

TEXAS AIR QUALITY CONTROL
CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR
PREVENTION OF AIR
POLLUTION EPISODES

Section VIII

TEXAS AIR CONTROL BOARD

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AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

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PREFACE

The purpose of the Air Pollution Episode Plan is to protect human life and health by preventing or eliminating dangerous levels of air pollution. The objective is to provide control both during long term air stagnation conditions and for short term and small area episodes. Flexibility and operational capability should not be reduced by procedures outlined in the plan. Personnel must act with initiative and judgement to cope with any condition that may develop.

The Texas Air Control Board (TACB) is charged with the primary responsibility for the State of Texas to insure that Air Pollution Episodes are controlled. Nothing in this plan shall be interpreted as precluding local health officials from taking appropriate action to protect the health and welfare of residents in their jurisdiction. For the purpose of coordination and continuity within the State, the Executive Director of the Air Control Board should be notified of the action. As in any local problem, it is expected that local officials will also properly inform the public and the news media. TACB will cooperate and assume the leading role in the monitoring of the control activities required for an episode.

The question of medical care and medical facilities is not within the purview of the Air Pollution Episode Plan. The Medical Profession through its professional association, the hospital community and the various health groups or associations must develop the techniques and services to administer to the victims of an air pollution episode. Every effort will be made to alert these organizations of the episode.

As with any plan, experience, new data, and operational requirements will dictate revisions in the future. As other pollutants are defined and control techniques developed, they will be included. Every effort will be made during this evolutionary process to refine the procedures so that the citizens will be protected but also that unnecessary burdens and costs will not be created.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
	Preface	i
1.0	Introduction	VIII - 1
1.1	Episode Potential	VIII - 1-2
2.0	Definitions	VIII - 2-3
3.0	Proclamation of Episode	VIII - 3
4.0	Emission Control	VIII - 3
4.1	Abatement Planning	VIII - 3
4.2	Compliance	VIII - 4
5.0	Air Pollution Episode Action	VIII - 4
5.1	Texas Air Control Board	VIII - 4
5.1.3	TACB Emergency Action Center	VIII - 5-7
5.1.4	TACB Meteorological Section	VIII - 7-8
5.2	Regional Offices	VIII - 8-9
5.3	Local Air Pollution Control Agencies	VIII - 9-11
6.0	Communications	VIII - 11-12
7.0	Episodes Affecting Small Areas	VIII - 13-14
<u>APPENDIXES</u>		
A.	EAC Staff	VIII - 15
B.	List for Notification - Air Pollution Episode	VIII - 16
C.	Maps - Air Quality Control Regions - Air Stag- nation Advisory Agencies	VIII - 18-19

TEXAS CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR
PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION EPISODES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- A. The criteria for declaring air pollution episodes is contained in Regulation VIII of the Texas Air Control Board. Regulation VIII also specifies the control action that will be taken by pollutant sources to reduce or eliminate their emissions during air pollution episodes.
- B. This contingency plan describes the organizational and control structures for enforcing Regulation VIII.

1.1 EPISODE POTENTIAL

- A. When meteorological conditions warrant, Air Stagnation Advisories (ASA's) are issued by the designated National Weather Service Forecast Office (WSFO). Four different locations are charged with the responsibility of issuing Air Stagnation Advisories for defined areas of Texas and New Mexico. (See Map, Appendix C).
 - 1. Albuquerque, New Mexico, Weather Service Forecast Office (WSFO) will issue ASA's for the Texas - New Mexico Interstate AQCR No. 11. Telephone No. FTS 505--766-2170 or unlisted 505--243-4890. Mr. George T. Gregg is the individual to contact.
 - 2. Fort Worth, Texas, Weather Service Forecast Office (WSFO) will issue ASA's for Texas areas north of the east-west boundary line on the attached map. FTS and commercial telephone no. 817--334-3401. Mr. Jeter A. Pruett is the individual to contact.
 - 3. San Antonio, Texas, Weather Service Forecast Office (WSFO) will issue ASA's for Texas areas south of the east-west boundary line on the attached map. Telephone no. FTS 512--225-4468 or unlisted commercial telephone no. 512--882-3001. Mr. Jim Middleton is the individual to contact.

