

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 March 12, 2008

(Submitted by Dave Aucoin - Narragansett Bay Commission)

ATTENDEES

Jim Gaffey – EPA Region 1	Bruce Lougheed – RI Hospital
Mike Russo – Save The Bay	Jim Ball – RI DEM
Alan Cantara – RISD	Dave Aucoin – NBC
Bill Ostiguy – Ferguson Perforating	Kerry Britt - NBC
William Benn – RICOSH	Brendan Duffy – Keyspan
Jim Celenza – RICOSH	Joshua Hill – Promet Marine
Pet Gaynor –PEMA	Bruce Lougheed – RI Hospital
William Reynolds –Mahr Federal, Inc.	Jim Ball – RI DEM
Carol Gaboriault – Mahr Federal, Inc.	Bryan Klostermeyer - USCG
Stephen Morin – Brown University	Bob Johnson – RIBI Security
Koren Kanadianian – Providence College	Cy Cote – RI College
Gale Gennaro – Providence College	Joe Iannucci - PPD
Filomena Lupo – Community Group Rep.	Michael Dillon - PFD
Henry Huppert – Brown University	Susan Mayo – JWU
Steve Knowles – Women & Infants Hospital	

- Meeting was called to order at 10:05 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. Copies of the meeting minutes were also distributed at the meeting.

Correspondence/Handouts:

- The most recent version of the Providence HAZMAT Emergency Response Plan was distributed to all members.

Membership Committee Reports

City of Providence:

Communications: No Report.

Emergency Management:

- Chief Dillon formally introduced Peter Gaynor, the new Director of Providence EMA.
- Pete is a retired Lt. Colonel from the US Marine Corps. and has been working closely with Chief Dillon for the last couple of months.
- Chief Dillon praised Pete's abilities, dedication, and willingness to improve emergency management in Providence.

- *Pete Gaynor:*

- Pete has been officially serving in his current position for two weeks and is very impressed with the organization of the City's Police, Fire, and Public Safety Divisions.
- *Siren System Exercise with Brown U.:*
 - Conducted the first test of the City's Reverse 911 system prior to the Siren test. There are about 15 thousand residents on the calling list, so PEMA narrowed it down to about 800 residents within a radius of a couple square miles.
 - It took about 10 minutes to notify all 800 residents. With the current bandwidth on the Rev911 software, PEMA can make 60 calls at once. PEMA is planning on entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the City to use their software at times when more people have to be notified at once. The City's software is capable of making 500 calls at once, compared to 60.
- *Second Reverse 911 Exercise:*
 - Identified 8 repetitive flood areas in Providence to form a more proactive approach to solving flooding in these well known areas:
 - Worked with DPW to clean catch basins,
 - PPD distributed flyers about the exercise in the flooding areas that lie in the residential locations,
 - Used Reverse 911 to notify residents of all 8 surrounding neighborhoods. This took about 30 minutes using PEMA's internal line.
- *Red Cross "ENS" system:*
 - PEMA has been given free access to the Emergency Notification System (ENS) that is used by RI Red Cross.
 - ENS software is built by a company named "Pervis" (a Defense Contractor),
 - The ENS system is more straightforward than Reverse 911 as it allows PEMA to place certain phone numbers into groups that can be called at

different times, as opposed to individuals being called at once. ENS also includes phone, text message, and email notification.

- *Hurricane Exercise Scheduled for Mid-June:*
 - 3 Phases:
 - A. Proper notification of all people that need to be involved (late May)
 - B. Tabletop Exercise on June 10th at the NBC Corporate Office Building, Main Conference Room
 - C. Shelter-in-Place Exercise on June 14th
 - Coordinating with RI Red Cross, who has about 135 new volunteers from the RI Volunteer Council,
 - 1 or 2 shelters in Providence will be used.
- *Port Security Grant Update:*
 - Port Security Camera Initiative:
 - In 2006, 10 stationary cameras were placed in the Southern part of the Bay,
 - PEMA now has the money to install cameras along the Port from Conimicut Point to Providence, to cover the rest of the Bay. The project will go out to bid soon, and will take about 6 months to install the cameras. Upper Bay will hopefully be covered by the end of 2008.

