



MINUTES OF LEPC MEETING – November 15, 2022

LOCATION:

PSTC & Virtual

ATTENDANCE:

LEPC Members:

Steve Wittmer, Jim Fry, Edward O’Hanlon, Benjamin Russell, Willard Troxel, Rex Miller, Jim Weller, Mary Newsom

OEP Staff:

Beverlee Stemple, Todd Stieritz, Elijah Anselm, Jason Wilson, Brandon Pursell

Guests:

Patrick Till of Electronic Fluorocarbons
Chris Anderson of Electronic Fluorocarbons

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wittmer called the meeting to order at 1300 hrs. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance. Chairman Wittmer acknowledged an error on the August Meeting minutes. Mr. Anselm stated the error would be corrected. Mr. Troxel made a motion to accept 08/09/2022 meeting minutes, motion seconded by Mr. Pursell.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business was reported.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SARA Report:

Ms. Stemple reported that the reporting period will end December 31st. As of the November meeting, she has reviewed 90% of the SARA plans. The plans have indicated that there are 4.4million pounds of EHS within the County. This is a decrease from last reporting cycle. The remaining 10% of the plans to be reviewed have been notified. Ms. Stemple indicated she believes the remainder will be reviewed prior to the end of the reporting cycle.

Mr. Anselm reported that as of 11/14/22, a total of \$125,887.89 has been collected for RY 2021. As of the last statement update on 10/31/22 there is a total of \$1,763,020.69 in the Hazmat Account. As mentioned last meeting, the invoice reminders have generated considerable compliance for overdue payments.

This will be our final LEPC meeting for the year. For last year, RY 2020, a total of \$126,040.35 was collected. However, there was \$26, 815.35 in Hazmat reimbursements. With reimbursements for both reporting years excluded, we have collected \$8,300 more in RY2021 than RY2020.

Lastly, Mr. Anselm reported that he will continue to close out this year and begin planning for RY 2022 which will be beginning in the new year.

Hazardous Materials:

Mr. Pursell reported on the Hazardous Materials Response Team. There were 7 calls since the August 9th LEPC Meeting. Most notable calls were the following:

- September 20th – Whitemarsh township – Locomotive hauling empty rail cars struck a tri-axle dump truck as it was leaving a job site off Camp Hill Road. Superficial damage was caused to the locomotive while the dump truck sustained major damages and caused both diesel tanks to rupture and other fluids to leak onto the rail bed and ravine. BC81-3 arrived and provided pads and booms to control the leak. In addition, BC81-3 worked with the local fire companies, township fire marshals, responsible party, and rail company to establish a coordinate cleanup effort along the rail bed.
- September 30th – Limerick Township – HMRT was dispatched to assist Montgomery County bomb Squad with identifying unknown products.

Additionally, there were 8 trainings since August 9th:

- August 20 – Grounding and Bonding Exercise
- August 25 – Joint Training with USAR
- August 29 – Fort Washington Fire Company Foam Training
- September 12 – FBI Chemical Industry Outreach Workshop
- October 3 – EDITS Evening for Volunteers
- October 4 – Anhydrous Ammonia Training with Tanner Industries
- October 15 – Station and Truck Maintenance / Review of Foam Operations
- November 1 – Bloodborne Pathogen Training

Mr. Pursell also noted that on the weekend of November 19th & 20th, Montgomery County HMRT will be hosting Mike Mennella of Haz-Fire for a two-day course. Day one will be about

team management, safety officer responsibilities, and team briefings. Day two will be a wet chemistry course which we have done almost yearly since 2018.

Montgomery County HMRT has move SS81 and Foam 81 into its new quarters located at 500 Virginia Drive in Fort Washington. These assets were previous located in Abington Township at the Abington

Public Safety Training Campus. Montgomery County HMRT will share its new quarters with Montgomery County USAR and is also comprised of warehouse space for Montgomery County Logistics.

Emergency Management

Mr. Wilson reported on the Division of Emergency Management. Notable developments are as follows:

The County EOP Update is underway. This involves review of all EOP Annex review continuing. Additionally, Emergency Action Guides are being created to assist in incident management /coordination.

Additionally, the Fire Department Supplemental Revenue Replacement Project should be coming out in December. This requires some coordination with County recovery data. It will be open to any fire company that saw a loss in fundraising revenue during COVID business restriction time frame.

