



MINUTES OF LEPC MEETING – August 9th, 2022

LOCATION:

PSTC & Virtual

ATTENDANCE:

LEPC Members:

Steve Wittmer, David Brown, Edward O’Hanlon, Benjamin Russell, Scott Lynch, Megan Young, Willard Troxel, Rex Miller

OEP Staff:

Beverlee Stemple, Todd Stieritz, Elijah Anselm, Jason Wilson, William Messerschmidt

Guests:

Patrick Till of Electronic Fluorocarbons
Patrick Cornell of Arkema

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wittmer called the meeting to order at 1300 hrs. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Lynch made motion to accept 05/10/2022 meeting minutes, motion seconded by Mr. Wilson.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business was reported. Mr. Anselm asked to record the meeting which was approved by verbal consent of the committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SARA Report:

Ms. Stemple reported that the second phase of plan review began July 31. There are currently 4 sites failing to meet the reporting deadline. Ms. Stemple stated the next step will be reaching out to these sites for further compliance. In total, 65% of plans have been reviewed. Several sites have completed multiple updates since March. EHS for current reporting cycle is decreasing.

Mr. Anselm reported that as of the current date, \$124,512.89 has been deposited into the Hazardous Materials Fund. Of this amount, \$18,362.89 has been collected through Hazmat reimbursement. Since the last bank statement generated on July 29, \$2,250,556.57 is currently in the Hazardous Materials Bank account. In total, 403 facilities have been invoiced for the current reporting cycle. A total of 303 have submitted payments. Since last LEPC meeting, reminders have been sent to facilities with unfulfilled payments, which has generated significant compliance.

Mr. Anselm brought up the Hazmat Cost Schedule which was distributed to committee members prior to the meeting. Mr. Anselm went on to explain the proposed cost schedule increases monetary amounts around consumable materials. This was decided through review of bordering counties and regional standards. These changes are also made through review of FEMA's national cost schedule. Many of the items are proposed to be billed through market value which will be determined at the time of billing. An additional 10% administrative fee will be added to all final bills to help cover the cost of billing and monetary determination.

Mr. Messerschmidt asked that the cost schedule be codified through a committee vote. Mr. Wittmer called for a motion to approve the proposed schedule. Mr. Lynch made a motion for acceptance, Mr. Miller seconded the motion, and the motion was voted on and passed.

Hazardous Materials:

In Mr. Pursell's absence, Mr. Anselm read the Hazardous Materials report. Mr. Anselm reported that There have been 11 calls since the May 10th LEPC Meeting. Most notable calls are the following:

- On May 31st Upper Hanover Township had an Ammonia Leak at a cold storage facility. Upon arrival hazmat officer encountered a heavy odor of ammonia that had been reported by residents in the area. Hazmat provided RIT for the Ammonia technicians who made entry and determined a water pump had failed resulting in over heated anhydrous ammonia that released through a relief valved on the roof. The water pump was fixed while techs remained on scene.
- On July 8th in Springfield Township, HMRT was dispatched to a residence after police began to fall ill after coming in contact with the initial patient. HMRT assisted law enforcement with collection and sampling of products located in the residence. As well as deeming the residence safe for reentry.

Additionally, it was reported that there have been 15 trainings since May 10th. They were as follows:

- May 21 – EVOC Day 2

- May 21/22 – Cargo Tank Workshop
- June 2 – Special Operation Medical Command Review
- June 4 – Propane Advanced Tactics
- June 7 – Propane Review
- June 9 – IAFC Hazmat Conference Day 1
- June 10 – IAFC Hazmat Conference Day 2
- June 11 – IAFC Hazmat Conference Day 3
- June 18 – Station Maintenance and Equipment Checks
- June 25/26 – Surviving the Hot Zone
- July 12 – HazMat IQ
- July 18 – Limerick Fire Department Regional Meet and Greet
- July 23 – H3 Risk Based Response to Battery Emergencies
- July 28th – Upper Salford Fire Company Hazmat Training
- August 2 – Grounding and Bonding Lecture

Additionally, Mr. Anselm reported that 8 Officers and Technicians attended the IAFC Hazmat conference in Baltimore from July 9-11th. Attendees sat through approximately 4 classes per day while also having the opportunity to meet with equipment manufacturers.

Hazmat 81 is in the process of construction with estimated completion to taking place in fall of 2022.

The Special Operation Garage located in Eagleville and Fort Washington should be completed by the end of September with move in taking place shortly thereafter. Foam Replacement to Universal Green has been placed into service on both Montgomery County Foam Trailers. Between these two trailers, Montgomery County HMRT now has roughly 1,320 gallons of environmentally friendly foam in service.

Mr. Wittmer asked how the heat has had a possible affect on trainings and hazardous materials incidents. Mr. Anselm reported that while precautions on incidents are taken given high temperatures, it has not had a significant affect.

