

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 14, 2006

ATTENDEES:

Henry Huppert – Brown University	Leo Messier - PEMA
Tony LaRusso – KeySpan LNG	Michael Duchesne – Univar USA
Mike Kirkwood – Keyspan LNG	Steve Knowles – W&I Hospital
Carol Vinniti – Gilbane/Jacobs	Jim Celenza - RICOSH
Alan Cantara – RISD	John Bissonette – NBC
Kerry Britt – NBC	Mike Russo – Save The Bay
Robert Botham – ProvPort	Dave Aucoin - NBC
Bill Ostiguy – Ferguson Perforating	Kevin Roy – Waterson Stevedoring
Michael Turbitt – Univar USA	John Bissonette – NBC
Grant Parker – Kingston Marine Consultancy	
Sgt. Kenneth Vinacco – PPD, Homeland Security Div.	

- Meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM.
- Chief Dillon suggested a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. Motion made, seconded, and accepted.

Correspondence/Handouts:

- Jim Gaffney (EPA – Boston) apologized for not being able to attend the meeting. Jim played an active role inside the Providence Mobile Command Unit during the Port evacuation drill.
- Chief Dillon announced that Assistant Providence Chief Michael Day passed away the night before while on duty at the PPSC. Condolences were expressed by all.
- Dave provided handouts of the “Port Reverse911 Calling List” that was used during the drill.

Membership Committee Reports:

City of Providence:

Communications: Chief Taylor (Director), Chief Dillon, Leo, and RIEMA members recently met to discuss the concept of “inter-operability planning.” as applicable to emergency training and real-life response. “Inter-operability planning” simply aims to ensure that all agencies with radio contact operate and communicate effectively at the same time during an emergency. An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Exercise to test this planning is tentatively scheduled for October 1, 2006 at Kennedy Plaza, during which the City will be getting evaluated on the effectiveness of the exercise.

Emergency Management: PEMA recently conducted a successful Amtrak response drill, consisting of prior intelligence of an eventual terrorist explosion on one of the trains. The routine for the exercise was described as a “cultural change” for first responders dealing with this type of incident, as the possible existence of a secondary explosive device was considered. Exercise participants included the PFD, PPD, FBI, and the State Fire Marshall’s Office.

Fire Department: HAZMAT Team has been taking monthly training. An ammonia class was offered and sponsored by LEPC #4 private sector representatives in May. Prov. Fire participated in the class and also offered their services for more training.

- June exercise planned at UNIVAR consisting of a leaking tank inside a tractor trailer, and 4-6 response teams will be rotated throughout the scenario so that each team gets a chance to fix the “leak.”
- Last April, WMD survey training was conducted at the Providence Civic Center for the PFD and the Civil Support Team (CST) (Special Hazmat Team that works for the local Incident Commander). The CST has about eight million dollars worth of equipment, responds to all state Hazmat emergencies to help fire departments, and has to be activated by the Governor. The CST will be used during the September “Inter-operability” drill in Kennedy Plaza.
- Based on the success of the February Oil Spill Tabletop Exercise with Motiva, USCG, and the RIDEM, boom deployment/spill containment exercises will be held throughout the summer in the coastal waters of Providence, East Providence, Cranston, and Warwick. Hazard mitigation in the Bay area will aid in the protection of the State’s economy (oil supply, etc.).

Inspections & Standards: No Report

Mayor’s Press Office: No Report

Planning & Development: No Report

Police Department: *Sgt. Ken Vinacco* – The PPD Homeland Security Division oversees the security of the entire city, and meets once a month with the “Downtown Security Network” to educate personnel on matters like terrorism. Officer Larry Reel works for the FBI and has an active role in on-going investigations. Mr. Reel reports FBI information back to Sgt. Vinacco on a weekly basis.

-LPG – PPD also provides security for the Port with officers on Coast Guard Vessels and also on land. Because of the passage of a Memorandum Of

Understanding (MOU) between the USCG, DEM, and PPD on May 19, 2006, PPD officers can now board and search any Port vessel under the same powers as the USCG.

Public Property: No Report

Public Works: No Report

Solicitor's Office: No Report

Tax Assessor: No Report

State of Rhode Island:

DEM: No Report

Department of Labor & Training: No Report

RIEMA: No Report

SERC: No Report

EPA: Chief Dillon announced that Jim Gaffey is always ready and willing to offer EPA resources to LEPC#5.

MSO – Coast Guard: No Report.

Hospitals: *Steve Knowles*: A tabletop Bird Flu exercise was scheduled for June 15, 2006, and a statewide exercise is planned for July 12, 2006. The June 15th exercise will be at the Providence Sheraton Hotel, and the July 12th statewide exercise will be coordinated by RIEMA. Steve addressed concerns of transmission of the Bird Flu, and stated that human to human transmission would not be likely.

