

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 September 10, 2008
(Submitted by Dave Aucoin - Narragansett Bay Commission)

ATTENDEES:

Stephen Morin – Brown University	Kerry Britt - NBC
Joshua Hill – Promet Marine	Maryann Medeiros – USDOL-OSHA
Dave Aucoin – NBC	Jim Gaffey – EPA Region 1
Peter Popko – USCG	Bruce Lougheed – RI Hospital
Michael Russo – Save The Bay	Scott Atkin – R.W. Medical Center
John O’Reilly – RI Hospital	Alan Cantara – RISD
Greg Myers – Providence College	Cy Cote – RI College
Bill Ostiguy – Ferguson Perforating	Peter Marinucci - PEMA
Henry Huppert – Brown University	John Bissonette - NBC
J. Grant Parker – Promar/WTS	Michael Dillon - PFD
Bob Johnson – RIBI Security	
Steve Curtis – Provport/WTS	
Rick Boyer – Miriam Hospital	
Filomena Lupo – Community Group Rep.	

- 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:

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

Membership Committee Reports

City of Providence:

Communications: *Chief Dillon, on behalf:*

- Providence Police and Providence Fire Departments will both be getting the 800 MHz radio system installed in all vehicles shortly. There are a few obstacles in the way, but both departments plan to be fully operational within the next 6 months.

Emergency Management: *Peter Marinucci*

- PEMA had purchased 800 MHz radios, medical bags and pharmaceuticals for first responders and victims of a WMD incident, for all the front line rescues in the nine MMRS communities. The MMRS, or Metropolitan Medical Response System, is a federal program administered and managed by PEMA since 2002. PEMA, on behalf of the city of Providence, took on this task and developed an MMRS plan for the Metropolitan area that includes the communities of Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls, North Providence, East Providence, Cranston, Warwick, West Warwick and Johnston.
- 800 MHz radios have been distributed to all EMS communities, and Director Gaynor has mailed the newly-updated Port Emergency Contact List to all Port members.
- This year's Port Security Grant has been awarded. The money will be applied to security upgrades at Lehigh Cement, Conimicut Point Lighthouse, and a Special Hazards Truck will be purchased by the City.
- Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant money has also been awarded to Providence. The money will cover the expense of the Port Siren system. 3 installation sites are to be determined, and bids are currently open for the installation – PEMA just needs to award the contract.
- PEMA has also conducted storm-related preparations during the last month.

Fire Department: *Chief Dillon*

- Post Office – A suspicious package was mailed to the Providence Post Office during the summer, and subsequently was mishandled. It was found to be non-hazardous and nobody was injured. PFD met with the Post Office on August 6th to review safety procedures for handling suspicious packages.
- Chief Dillon stated that training money is still available to industry from the SERC, but instructors are having difficulty obtaining the money through the State. The State Fire Marshall's Office, which is under the authority of the PPD, would be conducting the training.
- Monthly drills are being conducted, and 24 new firefighters have recently graduated from the Academy. Hazmat training is also on-going.
- Geographic Response Plan (GRP) – PFD will meet with DEM and the NUKA Research and Planning Group, LLC on 9/17, in an effort to move forward

with the GRP. LEPC 5 committee members and the public can learn more about the GRP Project, funded by MOTIVA, at <http://rigrp.nukaresearch.com>.

- Marine Strike Team – Utilizing the 3 new water boats recently received by Providence, East Providence, and Cranston, a boom deployment exercise will be held on 10/1 at Sprague Energy. The containment of oil leaking from a docked ship will be simulated.
- Emergency Response Plan (ERP) – The City’s ERP will be exercised at MOTIVA sometime in October.

<u>Inspections & Standards:</u>	No Report.
<u>Mayor’s Press Office:</u>	No Report.
<u>Planning & Development:</u>	No Report.
<u>Police Department:</u>	No Report.
<u>Colleges/Universities:</u>	No Report.
<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:

<u>DEM:</u>	No Report.
<u>Department of Labor:</u>	No Report.
<u>RIEMA:</u>	No Report.
<u>SERC:</u>	<i>Chief Dillon</i>

- The SERC will be meeting on 9/18 at 2:00 pm, and Chief Dillon will be attending, as usual, and will be inquiring about training money that is available from the SERC for industries. Chief Dillon also spoke with RIEMA Exec. Director J. David Smith at the meeting.
- Jim Gaffey (EPA) also attended the SERC meeting, and stated that in terms of emergency preparedness, LEPC 5 shines as a leader for RI.

