

CITY OF PROVIDENCE

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE #5

C/o Providence Emergency Management Agency
& Office of Homeland Security
591 Charles Street
Providence, RI 02904
(401) 228-8000

Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2009

(Submitted by Dave Aucoin – Narragansett Bay Commission)

(Recorded by Kerry Britt – Narragansett Bay Commission)

ATTENDEES:

Kerry Britt – NBC	Cy Cote – RI College
J. Grant Parker – Waterson/KMC	Sue Mayo - JWU
Jim Gaffey - EPA	Mitch Stevens – Univar
Pete Popko – USCG	Jill Eastman – RI DEM
Jim Celenza – RICOSH	Bill Ostiguy – Ferguson Perforating
Steve Curtis – ProvPort/WTS	Filomena Lupo – Community Rep.
John O’Reilly – RI Hospital	John Bissonette - NBC
Alex Varone – RI Hospital	Greg Myers – Providence College
Henry Huppert – Brown University	Bob Johnson – RIBI Security
Stephen Morin – Brown Universtiy	Sean Donahue – Promet Marine
Joe Murphy – Hudson Asphalt	Michael Dillon - PFD
David Everett – Providence Planning & Development	
Scott Atkin – Roger Williams Medical Center	

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- Meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM by LEPC #5 Chairman Assistant Fire Chief Michael Dillon in the Main Auditorium of the Providence Public Safety Complex, 325 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903.
 - Chief Dillon made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes from the last meeting, as Dave had previously emailed them to all members. The motion was made, seconded, and accepted.

Correspondence/Handouts:

Copies of the minutes from the previous meeting were distributed to all members.

A summary report on the recent Port Evacuation Drill on June 3rd was provided by the PFD and given to all members.

No additional Tier II Reports have been received by Chief Dillon within the past month.

Membership Committee Reports

City of Providence:

Communications: No Report.

Emergency Management: No Report (*Chief Dillon, on behalf* - Although PEMA is not present, they are very busy preparing for the upcoming 2009 Mayors Conference in Providence).

Fire Department: *Chief Dillon*

- PFD received a total of 74 Tier II Reports for 2008, which is down from 82 that were received in 2007. One reason for this is that some facilities in the past have only submitted reports to the DOL and not the LEPC. PFD will work with DOL to ensure that the Reports continue to also be filed with the LEPC.
- Shipboard Firefighter Training has been ongoing for the last 6 months. Training was conducted most recently with firefighters from Providence, Cranston & East Providence.
- TEPPCO Emergency Response Plan was tested on May 21st
 - TEPPCO is a Liquefied Propane facility located on Field's Point Drive
 - The scenario consisted of propane leaking from a truck at a filling station
 - Response actions by the PFD included utilization of gas detectors, establishment of exclusion zones, vapor dispersion using a water pod, and the truck and equipment was shut-down.
 - Unified Command was setup by TEPPCO managers and the exercise was a success.
- June 17th – SERC Training Committee Meeting is scheduled at PEMA.
- Upcoming Drills:
 - Geographic Response Plan Exercise with RI DEM.
 - Search & Rescue Drills with the Cranston Fire Dept.
 - PFD will be lending their fire boats for this drill.
 - PFD recently participated in the USCG AMSTEP Exercise, which focused on hazardous material releases within the Port.
- Recent Incidents:
 - April 22, 2009 – Major gas leak at 1 Financial Way in downtown Providence.
 - Construction workers accidentally punctured a 100 psi gas main.
 - There were slight delays with evacuating the building, as many employees were confused and using their cell phones – most of them heard reports and thought the gas leak was at 1 Financial *Plaza*, so the assumption was that all of downtown Providence had a gas leak. More public education is needed for businesses, the media and residents to understand what the Reverse 911 system is and how it works. Chief Dillon has always stressed this point with the SERC.

- All employees eventually evacuated safely, one firefighter was seriously injured but the gas was not exposed to any kind of ignition source.

Inspections & Standards: No Report.

Mayor's Press Office: No Report.

Planning & Development: No Report.

- Chief Dillon requested more information from Planning & Development in regards to building occupancy status throughout the City to better aide in on-scene emergency response.
 - PFD recently worked with RI DOT on this – CAMEO 2009 software was combined with DOT GIS data to update occupancy status and display the risks of having a hazardous chemical release in different parts of the City.

Police Department: No Report.

Colleges & Universities: No Report.

- Chief Dillon stated that Brown University is once again going to assist the PFD in planning for the 2010 AMSTEP exercise – Brown will provide a venue for training for the PFD during the exercise.

Public Property: No Report.

Public Works: No Report.

Solicitor's Office: No Report.

Tax Assessor: No Report.

State of Rhode Island:

RI DEM: No Report.

Department of Labor: No Report.

RIEMA: No Report.