4. Lubbock, Texas, Weather Service Forecast Office (WSFO) will issue ASA's for West Texas except for area west of Reeves and Terrell Counties. Telephone No. 806--762-3330 or FTS 806--747-3361. Mr. Young T. Sloan is the individual to contact.
- B. A set of semi-arbitrary conditions has been selected for issuing air stagnation advisories. In general terms, a description of weather conditions conducive to air pollution episodes is as follows:
1. A stationary or slow moving high-pressure weather system prevails over the area.
 2. No precipitation occurs.
 3. Winds are light and variable, generally less than 7 miles per hour near the surface and relatively light aloft.
 4. Air in the low levels is stable, exhibiting little motion or mixing in the vertical layers.
 5. Temperature increases with height (inversion).
- C. An ASA, once issued, is updated or revised as necessary. The ASA may include an area as small as a single municipality and will ordinarily be issued only for conditions expected to persist for at least 24 to 36 hours. The WSFO will notify the TACB meteorologist two hours before public issuance of the ASA. The WSFO prepares a daily operational Pollution Dispersion Data (PDD) message on a 5 per week basis. It describes expected dispersion conditions, including periods when the potential for short term high air pollution is likely; possibility of precipitation; expected wind direction and speed and low-level sounding data. TACB will obtain the PDD and relate it to measured air quality to assist in anticipating pollution buildups. Termination of an ASA will be announced by the WSFO and TACB will be notified prior to public announcement.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

The definitions outlined in the Rules and Regulations of

the Texas Air Control Board apply to this plan. Unless specifically noted or further defined, the definitions of terms in the plan will have the meanings commonly ascribed to them by recognized authorities in the air pollution field.

3.0 PROCLAMATION OF EPISODE

- A. When the accumulation of air pollutants in any place is attaining or has attained levels which could, if such levels are sustained or exceeded, lead to a substantial threat to the health of persons, the Executive Director for Texas Air Control Board will declare an "Air Pollution Episode". The three stages of episodes are AIR POLLUTION ALERT, AIR POLLUTION WARNING, and AIR POLLUTION EMERGENCY. The ancillary situations are the ATMOSPHERIC STAGNATION ADVISORY and TERMINATION. Regulation VIII, CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION EPISODES, outlines the guiding criteria.
- B. Control actions will be taken at each episode stage. Detailed procedures for actions are outlined in Section 5.0. Emission reduction guidance for the public, industry, and major emission sources is outlined in Regulation VIII.

4.0 EMISSION CONTROL

It is emphasized that an Air Pollution ALERT, WARNING, or EMERGENCY can be declared on the basis of deteriorating air quality alone. An ASA need not be in effect prior to an episode stage, but the WSFO delegated the responsibility for issuing ASA's for the Region will be notified of the air pollution conditions. The appropriate episode status will be declared as designated in Regulation VIII.

4.1 ABATEMENT PLANNING

Reduction of pollutant emissions as a measure to avoid potential episodes requires coordinated action by all the sources contributing to the air pollution episode. The public must be requested to help reduce emissions by reducing transportation and keeping heating and electric loads to a minimum. All private incineration and open burning must be curtailed. Industry must have internal plans prepared if they are to achieve the percentage reductions specified in Regulation VIII with a minimum disruption of their production processes.

4.2 COMPLIANCE

Once an Air Pollution Episode has been declared, and emission reduction directed, each pollutant source emitting more than 100 tons (90.7 metric tons) per year shall, when requested to do so, admit state or local air pollution control personnel and explain to them in detail the emission curtailment action that has been implemented. Sources not covered by the preceding sentence, but who are determined by state or local personnel to be contributing to the episode conditions, will immediately curtail or eliminate emissions when directed to do so.

5.0 AIR POLLUTION EPISODE ACTION

This section sets forth the procedures for the operation and implementation of the Air Pollution Episode action plan. The intent is not to formulate precise and rigid procedures but to furnish an outline for the course of action required to control and terminate an air pollution episode.

5.1 TEXAS AIR CONTROL BOARD (TACB)

5.1.1 General

The Texas Air Control Board has the responsibility to coordinate, monitor, command, record and control the efforts for the prevention of an air pollution emergency episode. To achieve this end it has established at the TACB Austin Office an Emergency Action Center (EAC). This EAC is staffed by a team of experts that, supplemented by information from regional personnel and local air pollution agencies, is organized to evaluate and combat the conditions of an air pollution episode. Appendix A, Emergency Action Center Staff, outlines personnel, telephone numbers and operational functions for the operation of the EAC.

