



## MINUTES OF LEPC MEETING –May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### LOCATION:

Montgomery County Public Safety Training Center  
1175 Conshohocken Road  
Conshohocken, PA 19428

### ATTENDANCE:

#### LEPC Members:

Jim Fry, Armand Alessi, Thomas Garrity, Greg Janiec, George Dula, Mary Newsom, James Weller, Don Sirianni, James Leary

#### OEP Staff:

Bev Stemple, Brandon Pursell, Jason Wilson, Jack Zabinski

### CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman Fry called the meeting to order at 13:01 hrs. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

A motion was made by Brandon Pursell and seconded by Greg Janiec to accept the meeting minutes for February 11th, 2021 meeting as submitted/amended. The question was called for, asked, and approved.

### GUESTS:

Erin McDermott, Todd Steritz, Ben Russell, Chris Graziano

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### The following committees have nothing to report:

Transportation, Law Enforcement, Local Government, Administration, and Finance

#### Hazardous Materials

Mr. Pursell reported that there have been There have been 10 calls since the February 19<sup>th</sup> LEPC Meeting. Most notable calls are the following:

February 22 – Norristown Borough - White Powder discovered in mailroom. Technicians made entry and determined the white powder to be excess dried white out.

March 8 – Upper Dublin Township. - Fuel Leak discovered in creek. BC81-3 assisted FD 88 with deploying booms and notifying the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection). After several weeks it was determined that the leak came from an abandoned fuel tank on an adjacent property.

March 17<sup>th</sup> - Lower Salford Township – Attempted chemical suicide after a disturbance. MCHRMT officer responded out and discovered that the chemicals mixed were household cleaners and neutralized the mixture with soda ash. After deeming the product inert and taking air monitoring readings the scene was turned over to the AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction).

April 29 – New Hanover Township – Vehicle accident involving a tractor trailer carrying scrap. Vehicle rolled off the roadway onto its side sliding into a field. Due to the extensive damage to the truck the fire department was worried of how extensive the leak of fluids would be. After up righting the truck, it was determined the fluids were contained in the ravine that was carved out by the vehicle. The responsible party on scene was given a list of clean up contractors for remediation. The DEP was notified, and a representative was on location surveying for environmental impact.

Mr. Pursell noted that there have been 8 trainings since the February 9<sup>th</sup> LEPC meeting including:

February 9 – ICS Forms and Documentation

February 20 – PPE Selection and ICS

March 2 – Decontamination Review

March 20 – A, B, and C Kits

April 6 – A Kit Practical Exercise

April 10 – Water Injection Training

April 17 – Mock Exercise

May 4 – Back up Teams and RIT

It was reported that the State Hazardous Materials Response Team on-site assessment for recertification is May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Evaluated exercise date will be determined after the on-site assessment. The goal is to hold the exercise for June 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>.

Bob Stahl the Hazardous Materials Response Teams training officer and long-time Hazardous Materials Technician passed away on April 24<sup>th</sup> after a long battle with Pancreatic Cancer. Bob served on the team since 2003 and was also a former fire chief for the Southampton Fire Company in Bucks County. Eight Members of the HMRT (Hazardous Materials Response Team) attended Bob's memorial service this past Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Pursell Noted that the HMRT is in the process of acquiring two new FLIR thermal imaging monocular. This monocular will provide the Team with the ability to observe incidents from long distance to provide better situational awareness.

Finally, it was reported that the MCHMRT also took delivery of our new Pipe Tree Training Prop. This prop will allow our technicians to enhance their skills on pipe leaks on different pipe materials and layouts.

Ms. Stemple Reported that 23% of the offsite response plans have been completed for the year. Additionally, work has been done to update the Offsite response plan template. The new template is still awaiting finalization and will be put into place for Reporting Year 2021 so that there is not a change mid-year for RY20.

Mr. Zabinski reported that so far, Reporting Year 2020 SARA income has totaled \$93,300. Of that, \$7,525 has been from online credit card payments. It was noted that being only the second year this option has been offered, they are beginning to gain more popularity with facilities for the ease of use. As of May 30, 2021 the total amount in the Hazmat fund was 1,840,141.60.

Mr. Zabinski noted that there has been a total of 302 facilities that have submitted payment for RY20 and 406 facilities have reported thus far. There are 128 outstanding invoices for RY20 however there remain some outstanding payments from RY19. Hazconnect, the web portal used for invoicing, has updated the process for this year to include outstanding invoice amounts on invoices, allowing for better compliance in becoming current with invoices.