SERC: *Chief Dillon*

- Chief Dillon attended the monthly SERC meeting, held the first Monday of each month. Chief was impressed with the 'rejuvenated' organization of the SERC, lead by efforts from RIEMA and EPA.
- The bi-laws of the SERC will be changed – now each LEPC will be able to vote on topics at the meetings. The latest topic is support for changing the LEPC/town structure throughout the state. **The total number of LEPCs will change from 9 to 5.**
- EPA was praised for their efforts in working with RI DOL in maintaining an up-to-date electronic database of LEPC information for the state.

EPA: *Jim Gaffey*

- EPA has worked very hard with RI DOL to ensure accurate Tier II reporting, access to LEPC information and they were once again praised by the Chief for their efforts in not only this, but also helping to “reactivate” the SERC.

USCG – Sector Southeastern NE: *Pete Popko*

- Recent AMSTEP Tabletop Exercise:
 - Had close to 100 participants from the local, state, and federal levels.
 - Exercise was at a MARSEC 2 Level (“heightened awareness”).
 - Situation involved ammonia leaking from a railcar.
 - Many problems were exposed, which can be lessons learned that will be applied to a full-scale exercise in May 2010.
 - One major issue was how to most effectively communicate disasters to the industrial community. “Homeport” is one current successful method.
 - The RI Civil Support Team is currently sponsoring all NE Civil Support Teams. The Civil Support Team is made up of part-time National Guard personnel who are trained to respond to hazmat and terrorism situations.
- A question was raised pertaining to how much federal grant money different ports receive around the country. All US Ports are grouped into Tiers that determine this factor.
 - Tier I – Houston, for example.
 - Tier II – Boston, for example.
 - Tier III – Providence, Newport, and Fall River. Over \$6 million is available for this Tier. The USCG is trying to get all three of these Ports to be grouped into one Port Area.
 - ‘All Other Ports’ – Any other facility that falls under the Area Maritime Security Plan
- See “Maritime Security Updates” handout below.

Southeastern New England Maritime Security Updates June 2009

RIPOC

Ms. Erin Lambie

Erin.G.Lambie@uscg.mil 401-435-2355

MTSRPOC

Mr. Kevin Blount Kevin.J.Blount@uscg.mil 401-435-2321

SEMAPOC Mr. Ron Pigeon

Ronald.F.Pigeon@uscg.mil 401-435-2327

FY 2009 Port Security Grants

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has released Fiscal Year 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Grant Application Guidance for the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP). \$150 million is available for through this program.

The Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) Guidelines have been posted to the Sector SENE Homeport website <http://homeport.uscg.mil/sene> on the bottom right side of the page under Announcements. Please pay particular attention to the Application and Submission Information in Part IV (pgs 17-37) and the helpful hints on page 70. Information necessary for the Investment Justification has also changed.

For further information or to apply for grants, please go to www.grants.gov, Funding Opportunity Number: DHS-09-GPD-116-2200.

FY 2009 ARRA PSGP Teleconferences

The FEMA Grants Programs Directorate (GPD) wishes to ensure that ARRA PSGP applicants have the ability to reach FEMA GPD Program Analysts during the ARRA PSGP application period.

There will be training sessions scheduled on the following dates. There will be approximately 100 telephone lines available for this teleconference.

Attendees are asked to read and highlight if needed the ARRA PSGP Guidance and Application Kit prior to asking questions. The ARRA Guidance and Application Kit will be found at www.fell1a.gov and <http://homeport.uscg.mil> websites.

If you ask a question the page number and paragraph from the guide must be referenced.

The purpose of this call is to provide an overview of the ARRA PSGP FY 2009 Guidance and Application Kit to applicants and answer questions as necessary.

I. No cellular telephones.

2. Please ensure your hard-line telephone has voice receiver mute capabilities.
3. It is recommended there be group collaboration to share one telephone and telephone line if possible.

When: June 11th, 16th, 18th, 23rd, and 25th 2009.

Time: 1:00 PM-2:30 PM, Eastern Standard Time (EST)

Call-In 1-800-320-4330 PIN 814079

Additional questions and systems related issues should be directed to the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk at askcsid@dhs.gov or (800) 368-6498.

Please see Homeport for additional Information Bulletins (IB) regarding the teleconferences.

<http://homeport.uscg.mil/sene>

Hospitals: *John O'Reilly – RI Hospital*

- John introduced Alex Varone to the Committee. Alex is an intern at RI Hospital and a student at Stonybrook College majoring in Healthcare and Emergency Management.
- RI Hospital has worked with DOH and RIEMA to develop an online special needs form that can be completed for people who may need assistance during an emergency. The information would be shared with all first responders and also with hospital medical staff to make response efforts more effective. This form is available on RIEMA's website, under the link titled "[Special Needs Emergency Registry](#)."
- See "2009 Second Quarter Update" handout below.

2009 Second Quarter Update

The second quarter of 2009 brought continued progress in addressing emergency mitigation, preparedness, and response and recovery efforts at Rhode Island Hospital. Ongoing training and community partnership activities continued during the second quarter as the Hospital strives to serve the local, state and regional health needs.