5.1.2 Resources

The resources normally used during non-episode conditions will also be used to support the EAC and activities required for monitoring and control during an episode. The monitoring by all available air pollution measuring equipment will be intensified to observe trends and assure timely response to pollutant build-ups.

5.1.3 TACB Emergency Action Center

- A. Routine Surveillance - During this mode, TACB will be performing normal duty assignments. If at any time there is an indication that a high air pollution potential is developing, the Executive Director will be notified immediately. During a high air pollution potential situation, a 24-hour standby for personnel of the EAC may be required.

- B. Forecast - Air Stagnation Advisory - Upon receipt of an Air Stagnation Advisory, or as data from monitoring sites indicates the potential for an air pollution episode, the following actions will be taken:
 - 1. Emergency Action Center personnel (Appendix A) will be briefed on the situation and placed on standby status or convened if necessary.
 - 2. Regional Supervisor (Appendix A) notified of initiation of the Partial Activation Mode. Regional Supervisor will notify all air pollution control agencies.
 - 3. Notify State officials, interstate officials, governmental agencies, EPA, hospitals, etc., as may be required.
 - 4. Request that local and Regional offices collect data on an hourly basis and averages reported to TACB-EAC at regular intervals.
 - 5. Maintain a log of all significant events during the emergency episode.
 - 6. When pollutant build-up trends so warrant, request Regional Supervisor to notify the applicable industry of the possibility of curtailment in accordance with Regulation VIII. In the interim, requests for curtailment will be on a voluntary basis and judgment as to the nature of curtailment will be by the operator/owner of the source.
 - 7. Evaluate data and reports for determination of status of the level of the air pollution episode.

8. Check periodically with regional personnel and local agencies on status of their activities.
- C. Alert, Warning, and Emergency - Air Quality has deteriorated to a level where the Executive Director has declared an Air Pollution Alert, Air Pollution Warning, or Air Pollution Emergency as defined in Regulation VIII. The EAC will take the following actions:
1. Notify regional and local offices, state officials and the Environmental Protection Agency of the episode status.
 2. Continue steps 5.2.2.B.1 through 5.2.2.B.5
 3. Officially notify sources of pollution by telephone to reduce emissions as specified in Regulation VIII.
 - a. Sources affected will be informed that they can either consult the telephone directory or call 512--451-5711, Ext. 210 Ext. 439, Ext. 427, or Ext. 428 to verify the emission reduction directive.
 - b. An official copy of the emission reduction directive will be immediately mailed to each source via Special Delivery.
 4. Request regional and local offices maintain close liaison and initiate the following actions:
 - a. Visit major sources of pollution to verify the EAC's official notification and assure that abatement procedures are being implemented.
 - b. Spot check minor sources where practical and encourage abatement procedures.
 - c. Report any unanticipated sources that may require specific directives from the Executive Director.
 5. If non-compliance situations arise, the following enforcement action will be taken:
 - a. The Executive Director will be informed of

the details of the incident and immediate legal action will be initiated.

- b. Local enforcement officials will be requested to assist when expedient.

6. Prepare a formal news release for the news media to announce each change in air pollution episode status.

- D. Termination - A termination of any status will result in the next lower status being assumed. At the time an episode no longer exists, activity will revert to Routine Surveillance. All officials, news media and agencies will be notified of the end of the episode.

5.1.4 TACB Meteorology Section

- A. Routine Surveillance - During this mode the Meteorological Section will monitor and maintain data on the overall meteorological situation pertinent to the State. Meteorological information issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) will be evaluated to determine the probability of the issuance of an ASA. If such evaluation indicates a marginal ASA condition, a 24-hour standby may be designated.
- B. Forecast - Atmospheric Stagnation Advisory
 1. On the receipt of the two-hour advance notice for an ASA, the meteorology personnel will notify the Executive Director that the ASA will be issued.
 2. The personnel of EAC (Appendix A) will be notified that they are on standby, and to be prepared to report to the EAC.
 3. Record the initial and updated Air Stagnation Narratives.
 4. Call forecaster at Bergstrom AFB (BAFB) and request copies of FOFAX Air Stagnation Index Forecast and any additional information not available from NWS.
 5. Report and update at regular intervals the current and forecast weather conditions to the Emergency Action Center.
 6. Brief EAC staff and Executive Director as required.
 7. Repeat necessary steps as required.