Emergency Management

Mr. Wilson reported that the County EOP Update is proceeding. A new plan structure has been adopted to assist with this process.

The Fire Department Supplemental Revenue Replacement Project was approved through ARPA funding. This will help distribute approximately \$1.5 million to volunteer fire companies who lost funding opportunities through COVID-19. EM Staff have developed a plan for application and distribution. The County will engage stakeholders in the fire department community to assist with application review

The Hurricane Ida After Action Report Contract awarded to IEM. After resolving a contracting issue, work will begin this month to complete the AAR. This process will include interviews, town hall meetings and surveys for response personnel, municipal emergency management, County departments, volunteer agencies and other stakeholders to look for areas of strengths and weaknesses to improve future operations.

Mr. Messerschmidt announced that the Special Operations Garage in Eagleville is set to be completed next week and operations supplies should be moved in the next month. The Warehouse is scheduled for substantial completion on September 14th. The Fort Washington Special Operations division is also set to open mid-September. These buildings will help expand our logistics and special operations capacity.

Mr. Wittmer asked about the new vehicle discussed last meeting. Mr. Messerschmidt reported that the process is underway, and the apparatus should be delivered towards the end of the year or beginning of 2023.

Mr. Wilson reported that a candidate has been selected for Emergency Preparedness Specialist for Community Resilience. Will be approved at the next Commissioner's Meeting with a start date of September 12th.

Additionally, Dronesense service has been purchased and in use. This helps provide a platform to coordinate drone operations throughout the County. All municipalities with active UAV programs have been invited to participate and have been given use of the system for one drone.

Mr. Wittmer asked if Hurricane Ida became the storm of record for Montgomery County. Mr. Wilson stated that the flooding was worse in some areas of the County than it had been in previous storms, however, in other areas such as Pottstown, this was not the case.

EMS Division

Mr. Brown reported that EMS is still administering COVID vaccines. Kierstin Boivin has been promoted to Paramedic Program Coordinator. Additionally, Sam Barriskell has been hired as Mobile Integrated Health Coordinator. EMS still has an open roll for Paramedic Program Assistant.

Mr. Brown attended Health Preparedness Symposium. He commented on the integration of hospital, emergency, and public health preparedness amongst commonwealth health coalitions.

A Summer accelerated EMT program ran and was successful with full student graduation.

Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Wilson announced Mr. Garrity retired, and Mr. O'Hanlon is acting as the interim replacement.

Mr. O'Hanlon reported that the fall training schedule has been published. The Fire Academy is offering a Hazardous Materials Operations refresher on September 11, 2022, October 30, 2022, November 12, 2022, November 22, 2022, and December 5, 7, 2022 online.

Additionally, a Hazardous Materials Awareness certification course on September 19 and September 21, 2022, and a Hazardous Materials Operations certification course on October 1 and October 8, 2022 will be offered.

Work on the new Vehicle Rescue Pad and Trench Rescue prop continues. The contractor started and has almost completed the Audio/Visual updates to the auditorium. Irv Lichtenstein funded these updates.

The new roof on the Fire Academy building has been installed, and bids are being accepted for repairs to the burn building.

This year the Fire Academy has offered a total of 41 Hazardous Materials courses totaling 765 enrollments for 3,915 hours of training

In total, the Fire Academy has processed 3,327 enrollments, run 185 classes totaling 25,529 hours of training.

Mr. Wittmer asked if the repairs on the burn building was expected. Mr. O'Hanlon stated they were and were found during routine inspections of the building which occurs every several years.

Public Health

Ms. Megan stated that Public Health is still operating five COVID testing sites and three COVID Vaccine clinics. Additionally, Public Health has a bid out for a new testing provider who will start in October. The applications are currently being reviewed. A provider should be selected by the end of the month.

Public Health is currently responding to the ongoing Monkey Pox situation. Internal Public Health Operation Center has been virtually activated. Eligible candidates are also undergoing vaccines.

An ARPA proposal has been submitted for a new County Pandemic plan, unfortunately this was not funded. Public Health is currently working with the Department of Public Safety to address next steps.

Additional Reports

Mr. Wittmer asked Mr. Stieritz if there was any update on the new hiring model reported last committee meeting. Mr. Stieritz stated that 9-1-1 Telecommunicators are eligible for a 10% bonus based on their starting annual salary. This also applies for several other hard to fill County jobs such as correctional officers. Additionally, recruitment and retention continue to be difficult. Mr. Stieritz also stated that outreach events are starting to increase post-pandemic.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None

NEXT MEETING DATE:

November 15th, 2022, at 1300 hrs

This is a change from the traditional second Tuesday of the quarterly months due to election day falling on November 8th.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Lynch. Meeting Adjourned at 1339.