Finally, it was reported that the updated facility information was submitted to PEAC for the 2021 update so that the data available to responders in the field and dispatchers is the most up to date when a facility is looked up for an incident. It takes one to two weeks for Aristatek to complete these updates and send a verification spreadsheet for potential map corrections before making the new data live.

### **Emergency Management**

Mr. Wilson Reported that the new garage and warehouse construction project at the EOC is underway with groundbreaking expected soon for the two structures. A new drone has also been purchased to replace the two drones that have reached their end of life. The drone should be delivered and placed in service in the coming weeks. Additionally, the position for Emergency Planning Specialist (Chemical Safety Program) will be posted following the resignation of Mr. Zabinski.

Mr. Wilson also reported that yearly Municipal EOP reviews are ongoing both in person and virtually for all Montgomery County Municipalities. The EMC Handbook has also been published, comprising of 62 pages covering all aspects of Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator operations to answer frequently asked questions. Finally, it was reported that Emergency Management is working with the law enforcement Division to develop an active shooter plan for the county.

### **Fire and Rescue Services**

Mr. Garrity reported that Herb Adams, the long time Professional Standards Coordinator has retired and Ed O'Hanlon, the Fire Training Coordinator, has taken Herb's position. Interviews are being held this week for a new fire training coordinator. The Fire Academy continues to operate under the restrictions of the safety plan, this includes no off-site, reduced class sizes at the fire academy, temperature scans upon entry and twice on weekends, and required cloth or surgical face mask for instructors and students. The plan has been successful with the fire academy still recording no COVID-19 transmissions.

Mr. Garrity noted that despite the COVID-19 restrictions, to date the academy has run 109 classes for 1,146 students. This includes a total of 2,284 enrollments for 18,330 hours of training.

### **Emergency Medical Services:**

In the absence of Dave Brown Mr. Wilson provided an update for EMS. It was reported that the EMS Division continues to be busy doing mobile outreach for vaccinations. This includes vaccinations for high-risk populations such as homeless shelters and nursing homes. Additionally, homebound vaccinations for high-risk populations without reliable transportation are occurring utilizing the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

### **Public Health**

Ms. McDermott reported The Office of Public Health continues to operate six vaccination sites located in King of Prussia, Montgomery, Willow Grove, Pottstown, Lansdale, and Norristown. The sites are open five days a week and vaccinations have been running in Montgomery County since January. Each vaccination site operates with Local Police and County Sheriffs present at every site for site security. Finally, it was reported that OPH is collaborating with DPS Logistics to continue to provide support for both vaccine sites and testing sites.

**Media**

Mr. Steritz reported that the Commissioners held news conferences regarding COVID-19 for 60 concurrent weeks. He noted that all COVID statistics have been trending down with 56.5% of the 830,000 residents receiving at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, 67.3% of eligible residents receiving at least one dose, and 97.4% of over 65-year-old residents receiving at least one dose. The state announced that all mitigation orders except for the masking mandate will cease at 1201am on Memorial Day. The masking mandate will remain in effect until 70% of 18+ year old residents have received the full vaccination series. Philadelphia will keep mitigation orders in effect until June 11 when they lessen restrictions to be in line with state guidelines. Finally, Mr Steritz reported that the positivity rate is down to 5.7% and the daily case average is down to 83.1 cases.

**ADDITONAL REPORTS:****National Guard:**

SMS Weller reported that the Horsham Air Guard Station has been renamed to Biddle Air National Guard Base. The base was names after an ace in WWI and the first commander of the Horsham Naval Air Station.

SMS Weller noted that the National Guard and Civil Air Patrol have continued to be involved in the FEMA Type 1 and type 2 shot clinics in Philadelphia. They have also continued with other covid missions including LTC support and smaller clinics. Finally, they have provided Civil Unrest support in DC and Philadelphia and expect similar incidents to continue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**VISITOR COMMENTS:**

Mr. Graziano noted that the information and discussions at the meeting and can be applicable with businesses in the area housing hazardous chemicals.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

August 10, 2020 at 13:00 hrs.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Brandon Pursell and Seconded by Tom Garrity to adjourn the Montgomery County LEPC meeting for May 12th, 2021. The meeting was adjourned at 13:40hrs.