- C. ALERT, WARNING, and EMERGENCY - Until the air pollution episode is declared terminated by the Executive Director, repeat steps 5.2.1 B.1.c through 5.2.1.B.1.g at the times shown in Fig. 1
- D. Termination - When declared by the Executive Director, status changes will be recorded and reported to all action agencies. When an episode condition no longer exists, activity will revert to Routine Surveillance.

5.2 REGIONAL OFFICES

Activity in the Region is closely associated with acting as a focal point for communication, coping with the details of administering the liaison activities with local air pollution offices, correlating the abatement strategies for emission reduction and obtaining the localized data for air quality.

- A. Routine Surveillance - Air quality samples mailed routinely. When equipment is available, air quality and meteorological data on magnetic tape from continuous monitoring stations will be submitted.
- B. Forecast - Air Stagnation Advisory
 - 1. On contact from the TACB-EAC of a pollution forecast or ASA, air quality sample data at all continuous monitoring stations will be collected, evaluated, and reported to the EAC as soon as possible and then taken at hourly intervals. The average of the hourly data for the previous time period will be collected and reported to EAC at regular intervals and/or as requested.
 - 2. Notify local governmental agencies through local air pollution control offices or directly if required and coordinate preparedness activities.
 - 3. When available, dispatch Regional personnel to local offices to assist, perform liaison, and to receive data or reports. Radio-equipped vehicles will be utilized if possible.
 - 4. Coordinate activities and problems with TACB-EAC, Austin.
- C. ALERT, WARNING, and EMERGENCY
 - 1. Sampling and reporting activity will continue as in 5.2.B above. (Note: During an ASA or

Routine Surveillance, if a monitoring site reports air quality data that exceeds ALERT, WARNING or EMERGENCY criteria, the Executive Director will be notified immediately.)

2. Industry will be notified through local air pollution control agencies, or directly if required, of the proclamation of each episode status and will be directed to apply the appropriate actions for curtailment as outlined in Regulation VIII.
 3. Verify that local government authorities receive notification of episode status changes.
 4. In coordination with local air pollution control agencies, when available, monitor compliance of industry and public in accordance with abatement strategies for emission control as outlined in Regulation VIII. If required, request the appropriate local enforcement agency for assistance in inspection and enforcement.
 5. If possible, evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the abatement action that is in process.
 6. Coordinate activities, requests, and problems with TACB-EAC, Austin.
- D. Termination - Once declared, a status will remain in effect until the criteria for that level are no longer met. At such time, the next lower status will be assumed. At the time an episode no longer exists, activity will revert to Routine Surveillance. All officials and industry either directly or through the local air pollution control offices will be notified of the end of the episode.

5.3 LOCAL AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCIES

Activity of local air pollution control offices, where available, should be concerned primarily with details of administering the abatement strategies for emission reduction and obtaining the localized data for air quality. The following procedures should not be interpreted as precluding local health officials from taking appropriate action to protect the health and welfare of residents in their jurisdiction.

In their professional judgement and acting in their official capacity they may take any additional action they consider necessary. Local Emergency Action Centers may be established independently or in conjunction with the TACB-EAC. For the purposes of continuity within the State the Executive Director should be notified of the establishment of such local EAC's.