Leo Messier: Announced that the RIDOH and PEMA can offer free Pandemic Bird Flu presentations at upcoming LEPC meetings, and that for preparation purposes, RI has been divided into 10 regions in the event of an outbreak. (A bird flu pandemic in RI would also be a National problem as companies also depend on out-of-state businesses). Providence is its own region. Each region would have ONE hospital that would act as the lead agency in the event of a bird flu pandemic. Additional bird flu pandemic information is available from The R.I. Department of Health's website:

www.health.ri.gov

Chief Dillon: Announced the need to begin more training with hospitals so on-site de-con units can be setup quickly. This is an urgent matter.

Red Cross/VNA: No Report

RIPTA: No Report

Facility Reps/Owners: No Report

ProvPort: No Report

OLD BUSINESS: *Chief Dillon*: Sixteen Providence Firefighters recently received gas firefighting procedure training at the Massachusetts State Fire Academy. Mike and Tony from KeySpan were thanked for their coordination of the training, as was N.E. Gas Company.

-Reverse911 System: Chief Dillon thanked Greg Haroain for setting up the technical part of the system and having it ready for the June 8 Evacuation Drill. Leo explained how the Reverse911 System actually works, and also expressed interest in inputting cell phones and email addresses into the database in the near future.

-Alan Cantara (RISD) raised the question of whether or not RISD should be included in the Reverse911 call list. Answer – YES. PEMA would like to eventually get all colleges in the city entered into the calling database.

-Leo Messier: Stated that a “mesh network” (expanding the bandwidth/wireless capabilities of all applicable emergency equipment) will eventually be implemented, so that all Reverse911 messages will go directly to every Providence Police cruiser.

-LEPC #5 Website: No progress, yet. Henry Huppert announced he would take the lead in organizing a meeting to gather relevant material.

- Inter-operability exercise on August 15, 2006: Leo announced the need for a good location for the exercise (about 100 people), and its applicability to all ICS personnel. Location assistance from Brown U. was ultimately requested.

- Port Security Grants from 2005: Leo Messier: Three out of the five projects were approved for Providence. The 2006 Port Security Grants should be coming out soon, and they should focus on the concept of consequence modeling. Last year, there was a 100% match between the public and private sectors, but this year’s round of funding will only allow for a 25% match.

Sgt. Vinacco: A new Sonar system will be installed to identify vessels/objects underwater, and a “security net” system for precious cargo ships will be implemented as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

-*Chief Dillon*: The 2nd Annual Port Evacuation Drill was a success because important flaws were identified. **Pros** of Drill: timely calls, plan is flexible due to availability of RIPTA and personal vehicles. **Suggestions**: announce the chemical situation in the recording, update the Rev911 contacts yearly, find a better place than RW Museum as a rally point because many people don’t know where it is. Providence/Worcester Railroad was never notified. A contact number is needed. **Cons**: KeySpan was blocked from their evacuation route by the Train for 25 minutes. RIPTA buses were not fully aware of the evacuation routes. Ten RIPTA Buses were used last year, but only two were used this year. Not all drill information was relayed to the new RIPTA Director when the old Director retired last year.

-*Mike Duchesne* (UNIVAR) – Suggested that the company should gather on the opposite side of the street for emergency pick-ups in the future.

-*Leo Messier* (PEMA) – Providence has signed an agreement with First Student Bus Co. to use three buses per neighborhood in the event of a statewide emergency. Gathering areas for residents would be area schools. As a backup plan, any CDL Driver can drive the First Student buses if there is ever a strike.

-A question was raised concerning who would monitor the effectiveness of communication among all Port companies in the event of an emergency. The

purpose of the evacuation drill (by using the Reverse911) was to make sure everyone knew the same procedures to follow. This question led to the issue of availability of audible alarms.

- KeySpan played a major role in trying to get the Port Siren System during last year's Port Security Grant application period. The Siren System will be requested again in the next round of Grants, and is expected to cost about one hundred thousand dollars. The Sirens would put out the same message as the Rev911 notification.
- Leo promoted more Shelter-In-Place training for company employees.
- The concept of posting Port Sector Signs along the roads was raised, but was deemed to ultimately cause potential confusion.
- Situation-specific Emergency Evacuation Route Signs (floods, hurricanes, etc.) may be placed throughout the city in the near future, with the help of the Highway Engineering Dept.
- The idea of implementing Signs designating "Evacuation Pick-Up Points" for RIPTA and First Student buses was addressed.
- Jim Celenza offered a new RICOSH shelter-in-place guide to Dave for LEPC distribution.
- Oil Spill Emergency Contingency Fund: The PFD will be receiving help from RIDEM for stockpiling oil spill remediation chemicals, and will be taking a more active role in *statewide first response* to oil spill incidents.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:32 AM.