USCG – Sector Southeastern NE: *Peter Popko*

- Implementation and enrollment procedures are moving forward with the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program. A TWIC is required for any worker who requires unescorted access to a secure area of the Port of Providence.
- The TWIC program is mandated for all Port companies that are subject to the regulations of the USCG’s Marine Transportation & Security Act (MTSA), and is administered through the TSA.
- New England has been picked by the USCG to “take the lead” with implementing the TWIC program. However, there have been some recently

reported cases of problems involving the biometrics of the cards. These problems are being addressed.

- All MTSA regulated facilities must have their employee cards in place by the mandated 10/15 federal deadline.
- The next USCG Port Safety & Security Forum will be on 9/18 at the Marriott on Orms St. More TWIC information will be available at the meeting.
 - A guest speaker will be on-hand to discuss the new PFD fire boats.
- Russian Sub:
 - Since the time it was successfully raised to the surface, fabricated metal barges have been constructed to keep it afloat. The Sub is secure for now, and the Navy has transferred ownership to the USCG, who in turn is exploring future opportunities for the Sub.
- Marine Transportation Recovery (MTR) Workshop:
 - This workshop was held last spring. MTR has since become more popular throughout the country, and Erin Lambie has been working closely with officials from New Orleans to advise on MTR issues.
 - The concept of MTR is strongly backed by Congress, and this has allowed the USCG to hire a specialist, Kevin Blount, who is a former Coast Guard Chief.
 - The Coast Guard must have a complete working knowledge of the layout of an area in order to have an effective MTR Plan. Chief Dillon praised the Coast Guard for all of their efforts.

Hospitals: *John O'Reilly – RI Hospital*

- There have been two recent “Code Amber” Alerts issued at the Lifespan hospitals. Both incidents involved adolescents leaving meetings early. PPD responded to both incidents, and hospital operations returned to normal as the adolescents were located. A Code Amber alert will be activated for any hospital abduction event.
- Hazmat incident – A patient that was exposed to Nitric Acid was de-conned and transferred from Charlton Memorial in Fall River to RI Hospital for treatment.
- Attleboro incident – An employee at a company accidentally mixed Sodium Cyanide with Hydrogen Peroxide. The employee was placed under an emergency shower and transported to RI Hospital for treatment. Originally, more patients were reported.
 - As the RI Hospital ICS was activated, it was realized that better communication among the other Lifespan hospitals was needed, as well as more accurate incident reporting from industries.
 - The Hospital Alert system was activated to notify everyone that the hospital was in Triage mode.
- Hazmat and De-con training is on-going for all applicable staff.

- RI Hospital is working with CCRI to conduct a Hazmat exercise at the Hilton Campus. Plans to conduct a hostage incident exercise are also being discussed.
- RI Hospital recently worked with Miriam Hospital on an Avian Flu exercise
 - In the event of a statewide emergency, RI Hospital has enough supplies to last for 2 days. An on-site warehouse has been built that stores medical supplies, which are ready to be deployed.
 - RI Hospital also stores a “ChemPack” (emergency chemical antidote supply) on-site, which is transported by the PFD in the event of an emergency.
- October 8th - 10th: Three hospitals in RI will be evaluating all of their respective emergency plans and capabilities, and will be making recommendations on how to improve these plans. Lifespan is working on developing one single emergency preparedness template for all of their hospitals.
- PFD Communication – Chief Dillon stated that the PFD found a lack of communication between the hospitals and the Incident Commanders during the recent Hazmat incident in Attleboro. He would like to see each hospital designate an on-scene coordinator, OR purchase an 800 MHz radio system. The PFD would like to be able to communicate more effectively with all the hospitals in the future.

Scott Atkins – Roger Williams Medical Center

- Roger Williams has been the most recent “host” hospital for the state of RI communications system.
- Scott thanked Chief Dillon and Pete Marinucci for both being present with inspectors during the Hospital’s recent National Certification.

