



MINUTES OF LEPC MEETING – February 8th, 2022

LOCATION:

PSTC & Virtual

ATTENDANCE:

LEPC Members:

Jim Weller, Armand Alessi, Megan Young, Benjamin Russell, Steve Wittmer, Thomas Garrity, Jim Fry, Chris Anderson, Erin McDermott, George Dula, Willard Troxel, Mary Newsome, Rex Miller

OEP Staff:

Brandon Pursell, Beverlee Stemple, Todd Stieritz, Elijah Anselm, David Brown

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wittmer called the meeting to order at 1300 hrs. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Pursell made motion to accept 11/09/2021 meeting minutes, motion seconded by Mr. Anselm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Anselm raised the point of changing the dates of the November LEPC meeting from November 8th, 2022, to November 15th, 2022, due to election day. Mr. Fry made a motion to accept the change, the motion was seconded by Mr. Brown.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hazardous Materials:

Mr. Pursell reported that there have been **13** calls since the November 9th LEPC Meeting. Most notable calls are the following:

- November 9th – Hatfield Township - Dispatched for a dumpster fire after a trash truck reported smoke coming from a dumpster. I was determined the smoke was from a reaction occurring between chemicals in the dumpster. Liquid from dumpster was pH'd and determined to be very acidic. The trash truck was taken back to the facility and emptied so the product could be neutralized.
- November 24th – Upper Merion Township – Employee splashed with chemical at a SARA Facility.
- December 18th – Pottstown Borough – Refrigerant leak in a cooler at the Wal*Mart
- January 26th – Red Hill Borough – Level 2 dispatch for chemicals incorrectly mixed at a high school pool. One gallon of hydrochloric acid was accidentally dumped into approximately 60 gallons of Sodium Hypochlorite resulting in a reaction and subsequent vapor cloud. An attempt was made by the company to put neutralizer into the mixture. Technicians did initial recon and then made entry to relieve pressure in the vessel from residual gases, pH the mixture and take air monitoring samples. Once the vessel and area were deemed safe a process for remediation was discussed and turned back over to the facility.
- February 2nd – Springfield Township – Level 2 dispatch for an abandoned drum was found on the exit ramp from Route 309 to Papermill Road. The initial officer noticed a yellow liquid leaking from the drum. Technicians took samples from the drum and determined the liquid to be Ammonium Dichromate. The drum was overpacked and turned back over to the municipality and state.

Mr. Pursell stated that there have been 5 trainings since November 9th, 2021. These were:

- January 4th - The 8 Step Process Presented by Greg Noll
- January 22nd - Transportation Accident Tabletop Exercise
- January 25th - Lower Providence Hazmat Ops Refresher Demo
- February 1st - SCBA and Communications Drill
- February 5th - Montgomery County Chief Officers Seminar

Additionally, Mr. Pursell reported that several regional trainings are being brought in top the 5 County region in 2022. Cargo Tank Workshop, Propane Advanced Tactics, and Surviving the Hot Zone. Additionally, Montgomery County Hazmat is bringing in Dave binder from Tanner Industries for an Anhydrous Ammonia Training. Mike Mennella from Nassau County New York will be returning to conduct his Officer training and chemistry course. Other in-house training for 2022 include EVOC, propane flaring, Hazmat IQ, grounding and bonding, and foam task force training. MCHMRT continues to stay busy.

SARA Report:

Ms. Stemple stated that up to 4.5-4.7 million pounds of EHS was reported for reporting year 2020, and that she had reviewed 272 plans which account for 100%. For reporting year 2021, Ms. Stemple stated she had reviewed 29 plans, 4 of which were new to the reporting year. Ms. Stemple also reported there were 22 filing updates and 16 deleted sites. Additionally, Ms. Stemple indicated she would send her Top Ten Site List for reporting year 2021.

