



MINUTES OF LEPC MEETING – May 10th, 2022

LOCATION:

PSTC & Virtual

ATTENDANCE:

LEPC Members:

Steve Wittmer, Armand Alessi, Thomas Garrity, Benjamin Russell, George Dula, Scott Lynch, James Weller, Mary Elizabeth Newsom, Megan Young, Willard Troxel, Rex Miller

OEP Staff:

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

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 02/08/2022 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 that 35% of plans have been reviewed. She also stated that Montgomery County currently has 4.7 million lbs. of EHS reported. Mr. Wittmer commented that if anyone would like to see the “Top Ten List” which was discussed at the February LEPC meeting to contact Ms. Stemple. Mr. Wittmer asked if the Hazardous Materials Team used the “Top Ten List” for

trainings on a regular basis. Mr. Pursell stated that while the team operates from an all-hazards approach for trainings, the list is occasionally discussed for specific case study examples. Mr. Wittmer asked if the list was still worth creating, and Mr. Pursell responded that from a planning aspect it is still useful and should continue to be made.

Mr. Anselm reported that as of 5/9/2022 income has totaled \$94,252.85 for RY2021, \$1,512.85 of which has come from reimbursements. He stated that in total, \$10,750 of this income has been from credit card payments. As of the last bank account statement on 4/29/2022, there is a balance of \$2,024,387.34 in the Hazmat Fund. We are currently on track to reach or exceed last year's income.

A total of 402 facilities have been invoiced through the Hazconnect system, of these 402 facilities, 288 have submitted payment, leaving 114 facilities with outstanding invoices. Note, this does not mean that these 114 facilities have late payments, as the due date is dependent on when they submitted their Tier II reports through the PATTs system. Now that the peak of the season has passed, further outreach to facilities which have failed to submit payment will begin.

Mr. Anselm went on to state that OEP is currently in conversations with Hazconnect to streamline the planning process. While conversations are early on, Hazconnect offers a planning template which is able to be populated through the Tier II submission on an annual basis. This template is already funded through the region. Further, Hazconnect is developing a GIS module which would perform similar operations to PEAC, however is integrated into the Hazconnect system. More investigation into the utility of the program is needed, however it creates possible advancements for the future of reporting.

Further, in total there have been 15 downstream notifications for CY2022. The vast majority of these are for fuel oil tanks. Some of the more notable facilities are:

- Global Advanced Metals, Boyertown: 8,300 gallon tank of Sodium Hydroxide; 5,600 gallon tank of Sulfuric Acid
- Exelon, LGS: 47,100 gallons of Inorganic Acids (sulfuric, phosphoric)
- Colorcon, Upper Gwynedd: 6,500 gallon tank of Aluminum Chloride
- Superior Tube, Lower Providence: 4,500 gallon of tank Nitric Acid

Hazardous Materials:

Mr. Pursell reported that there have been 6 calls since the February 8th LEPC Meeting. Most notable calls are the following:

- February 16 – Whitmarsh Township - HMRT officers were dispatched to assist Harmonville Fire Company (Station 44) on a vehicle accident involving a gasoline tanker at mile marker 337.4 Eastbound of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Units on scene with an 8800gal tanker that had rolled over and was actively leaking gasoline. Additionally, it was confirmed the leaking gasoline was flowing down the shoulder into a storm drain that was west of the crash. A Level 2 (full team) hazmat response and Foam Task Force was subsequently requested and 44 units to prepare a water supply should the foam task force be needed. A handline was placed into service applying Class B AFFF Foam for vapor suppression. Multiple booms and oil dry dams were placed between the trailer and storm drain. Our established runoff group which

included members of the DEP were able to determine that the product was traveling from the storm drain directly to a storm outlet approximately 1500' from the inlet. The outlet was off the turnpike near the Wissahickon Creek. Crews deployed boom on the creek and dug a dirt/oil dry dam to contain the product as best as possible and keep it from entering the creek. HMRT personnel assisted Lewis Environmental with grounding and bonding the trailer with the transfer tankers and performing a safety inspection. Transfer operation took approximately 3 hours and after all product was transferred it was determined that approximately 2000 gallons of gasoline had leaked from the tank.

- May 4th – HMRT officers were requested to the scene of a fire officer investigation involving a leaking Carbon Dioxide tank. Officer took air monitoring reads and remained on location until the excess pressure could be released. It was determined the pressure relief valve was faulty and a replacement would be needed.

Mr. Pursell stated that there have been February 8th LEPC Meeting. These were:

- February 19th – Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Review and Fast Board Training
- March 1st – Chlorine Exercise
- March 3rd – Towamencin Fire Company Hazmat Ops Refresher Demo
- April 5th – Hazmat Skills
- April 18th – Bridgeport Fire Department Hazmat Ops Refresher Demo
- April 23rd – SEPA Regional Task Force Full Scale Exercise
- April 28th – Cheltenham High School Hazmat Demo
- May 3rd – EVOG Day 1 of 2

Additionally, Mr. Pursell reported that progress is continuing the construction of the newest piece of apparatus for the Hazmat Team which will replace the current HM81. We are hoping to take delivery of our new 2023 Spartan Metro Star walk-around rescue sometime in late 2022. I want to recognize the time and effort put into spec'ing this piece of apparatus which started back in January of 2021. Our truck building committee is comprised of officers on the hazmat team.