During the quarter, Rhode Island Hospital continued its efforts to prepare the hospital, Lifespan and the State in preparedness and response efforts. These are highlighted below:

- CDC/Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) training: Partnered with Providence Fire, State & Local police and the Department of Health, Rhode Island Hospital continues planning and response training in preparation for medication distribution under emergency conditions. A tabletop and walk through of the Providence Fire CHEMPACK response assistance duties was conducted on February 27th and a combined Operation Big Green exercise with HEALTH & RIEMA was conducted on March 20 & 21st. The exercise was deemed a success and now serves as a precursor to a possible vaccination point of distribution action this summer/fall.
- HINI / Emergency Preparedness Supply Cache: RIH warehouses an extensive supply of medical supplies configured for rapid deployment in a major medical emergency outside of the routine services offered in the medical world. During the HINI medical emergency, the Hospital stood up Incident Command Structure as did other hospitals statewide and responded in an area command structure with Lifespan Corporate Services. The structure assisted us in answering the questions and solving the problems associated with the evolving HINI event.
- Providence Healthcare Service Region Alternate Care Site: Work is ongoing with PEMA, HEALTH, and HARI to implement a drafted Pandemic Plan for the City of Providence. RIH and W & I are responsible for the Providence region and are working toward a tabletop and functional exercise before August 8th of this year. This to reach a new level of preparedness and is in line with the anticipated autumn outbreak. Further information will follow.
- Rapid Emergency Satellite Communications Systems (RESC): The RESC program is underway and the equipment is received, being inventoried and scheduled for training and deployment through summer 2009.
- Port Evacuation Exercise:

RIH objectives:

Observe project and see if other agencies needed anything from RIH or if there was anything that RIH would need from other agencies (i.e. injuries to trauma center, information so the hospital can be ready etc.)

Go over shelter in place course of action with HVAC department

RIH questions: internal and external:

will injuries occurred at the incident be transported to RIH or will RIH be in lock down and have injuries transported elsewhere? Determined that the situation would dictate that decision relative to the identity of product, release volume and wind direction. HV AC department engineers requested information relative to the product releases to determine its course of action regarding filtering possibilities for the hospital in an emergency.

HV AC department at RIH found 70% immediate shutdown at control center and remaining 30% shutdown capability at individual site HVAC control panel locations.

Shut down ventilation system, no air from outside coming in; infiltration of older buildings is 1 exchange / hour and newer buildings at 1 exchange / 4 hours

Decon-negative pressure at the trauma center may serve as a vestibule in operations relative to a release.

Masks for people working in areas near entrances and exits PPE will be used if necessary.

Moving into the latter half of 2009, this organization seeks to further strengthen the partnership between state and local agencies.

- Roger Williams Medical Center is continuing its emergency preparedness efforts, much along the same lines as RI Hospital. This includes H1N1 preparation.

Red Cross/VNA: No Report.

RIPTA: No Report.

Facility Reps/Owners: No Report.

Providence Harbor Co-op: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Chief Dillon* – June 3rd Port Evacuation Drill
 - The Chief stressed the importance of the drill, maintaining the written evacuation Plan, and updating facility contact information when necessary.
 - It was learned during the AMSTEP exercise that the Port Evacuation Plan is a positive protective measure that stands above all other communities in the state.
 - Using Katrina and Rita as examples, the Port Evacuation Plan can effectively eliminate all life hazards during an emergency, if operated effectively, as opposed to having an emergency strictly turn into a recovery situation.
 - The Port is divided into sections so that some areas can easily be directed to either shelter in place or evacuate, depending on proximity to the situation, nature of the situation and also wind direction.
 - See Handout below:

Port Evacuation 2009

Scenario: A railcar derails east of Shipyard St and begins leaking anhydrous ammonia. Wind is from the Northeast at 10 mph. The Incident Commander orders the evacuation of the port and RIPTA is requested and a R-911 message is launched requesting companies report to the North and South primary rally points.

Engine 10 and Ladder 5 are dispatched as rally point leaders

Reverse 911 message launched at 10:08

First bus appears at rally point at 10:34

Johnson and Wales reports from the rally point at 10:20

Buses circle port

Last pickup made at 10:46

Port reported evacuated at 10:59

Lessons Learned

Coast Guard will contact ships. Ships will always shelter in Place

16 out of 78 businesses reported

Phone numbers? Non-participation?

Public Education for R-911

Training and Planning needed for bus drivers and Rally point leaders. Should port members be trained as Rally point leaders?

Advantages

Public Protection Measure first priority of IC

IC can rely on people getting themselves out

Business to business search will be unnecessary. This will take too long and require too many resources

NEW BUSINESS

- There will be another Port Evacuation Drill on Friday, September 18th. More details will follow shortly.

Chief Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 AM. Motion was seconded and approved.

The next LEPC 5 Quarterly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16th, 2009 at 10:00 AM in the Providence Public Safety Complex's Main Auditorium.

Please visit the LEPC #5 website at www.rilepc.org to check for previous meeting minutes, upcoming events, training opportunities, and important compliance information.