Rick Boyer – Miriam Hospital

- De-con training for all ER staff was conducted in late spring.
- Miriam held a Pandemic Flu exercise in August at the East Providence High School gym, which was turned into a “field room” as an alternate care site. The exercise was a success.
- The hospital began its National Accreditation Survey in early July, and simulated a bomb threat scenario as part of its emergency preparedness plan. The hospital received an actual bomb threat about one month later.
- Rick reinforced the importance of first responders/EMTs reporting accurate de-con information to doctors and ER staff. Accurate information must be clearly communicated.
- In light of the recent incident in Attleboro, Rick stated that some other hospitals in RI may have over-reacted, causing a greater influx of patients at Miriam.

Recommendations to alleviate the communication problems between first responders and hospitals:

- Jim Gaffey suggested that more feedback should be gathered from the hospitals, and this should be passed quickly along to the PFD and other hospitals.
- John O'Reilly stated that the Attleboro Fire Chief was not accessible during the recent chemical incident, and there were no RI Hospital employees available to travel to the scene. Officials also thought that RI Hospital already had a full Triage setup, but a Mass Casualty Incident was never declared.
- Steve Morin suggested that all EMTs have a reference sheet that contains the fax numbers for all hospital ERs.
- Pete Marinucci suggested that in order to maintain the information management better, one central location should be utilized for information storage/exchange, and all Incident Commanders should have the same information. Pete also stressed the importance of using Web EOC, and reminded everyone not to rely too heavily upon cell phones, as cell phone communication can easily backfire. Pete suggested using conference calls to exchange information.
- Chief Dillon stressed the fact that the PFD would never deliver a contaminated patient to any hospital.

<u>Red Cross/VNA:</u>	No Report.
<u>RIPTA:</u>	No Report.
<u>Facility Reps/Owners:</u>	No Report.
<u>Providence Harbor Co-op:</u>	No Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- *Chief Dillon* – The PFD attended the recent MOTIVA celebration, and also received a new water nozzle on the same day. The new nozzle has a range of 400 feet.
 - Chief Dillon congratulated PEMA on the success of the June Hurricane TTX held at JWU. PFD now has all the target hazards for the Port identified, and would contact each one when a hurricane is 24 hours from landfall. The evacuation of the Tokwotton Nursing Home was an “inject” during the TTX, and this served as an example of how the PFD would “remove the life hazard” during an emergency.
 - The City’s new EOC will be fully operational by the end of October, and people will be able to tour the facility by invite only.
- *Pete Marinucci* – PEMA was fully prepared for the Hurricane Hanna Warning that was issued for RI last weekend. In addition, all DPWs, the Parks Department, and the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier staff were all on standby.

NEW BUSINESS:

- *Chief Dillon* – The City’s Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan will be updated and reviewed every September, and another sub-committee needs to be formed to update the Plan. Current volunteers to serve on the sub-committee include: Peter Marinucci, Cy Cote, John Bissonette, John O’Reilly, Dave Aucoin, and Bill Ostiguy. LEPC 5 has been selected by RI to receive grant money to have an outside consultant review the written Hazmat Emergency Response Plan. All sub-committee volunteers will be contacted by Chief Dillon after hearing from the consultant.
- *Officer Elections* – Peter Marinucci conducted the business for election of officers to additional 2 year terms. The following individuals will serve in their respective positions for the next 2 years:
 - **Chief Dillon – Chairman**
 - **John O’Reilly – Vice Chair**
 - **Dave Aucoin – Secretary**
- *Peter Marinucci* praised LEPC 5 and its success with EPA, and also praised Chief Dillon for his continued presence and impact at all SERC meetings. LEPC 5 is becoming well-known throughout NE.
- *Maryann Medeiros* (RIDOL/OSHA) pointed out the fact that de-con procedures are much easier to follow if personnel consult the appropriate MSDS. Maryann stated that recently, a white powder on patients’ skin was recognized by local hospital staff hours after the patients were already in the hospital. The powder was missed by the first responders and EMTs. Maryann encouraged all hospitals and EMS to develop an After Action Report for similar circumstances.
 - The Occupational Health and Safety Commission has been talking more about Carbon Monoxide recently, and RIDOH is required to report to OSHA any instances of elevated CO levels in the blood of individuals. Maryann warned that with winter approaching, people may be exposed to higher levels of CO while using fuels to heat their homes/apartments.

Chief Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 AM. Motion was seconded and approved.

The next LEPC 5 Quarterly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 17th 2008 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.