

Emergency simulation is successful in Duque de Caxias

Duque de Caxias, November 08, 2009

This year's exercise simulated a leak in a butane gas sphere at Quattor petrochemical company

The morning of Saturday last (08/11), the successful emergency training (Apell process) brought together companies from the petrochemical center at Duque de Caxias and 26 federal, state and city bodies related to safety, environment, emergency medical services and traffic. The exercise simulated a butane gas leak at Quattor's Basic Chemicals Unit. Around four thousand people from the Bom Retiro community were evacuated and taken to Integrated Educational Center 208 Alceu Amoroso Lima, which was used as a triage center for some of the 40 "victims" of the accident.

Jorge Rezende, Duque de Caxia's Economic Development Secretary, considered the simulation to be a success. "We had some unforeseen incidents during the exercise, which forced us to find alternatives, but these turned out to be positive for the training. Some ambulances participating in the simulation had to be diverted to a confrontation that happened in a shanty town in the city. Had it been a real situation, we would have ordered extras to meet the demand", pointed out Rezende. He stated that in two weeks there would be a meeting to create the final report for the simulation, with the final evaluation containing analysis from participants and observers.

The exercise, conducted from 9 AM to 12 noon, broke the participation record: approximately 1,200 volunteers and 250 professionals participated in the simulation. Several ambulances and one helicopter were operational for the "rescues". The supposed victims were sent to two local hospitals: Geral Adão Pereira Nunes Hospital (State), in Saracuruna, and Dr. Moacyr Rodrigues do Carmo Hospital (City).

About the Apell Process

The Apell Process is a program created by UNEP (United Nations Environment Program) in June 1987. Apell was developed by the UN in response to the industrial pollution incidents in the late 70's and early 80's. The acronym stands for Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Levels. The objective of the Apell process is to create and increase the level of mobilization and vigilance in the communities to the possible risks in the manufacturing, handling and use of dangerous materials and to subsequently create awareness in the authorities and in the industry for the need to protect the local community.

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