completing the two day course. The curriculum is a component of the Clean Cities Learning Program, a project of the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium. CCLP is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program.

For more information about or to register for the upcoming First Responder Safety Training, contact Rick McKnight at (903) 984.8641 x209 or Rick.McKnight@etcog.org.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system,

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provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.

About the Clean Cities Learning Program

The Clean Cities Learning Program is a project funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. Developed by the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium and its partners, the Clean Cities Learning Program will raise awareness and foster a greater understanding of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles. This effort will provide Clean Cities Coalitions and other stakeholders with state-of-the art curricula and training, education and outreach materials and a concentrated marketing and communications plan. One of the most unique aspects of this project is the focus on developing a nationwide partnership between U.S. DOE Clean Cities Coalitions and NAFTC National Training Centers. This partnership will provide target audiences with awareness and technical education that encourage decisions to adopt vehicles and fuels that will significantly reduce the consumption of petroleum-based fuels.