Mr. Wittmer asked if there was a post incident review for the February 16th response. Mr. Pursell stated that following the incident there was a brief after action review to discuss what went well and what areas for improvement exist. He also stated that there is a plan for further discussion at the next officers meeting. Mr. Wittmer acknowledged the team for utilizing this best practice and commented on the importance of after action reviews.

Emergency Management

Mr. Wilson reported that Amanda Brady has been selected and hired as new Training and Preparedness Coordinator, and that Amanda has experience as a Telecommunicator with Montgomery County and has hit the ground running assisting in the design of several exercises and will be coordinating the updating of the County EOP Annexes.

Mr. Wilson went on to state that Andrew Urban has been selected and hired as the new Emergency Preparedness Specialist for Municipal Planning. Andrew is a Coast Guard Veteran, former police officer, current volunteer firefighter and is pursuing a master's degree in

emergency management. Andrew will be starting on May 23rd and will be involved in Municipal and County EOP updating.

Mr. Wilson discussed that the Division of Emergency Management has started a series of EM Monthly Trainings focused on prepping for upcoming severe weather. The first training was held in April was used to discuss damage assessment, road closure and utility outage reporting. Mays Training will be held on May 18th and will be used to discussed EOC communications. June's meeting will be used to discuss debris management coordination and operations. Municipal EMC Training is held on the third Wednesday of every month and is open to all EM partners countywide.

Lastly, Mr. Wilson gave several specific updates which are as follows:

- County EOP Update
 - County Basic EOP has been promulgated by Commissioners
 - Working with Office of Public Health to consolidate similar plans
 - County EOP Annex review will begin in June
- Emergency Management has submitted the following ARPA Projects
 - Fire Department Supplemental Revenue Replacement Project
 - Municipal Emergency Management Agency Support Project
- Hurricane Ida After Action Report Contract awarded to IEM – work will begin as soon as PO is issued.

Mr. Wittmer asked how well attended the monthly EMC meeting were. Mr. Wilson stated that typically 30-40 municipalities are represented at each meeting, however, this fluctuates depending on the time of the year. Additionally, Mr. Wilson stated that meetings are currently held both in person and virtually.

A brief discussion was had on the effect of Hurricane Ida on the county and the future of flood management. Mr. Wilson commented on the importance of thinking through building development in light of increased flooding, and that concerns around these issues must be addressed.

Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Garrity reported the 32 member of Class 2103 will graduate on Wednesday, May 18th at 7:00PM. Additionally, several important Rescue classes start in the month of May. These are:

- Water rescue and Emergency Response started May 5th
- Vehicle Rescue started on the 9th
- Advanced Line systems starts May 24th

Mr. Garrity went on to report that Class 2201 finishes entry-level fire training this month, and Class 2202 starts Exterior Firefighter on May 15th. Further, Class 2203 finished Introduction to the Fire service last week.

Additionally, Work on the new Vehicle Rescue Pad and Trench Rescue prop continues. The contractor started Audio/Visual updates to our classrooms and Conference Room A. The new roof on the Public Safety Training Campus building should be installed this month.

In the total of 2022, the Fire Academy has had 695 enrollments for 4492 hours of training. Further, 2353 enrollments have been processed, 128 classes have been run, and 14,718 hours of training has occurred. Of these classes, there were 37 Hazardous Materials courses totaling 695 enrollments for 4492 hours of training.

EMS Division

No report was given.

Public Health

Ms. Young reported that OPH continues to manage COVID-19. Case counts for COVID-19 are rising. There are currently 6 testing sites open, but Green Lane is planned to close at the end of May based on low utilization rates. Lansdale, Norristown, Pottstown, and Ardmore are still operational. Additionally, 4 vaccine clinics are active in Pottstown, Willow Grove, Norristown, King of Prussia which will be closing in May. Two county after action reviews for COVID-19 have been conducted. The Office of Public health is currently reviewing these. Additionally, Department of Public Safety is working with the Department of Public Safety to review overlapping plans. An ARPA proposal has been submitted which would help update the county's pandemic response plan.

Additional Reports

Mr. Stieritz reported that advertising for certain open positions such as 9-1-1 Telecommunicators is being increased. Additionally, the hiring model will change for Telecommunicators to a recurring hiring window throughout all times of the year.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None

NEXT MEETING DATE:

August 9th, 2022, at 1300 hrs

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Pursell and seconded by Mr. Dula. Meeting Adjourned at 1354.