- A. Routine Surveillance - Air quality samples mailed in routinely. When equipment is available, air quality and meteorology data on magnetic tape from continuous stations will be submitted.
- B. Forecast - Air Stagnation Advisory - Upon notification that an air pollution forecast or ASA is in effect, the following action is requested:
 - 1. Air quality sample data at all continuous monitoring stations will be taken immediately. Data will be collected, evaluated, and reported to the Regional Office. Note: Under certain conditions, the EAC may make arrangements to have this data reported directly to the EAC.
 - 2. Samples of data will be taken on an hourly basis within the capability of the equipment and personnel resources available. Otherwise, the objective for the air quality sampling is to obtain data as frequently as possible in order to monitor the air pollution episode. Data will be averaged for the appropriate time interval and reported at regular intervals and/or as requested.
 - 3. Notify appropriate local governmental officials, appropriate civic groups, and coordinate control activities as required.
 - 4. Coordinate activities and problems with Regional Office and other local agencies.
- C. ALERT, WARNING, and EMERGENCY
 - 1. Sampling and reporting activity will continue as in 5.3.B above. (Note: During an ASA or Routine Surveillance, if a monitoring site reports air quality data that exceeds ALERT, WARNING, or EMERGENCY criteria, the

Regional Office and TACB-EAC will be notified immediately.)

2. Industry will be notified (list furnished to local agency) of the proclamation of each episode status. Owners/operators will be required to apply the appropriate actions for curtailment as outlined in Regulation VIII.
 3. Notify appropriate local governmental officials as to status changes.
 4. Monitor compliance of industry and public in accordance with requested abatement strategies for emission control as outlined in Regulation VIII.
 5. Take any enforcement action that may be deemed appropriate. Request assistance from local authorities for inspection or enforcement, if required.
 6. Coordinate activities, requests for assistance and problems with Regional Office.
- D. Termination - Once declared, a status will remain in effect until the criteria for that level are no longer met. At such time, the next lower status will be assumed. At the time an episode no longer exists, activity will revert to Routine Surveillance. All local officials and agencies will be notified of the end of the episode.

6.0 COMMUNICATIONS

- A. The Emergency Action Center established at the TACB office will control all incoming and outgoing communication associated with the Air Pollution Episode. This will assure that the air quality and meteorological data is promptly assembled, analyzed, and disseminated to all personnel and agencies involved in the episode.
- B. During an Air Pollution Episode, TACB will establish by telephone or by special messenger, if required, communication links to State and

Local officials; Local, State, and National agencies; Regional Supervisor; local air pollution control agencies and the news media (with prepared news releases). Routine Meteorological data will be obtained by telephone or messenger from the National Weather Service at the Municipal Airport and from Bergstrom AFB.

- C. TACB communication to agencies and personnel actively participating in the episode will be conducted over standard telephone lines. It is planned that when possible, automobiles equipped with mobile telephones or two-way radios will be available for reporting of air quality data, source inspection, and enforcement activities. Region personnel in these cars can be assigned to local pollution control offices to perform liaison and communication functions. This will allow continuous contact with field personnel and assure prompt reporting on the surveillance of episode conditions.
- D. In order to portray status on all aspects of the episode, the results of calculations, maps and wall charts for display of air quality data, meteorological information, source control data, and traffic flow patterns will be compiled during the episode. At completion of the episode, the data will be summarized and a post-episode report will be prepared.

7.0 Episodes Affecting Small Areas

Episodes affecting small areas, such as air pollution caused by chemical spills from manufacturing or transportation accidents, or any event that causes a specified criteria level to be reached because of emissions from a limited number of sources, will be controlled on an individual basis as directed by the Executive Director.

- A. A Division of Disaster Emergency Services is established in the office of the governor. This division is responsible for the preparation and maintenance of a comprehensive state disaster plan and keeping it current.
- B. The governor of the State of Texas, under the authority invested by the Texas Disaster Act of 1973, has established by executive order a Defense and Disaster Relief Council. This council consists of the heads of designated agencies and groups which have legal functions relating to important phases of the State and Federal Disaster Acts.
- C. The Executive Director of Texas Air Control Board is a member of the Defense and Disaster Relief Council. As such, the duties and responsibilities of his agency shall be delineated in the State Emergency Operations Plan and Annexes thereto.
- D. This Implementation Plan shall appear as an annex to the State Emergency Operations Plan.
- E. In the event of a disaster resulting in or presenting a potential for air pollution, the Texas Air Control Board Emergency Action Center (EAC) will place its facilities and expertise at the disposal of the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EAC facilities and expertise upon which the EOC can call are:
 - 1. Twelve regional staffs organized to respond to air pollution control activities.
 - 2. A professional staff of engineers, chemists, and other scientists and technicians highly expert in air pollution control.
 - 3. Reference materials containing the physical properties of chemicals, such as boiling point, flash point, auto-ignition temperature, odor, reactivity, specific

gravity and vapor density. Included in these reference materials are: chemical labeling requirements; classification and degree of risk, i.e., flammable, oxidizing, corrosive, poisonous; hazard to life; first aid instructions; stability; toxicity.