Hurricane Ida After Action Report under way and almost complete. IEM will supply draft AAR to MCDPS by close of business this week. This will encompass response and recovery operations from August 31 of 2021 to end of September 2022.

Mr. Wilson reported on the warehouse facility locations. He noted that Upper Dublin Warehouse is operational. The EOC Garage & Warehouse is working to fix issues with water pressure supply. Anticipated opening in 2 to 3 months.

Emergency Preparedness Specialist for Community Resilience – Jessica Glickman started September 12th. She is being integrating into VOAD workgroups and teams.

Mr. Wittmer asked about if the Supplemental Revenue Replacement Project was a regional or County program and what strain that will be on Emergency Management Staff. Mr. Wilson noted that while this is County level, he does not believe it should overextend the Emergency Management division.

Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. O’Hanlon reported on the Fire Academy administration. Notable update are as follows:

- Fall Course Schedule has been posted.
- Hazardous Materials Operations refreshers will occur on September 11, 2022, October 30, 2022, November 12, 2022, November 22, 2022, and December 5, 7, 2022 online.

- Hazardous Materials Awareness certification course occur on September 19 and September 21, 2022
- Hazardous Materials Operations certification course will occur on October 1 and October 8, 2022.
- The new Vehicle Rescue Pad and Trench Rescue prop continues development.
- Audio/Visual updates to the auditorium are almost complete. These updates were funded by Irv Lichtenstein.
- The new roof on the primary building has been installed.
- Bids are being accepted for repairs to the burn building.
- In 2022, the Fire Academy has offered a total of 41 Hazardous Materials courses totaling 765 enrollments for 3,915 hours of training.
- Additionally, the Fire Academy has processed 3,327 enrollments, run 185 classes totaling 25,529 hours of training.

Mr. Wittmer asked when the next graduation will be and how many students are in the class. Mr. O'Hanlon reported that the next ceremony will be December 8, 2022 and there will be 39 students. The speaker will be Thomas Garrity.

Public Health

In Ms. Young's absence, Mr. Anselm reported on Public Health which was provided to him prior to the meeting.

Mr. Anselm reported that OPH continues to run 5 COVID testing sites throughout the county. We were planning to transfer operations to a comprehensive provider in early November, but the contract fell through. OPH will retain control of testing operations through June 2023.

OPH also continues to offer all COVID primary vaccines and boosters. Appointments are available on the OPH website for anyone that is interested.

OPH just completed their annual flu (and COVID booster) community vaccination campaign. We operated at 7 locations throughout the county and were able to provide over 1,000 vaccinations. Flu shots are also available through OPH vaccination clinics and appointments are available on our website.

OPH is going to be working on an RFP to bring a POD provider in to review and recommend improvements for future events and responses. This will be a joint project with DPS, and I hope to have more information at the next meeting.

Additional Reports

Mr. Wittmer asked Mr. Stieritz about Public Safety hiring process. Mr. Stieritz stated that the most recent hiring process has generated a lot of interest and applicants. Additionally, Mr. Stieritz noted that the Montgomery County Fire Chief's Association launched a grant funding initiative which will help increase fire service volunteers within the County. Outreach initiatives will continue to reach a goal of 400 new recruited members across the County over the next 4 years.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Anselm reported on the LEPC meeting dates for 2023. The proposed dates for 2023's LEPC meetings will be 2/14/22, 5/9/22, 8/8/22, AND 11/14/22. Can we have a motion?

Mr. Wittmer asked if there should be a format change to the 2023 meetings. Mr. Wilson noted that he believed meetings should stay to both virtual or in person options. Mr. Anselm explained that he had spoken to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Stieritz about a potential change in online platform to make it easier for guests to attend virtually. Using a similar structure to the Commissioner's Meetings, the LEPC would still have accountability for who is attending the meetings but greater ability from external stakeholders to join. It was decided that Mr. Anselm would continue the online and virtual option via Zoom but would look into additional options and would advise the members if any change would occur.

Mr. Wittmer asked Mr. Wilson if there could be a list of 2023 LEPC meeting goals for the upcoming February Meeting.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None

NEXT MEETING DATE:

February 14th, 2023, at 1300 hrs

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Pursell and seconded by Mr. O'Hanlon. Meeting Adjourned at 1334.