Fire Department: *Chief Dillon*

- LEPC 5 hosted an EPCRA Workshop that was well attended.
- Monthly PFD Hazmat training is on-going (4 hrs. mandatory/month)
- Recent Incidents:
 - Fire at Metal's Recycling in the Port that involved hazardous materials,
 - A gas leak on California Ave. that spread to nearby houses. RIPTA was used to transport residents away from the scene. Residents sheltered-in-place in a nearby building. Chief praised the partnership between the PFD, RIPTA, and the PPD for conducting an orderly evacuation.
- Planners are available from the SERC to review the Providence Emergency Response Plan every September and keep it current with EPA standards.
- Jim Gaffey (EPA) has once again reported some non-reporting Tier II companies to the PFD this year, and Chief Dillon will be sending the PFD out to these companies to conduct inspections for any hazardous materials. If hazardous materials are found, then EPA will be inspecting these facilities.
- JWU 12/12 Tabletop Exercise (chlorine gas release) was a great success. Several LEPC 5 members attended the Tabletop, and therefore could not attend the LEPC meeting at the same time.
- UASI Grant (Urban Area Security Initiative):
 - The PFD will be getting new boats in May,

- Boats are CBRNE – capable (Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear, and Explosive). These all-weather boats will also be used for basic fire fighting and search and rescue operations.
 - Under the UASI Grant, Providence was designated as a UASI Community in 2007 (1 of 125 communities in the country) based on the hazards that exist in the community, it’s vulnerability to terrorist acts, and the impact on such a dense population.
 - As a direct result of the simulated Hurricane Eveytte exercise in 2007, PFD will be requesting more Hazmat equipment under the 2008 UASI Grant.
- MOTIVA will be having a ‘Re-Opening’ ceremony of their facility on June 25th, and will then be able to resume taking in large amounts of shipments, as they had prior to the fire. PFD will be at the ceremony.
- PFD will be conducting a full-scale fire exercise at Keyspan (now Dominion Energy). The strategy will be the same as practiced at TEPPCO and UNIVAR – to respond to an initial minor emergency as effective as possible to prevent it from escalating into a major emergency.

Inspections & Standards: No Report.

Mayor’s Press Office: No Report.

Planning & Development: No Report.

Police Department: No Report.

Colleges/Universities: *Steve Morin* – Brown University

- Siren Warning System
 - Following the Virginia Tech Shootings, Brown worked closely with PEMA on a weekly basis during the Summer 07 to develop a campus alert system that included outdoor sirens. This included testing Brown’s own “Mirror 3” system (phone, text, email) and holding a press conference.
 - The first test of the system was conducted on 2/28, and all students were notified ahead of time about the test,
 - Brown is looking to increase the volume of the sirens in some areas,
 - The next siren test will be sometime in June,
 - There are currently 3 sirens installed on top of Brown’s buildings to notify people outdoors about life-threatening emergencies on campus. Specifically an active shooter/intruder, large chemical release and need to shelter-in-place, or a natural disaster.
 - To hear a .wav sample of Brown’s new sirens, go to www.brown.edu and click on the ESWS link (Emergency Siren Warning System).

Johnson & Wales: *Sue Mayo* is still very active in the SERC Training Committee, and attended the EPCRA Workshop and informed some companies about their Tier II reporting requirements.

Providence College: *Koren Kanadianian* (New PC EMA Director)

- New Emergency Operations Center (EOC):
 - The new EOC contains 12 new computers and phone stations in addition to outside data links so the PFD can “plug in” and link to all internal information and power during an emergency.
 - PC has been working on more student and faculty emergency notifications on campus, and has implemented the “Connect-Ed” alert system, similar to the system at JWU. A test of the system was conducted two weeks ago with a 96% message delivery rate.
 - Ram-Tel Emergency phone system throughout the campus (total of 42) is being updated. More than half will include a PA system.
 - 3 campus cruisers have been outfitted with PA systems
 - Brown’s Counseling Department held a Mental Health Summit to train faculty and staff on identifying students who could be mentally unstable and present a danger to either themselves or the University,
 - All Safety and Security policies and procedures are being updated to include response to a shooting incident or chemical release on campus,
 - Koren is working with the Brown Residents and Life staff to develop a campus SERC team (the campus ROTC staff is helping to pilot the program),
 - Risk and hazard assessments are being conducted with other Departments on campus. If anyone has any questions about the progress of PC’s new emergency management activities, you may email Koren at emergency.management@providence.edu.