Mr. Anselm reported that there is a total of \$5,575 in SARA revenue for RY2021. Of that revenue \$2,850 was brought in through credit card payment. As of 1/31/2022 there is a total balance of \$1,932,488.54 in the HazMat fund. In RY2020 a total of \$99,225 was brought in through SARA revenue with an additional \$26,815.35 in hazmat reimbursement, totaling \$126,040.35.

Emergency Management

Mr. Anselm gave Mr. Wilson’s report in his absence. It was reported that efforts are still ongoing throughout the County to assist municipalities and residents with recovery from Hurricane Ida including housing of displaced residents. Debris Management project is all but completed with some outstanding work in Upper Dublin Township. Public Assistance – 44 agencies (municipalities, school districts, authorities, etc.) have filed for some form of public assistance – application process ongoing with PEMA / FEMA. Individual Assistance – PEMA / FEMA continue to assist residents who expressed interest in a buy out or raising their homes

- 6,778 valid registrations for IA for a total disbursement of \$12,700,000.00
- 195 properties for acquisition – many are repetitive loss properties
- 10 properties for elevation

Interviews for Training and Preparedness Coordinator, Municipal Planning Specialist and Resilience Planning Specialist are currently ongoing. There should be a Training and Preparedness Coordinator onboard by 3/21. With this is a plan to get back on track with EMC Monthly meetings, and related training as soon as possible.

Four new Fotokite tethered drones have been placed in service. These will be used to support responses to large incidents and preplanned events. Operations and delivery methods are still being fine-tuned.

Additionally, Emergency Management is selecting vendor to complete AAR for Hurricane Ida – to encompass all rescue operations, communications, EOC operations and initial recovery efforts.

Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Garrity reported the Command Officer Seminar was Saturday, February 5th. The featured presentation was the Champlain Towers South Condo Collapse with breakout room topics: Battery Energy Storage Systems, Terrorism Awareness, Water Rescue Considerations and Firefighter Highway Safety. During the lunch break there were displays presented by Chief Bill Jenaway, our HazMat Team and our Emergency Management Team:

- Drone Display..... Room 101
- Haz Mat Team Equipment..... HazMat Garage
- Responder Safety Institute Struck by Data Base ...Auditorium

Additionally, the Public Safety Training Campus completed the Ice Rescue course last month. Nine people completed the class. 17 students completed the New Company Officers class and the 33 students in Class 2201 will take their *Introduction to the Fire Service* final test on 02/08/2022. Twenty-five students will be nationally certified in Hazardous Materials Awareness.

Bucks County Community College will be offering two courses of interest at the Fire Academy this semester:

- Fire Inspector 2 starting March 29th
- Plans Examiner 1 & 2 starting April 25th

The online awareness and refresher courses are extremely popular. Most are full and we are trying to find instructors for additional sections.

This year the Public Safety Training Campus has processed 799 enrollments, offered 33 classes totaling 4,046 hours of training.

EMS Division

Mr. Brown asked that we hold a moment of silence for James Small.

Mr. Brown reported that there were currently 9,500 first responder vaccines distributed. Additionally, homebound vaccine program is underway with additional services being provided for senior living facilities and shelters.

Public Health

Ms. Young reported that OPH continues to manage COVID-19. There are four vaccine sites and five test sites in operations. Cases are decreasing and OPH is in conversations about what the future of testing and vaccine sites will be.

Additional Reports

Mr. Russell reported that there had been 61 responses, of which 11 were in Montgomery County. Mr. Russell also spoke on plans for PennDOT to improve storm drain identification and to map out inlet and discharge. Mr. Wittmer asked if similar identification was possible on current SARA facilities. Conversation was had about increased identification for surrounding areas on Ms. Stemple's Top Ten Facilities list.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Alessi reported a fire in Lankenau Hospital caused by a patient smoking while on O2. The fire was extinguished by the sprinkler system, and the patient was treated at Jefferson burn center.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None

NEXT MEETING DATE:

May 10th, 2022, at 1300 hrs

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Stemple and seconded by Mr. Garrity. Meeting Adjourned at 1400.