- F. In the event of a disaster incident such as a chemical spill involving air pollution, the EAC will coordinate the activities of the involved Air Control Region and mobilize all resources as required to provide technical advice or logistic assistance. The state EOC will be advised of the EAC activities being undertaken and, when necessary, will be requested to coordinate the obtaining of expertise not within the scope of air pollution control, such as explosive experts or water quality control experts.

A P P E N D I X A

EMERGENCY ACTION CENTER STAFF

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE EXTENSION*</u>	<u>HOME PHONE</u>
Charles R. Barden, Chairman	200	345-0271
David W. Jones, Regional Advisor	427	258-2560
Robert J. Mael, Operations Chief	439	441-4164
John Wood, Meteorologist	225	451-4295
Rolland C. Schroeder, Meteorologist	231	837-1889
Roger Wallis, Air Quality Advisor	300	258-2816
Pam Giblin, Legal Advisor	350	453-2166
Steve Spaw, Permits Advisor	400	926-9329
Bill Harris, Source Sampling Advisor	234	327-2095
Cecil Bradford, Compliance Advisor	261	258-1722

ALTERNATE STAFF MEMBERS

Bill Stewart, Chairman	202	258-2973
Charles A. Porter, Operations Chief	429	836-8761
Terry Echols, Meteorologist	226	454-3351
Andy Wheatley, Air Quality Advisor	320	928-0518
Sabino Gomez, Compliance Advisor	295	836-3983
Tom Buckle, Legal Advisor	353	267-1583
Art Kellogg, Permits Advisor	411	836-4961

*These 3-digit extension numbers are the last three digits of the TX-AN number which starts with the digits 824-7***.

A P P E N D I X B
LIST FOR NOTIFICATION
OF
AIR POLLUTION EPISODE

This list identifies by title those key individuals who will be directly concerned and who may desire or be requested to take action during an air pollution episode.

Texas Air Control Board, Emergency Action Center will notify:

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
Governor	512--475-4101
Health Commissioner, Department of Health	512--454-3781 Ext. 211
Air Quality Regional Supervisors (as applicable)	
Region - 1	915--673-4768
2	806--744-0090 *81--842-4386
3	817--772-9240
4	512--425-6010 *81--827-3290
5	512--883-2961
6	915--337-1547
7	713--741-1064
8	817--732-5531
9	512--828-1406
10	713--898-3511
11	915--591-8128 *81--846-8137
12	214--595-2639

EMERGENCY ACTION CENTER ACTIVATION

The Emergency Action Center is on twenty-four hour stand-by at all times and can be activated by calling the following:

During normal office hours:
512--451-5711, Ext. 210 or 439

During other than normal office hours call in turn one of the following personnel:

Robert J. Mael Operations Chief	512--441-4164
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David W. Jones Alternate Operations Chief	512--258-2560
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Charles A. Porter Alternate Operations Chief	512--836-8761
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Harold L. Brooks Alternate Operations Chief	512--892-1303
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George L. King Alternate Operations Chief	512--345-5234
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During weekend Air Stagnation Advisories, or when pollutant build-ups make it necessary to man the EAC during other than normal office hours, the following switchboard "night lines" will be connected:

Emergency Action Center	512--451-3065
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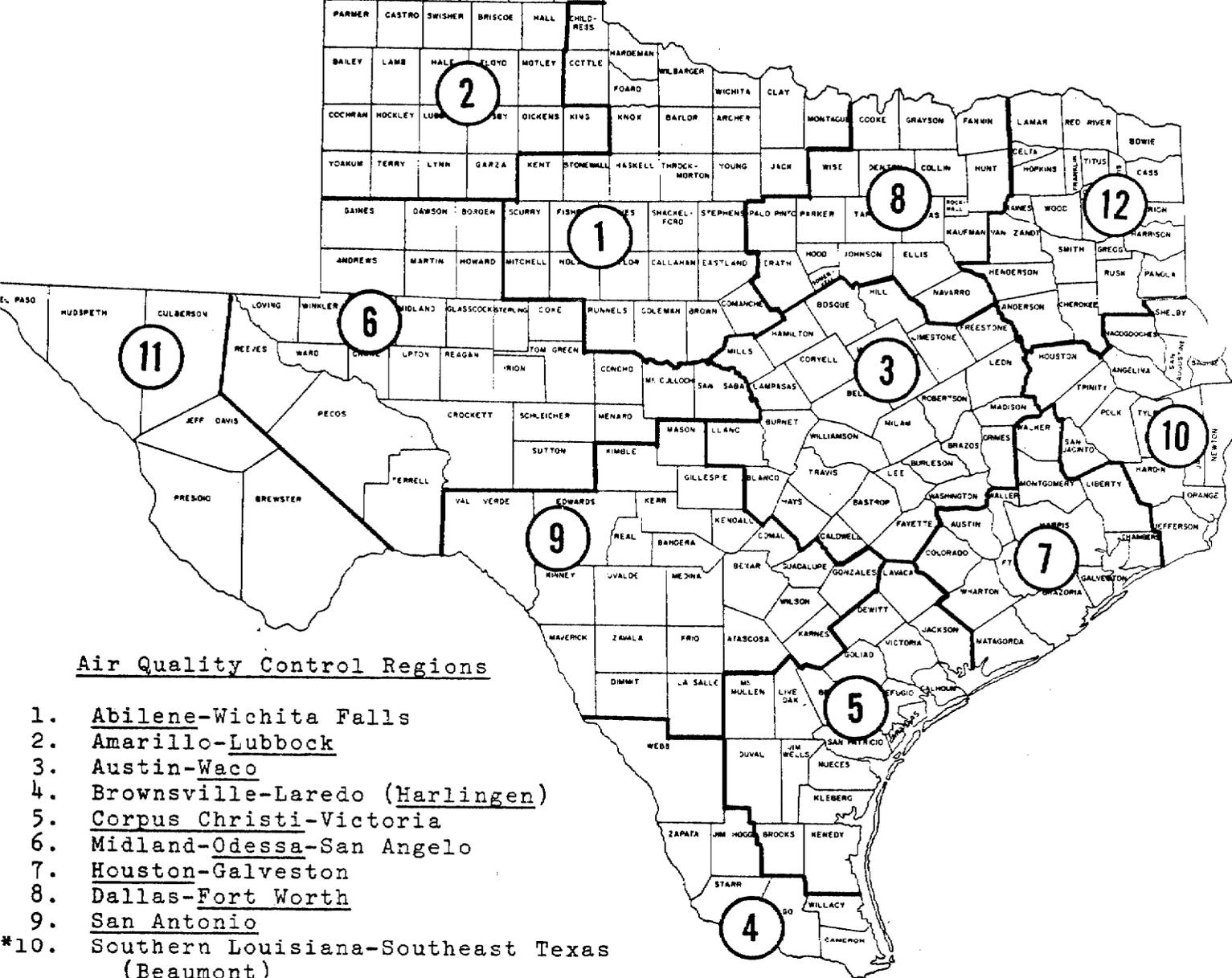
Episode Data Reporting	512--451-3159
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APPENDIX C

TEXAS AIR CONTROL BOARD

REGIONAL OFFICES

DALLAM	SHERMAN	HANSFORD	DOOLITTLE	LIPSOMB
HARTLEY	MOORE	HUTCHINSON	ROBERTS	MEMPHILL
OLDHAM	POTTER	CARSON	GRAY	WHEELER
DEAF SMITH	RANDALL	ARMSTRONG	DONLEY	COLLINGSWORTH



Air Quality Control Regions

1. Abilene-Wichita Falls
2. Amarillo-Lubbock
3. Austin-Waco
4. Brownsville-Laredo (Harlingen)
5. Corpus Christi-Victoria
6. Midland-Odessa-San Angelo
7. Houston-Galveston
8. Dallas-Fort Worth
9. San Antonio
- *10. Southern Louisiana-Southeast Texas (Beaumont)
- *11. El Paso -Las Cruces-Alamogordo
- *12. Shreveport-Texarkana-Tyler

*Interstate Regions

Rev. 9/19/73

Cities where Regional Office is located is underlined.