<u>Public Property:</u>	No Report.
<u>Public Works:</u>	No Report.
<u>Solicitor’s Office:</u>	No Report.
<u>Tax Assessor:</u>	No Report.

State of Rhode Island:

DEM: *Jim Ball*

- In partnership with MOTIVA, DEM has begun developing a Geographic Response Plan (GRP) to identify sensitive areas of the Upper Bay and Providence River, and subsequent methods to protect them from such incidents as oil spills (i.e. – quicker boom deployment, etc.),
 - The GRP idea stemmed from lessons learned from the MOTIVA fire and oil spill and also from the Barge North Cape oil spill,
 - A company named NUCA Research has been hired by DEM to fund the GRP project and the project’s website (<http://rigrp.nukaresearch.com>),
 - Massachusetts has also hired NUCA to develop their own GRP,

- The USCG's Area Contingency Committee and the Regional Response Team will be reviewing all completed work in the GRP, and DEM hopes to have the GRP reviewed by other NE states, as well.

Department of Labor: No Report.

RIEMA: No Report.

SERC: *Chief Dillon*

- The SERC was recently taken over by RIEMA, and the frequency of SERC meetings has decreased dramatically. Meetings will hopefully increase once a new RIEMA Director is appointed.

EPA: No Report.

MSO – USCG: *Bryan Klostermeyer*

- Captain Roy Nash was transferred to Seattle last December, and the new Captain of the Port is Captain Ray Perry.
- It has been reported that some industries have had issues regarding the manner in which USCG personnel interacted with them during several encounters and inspections. As a result, Captain Perry is soliciting input from any LEPC 5 members who have had interaction (good or bad) with any USCG personnel.
- April 10th – Port Recovery Workshop at the Marriot on Orms St. to test the emergency response capabilities of the Port. The Port will be closed due to a terrorist attack, and Port companies will have to decide how to keep their businesses running. The tabletop will include the rejection of any ships coming into the Port. The workshop registration deadline is March 24th.

Hospitals: *John O'Reilly* (new Emergency Preparedness Director for RI Hospital)

- John is a retired Battalion Fire Chief of 29 yrs. from the PFD,
- Lifespan (parent company of most Providence hospitals) is increasing its commitment to emergency preparedness,
- The Hospital Association of RI is working on organizing more Incident Command Systems for Hospitals to get into better compliance with NIMS,
- RI Hospital has an Emergency Operations Center in place, and has been working with PEMA and PFD to assess their most vulnerable areas,
- The hospital is going to be applying for increased security and detection measures for its campus under the UASI Grant.

Steve Knowles – Women & Infants Hospital

- W&I has purchased new emergency evacuation equipment through a 2007 UASI Grant. Chief Dillon stated that Miriam Hospital and Roger Williams Hospital are both also improving their emergency evacuation procedures and working closely with the PFD.

Red Cross/VNA: No Report.

RIPTA: No Report.

Facility Reps/Owners: No Reports.

Providence Harbor Co-op: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- *Chief Dillon:*

- 4th Annual Port Evacuation Drill will be held in June. All companies are urged to check their contact information on the LEPC website and contact Dave Aucoin if anything needs updating,
- The New York City Port Authority will be coming to Providence in June to observe the drill in person.
- A Port Evacuation Sub-Committee meeting was held at the Narragansett Bay Commission's Main Conference Room on April 3rd. The Sub-Committee will meet one more time before the Port Drill.

- *Pete Gaynor:*

- The Mayor would like to run a full-scale Hurricane Exercise in June consisting of a Tabletop Exercise on June 10th at NBC. The Port Evacuation Drill will be incorporated into the *overall Hurricane Exercise*, which will have a specific timeline and will include other drills, as well.
- PEMA will be conducting their Shelter-in-Place exercise on June 14th

- *Jim Celenza (RICOSH)*

- Providence Fire Department Safety Conference
 - First day of the Conference is still open, but the 2nd and 3rd days will focus aspects such as rescue, evacuation, confined space, etc.
 - The 14th Annual Conference will be held on May 21st at PC, and is specifically geared toward preventing line of duty deaths for firefighters, in addition to improving the response capabilities of all firefighters.
 - Any EH&S person is invited to attend the Conference. Visit www.pfdsafety.com for more information or to register.

Chief Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:06AM. Motion was seconded and approved.

The next LEPC #5 Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 10:00 AM in the Providence Public Safety Complex's Main Auditorium.