

CITY OF PROVIDENCE
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE #2

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

Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2009
(Submitted by Dave Aucoin – Narragansett Bay Commission)

ATTENDEES:

Bruce Morris – GEG/BAE	Sue Mayo – JWU University
Bruce Lougheed – RI Hospital	Joe Murphy – Hudson Asphalt
Jim Gaffey – EPA Region 1	Paul Provencal - Aramark
Greg Myers – Providence College	Steve Curtis – ProvPort/WTS
Dave Aucoin – NBC	Alan Cantara - RISD
Jim Celenza – RICOSH	Steve Knowles – Women & Infants Hospital
Brendan Duffy – National Grid LNG	Cy Cote – RI College
Mitch Stevens – UNIVAR	Henry Huppert – Brown University
Chris O’Connell – Dominion Energy	Stephen Morin – Brown University
Michael Brugnoli – RIBI	Peter Marinucci - PEMA
Mike Sullivan – MOTIVA	Assist. Chief Michael Dillon - PFD
Craig Kampmier – Elmhurst Extended Care	
John Stiller – PSC/Northland Environmental	
David Everett – Prov. Planning & Development	

- Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by LEPC #2 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:

Narragansett Bay Commission: *Dave Aucoin*

- On behalf of the NBC, Dave thanked Chief Dillon and the SERC Training Committee for making funds available for on-site 8 Hour Hazwoper Refresher training (Awareness Level) to be held at NBC for 30 employees. The training was conducted on 9/16 and 9/17 by Stefan Coutoulakis, who coordinated efforts through the RI Fire Academy along with Chief Dillon. All NBC employees that were trained received certificates from the RI Fire Academy.

Membership Committee Reports

City of Providence:

Communications: No Report.

Emergency Management: *Pete Marinucci*

- Port Siren Update
 - Installation of the port sirens began on Monday, 9/14 at the following locations:
 - Exxon/Mobil in East Providence
 - PFD Engine 13 on Allens Avenue
 - Johnson & Wales Harborside Campus
 - Conley's Wharf on Allens Avenue
 - A full-scale operational test of the siren system will be held on Friday, 10/23 from Noon to 1:00 PM. A public outreach meeting on the siren system will be held tonight in the Providence Safety Complex Auditorium at 6:00 PM. Meeting details will be posted on the LEPC 2 website and also emailed to all members.
- Upcoming Exercises
 - An AMTRACK exercise will be held on 9/24 involving the derailling of a train car along the Providence/Pawtucket city line. This will be a full-scale tabletop exercise involving first responders from Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls and Johnston. Another similar tabletop exercise will be held in the spring of 2010 involving the communities of Cranston, Warwick and West Warwick.
 - The funding for the exercise is made possible by the Metro Medical Response System (MMRS), which is comprised of first responders from the eight communities surrounding Providence. Pete Gaynor has been leading the effort to arrange exercise with the MMRS, and another one is scheduled for 10/3.

Fire Department: *Michael Dillon*

- The current Hazmat Technician course required for all firefighters in RI will soon be upgraded from a 40 hour course to an 80 course requirement. The new expanded program will include chemistry, evidence collection and air monitoring aspects. PFD instructors are currently being trained and monthly Hazmat certification training is ongoing.
 - PFD had no recent incidents to report.
 - MOTIVA did report a spill on 9/1 that had occurred on a barge in the Providence River. The incident did not involve MOTIVA, and the USCG took command and remedied the situation.
 - On 9/4, the Providence Marine Strike Team will participate in an exercise along with the Civil Support Team on Rose Island. Level A entry into a hazardous environment will be simulated as the Teams are deployed from PFD boats.
 - This level A entry will be an important component of the AMSTEP exercise in May 2010. See NEW BUSINESS.

Inspections & Standards: No Report.

Mayor's Press Office: No Report.

Planning & Development: *David Everett*

- An additional staff member has been added who can work with GIS and the PFD's Cameo software. With assistance from the PFD, Planning & Development will work with RIDOT to coordinate data collection and entry, and will assess how its database can complement the state's Emergency Operations program. A new version of Cameo was released in January and the first training class was held in April in Providence. Pete Marinucci offered data assistance to the PFD.

Police Department: No Report.

Colleges/Universities: No Report.

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*

- The state has now reorganized the original 9 LEPCs into 5 LEPCs. LEPC 5 will now become LEPC 2.
- The monthly SERC meeting was held last Monday. The newest member of the SERC training committee is Bill Giannini, and Chief Dillon is now the Chair of the SERC planning committee.

EPA: *Jim Gaffey*

- Jim expressed his thanks to the Providence Canteen for helping out with a “crisis” tabletop exercise that was held in CT on 9/12. The Canteen provided refreshments for all 200 exercise participants. Overall, the exercise went well.
- There will be a state EPCRA conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick on 10/19. and EPA will be giving presentations and offering information on EPCRA regulations and OSHA’s General Duty Clause.
- All Tier II Reports are now being collected by the Dept. of Labor and Training.
- A tabletop exercise will be held on 9/23 in Maine involving chemical weapons. The exercise will test a local laboratory’s ability to respond to (sampling, capacity) medical concerns involving chemical exposure and people returning to their homes contaminated. Lab cleanup procedure is another capability that will be tested.
- Jim brought two CDs with him for everyone’s reference – one covers residential and commercial sheltering in place, and animals and emergencies. The other disc contains BMPs on the medical management of patients contaminated with a chemical agent.

USCG – Sector Southeastern New England

- No Report (the quarterly Port Safety & Security Forum is being held at the same time as the LEPC meeting).

Hospitals: *Steve Knowles – Women & Infants Hospital*

- Planning is well underway for the H1N1 virus threat. RI has now been setup into 10 separate “healthcare” regions to better prepare for the potential influx of sick patients. This should minimize the wait for immediate care and also allow high priority groups to be treated quickly. RI Hospital is the main location for the Providence “healthcare” region.
- An “Alternate Care Site Drill” was successfully held on 8/4. The primary goal was to test patient admitting and tracking in addition to portable communication systems to ensure everything would operate during a pandemic. Alternate care sites would only be setup if area hospitals are bombarded with patients. The state would utilize all 10 regions to administer the H1N1 vaccine. Women & Infants Hospital is currently supporting RI Hospital at all levels.
- RIDOH still remains the primary information source for the public with regards to the H1N1 virus. From the RIDOH website, the public can access plans for when to go to the hospital, view upcoming vaccination clinics, and access telephone hotlines that have been

setup to address H1N1. The current priority groups for the vaccine are pregnant mothers, children from 4 months to 24 years old, and primary caregivers of children.

OLD BUSINESS:

Port Evacuation Drill/Port Siren Test on 10/23:

- The newly installed Port Sirens will be tested for the first time, and the Reverse 911 system for the Port will also be used. Chief Dillon will be seeking a minimum of 50% participation by Port companies. The scenario for the evacuation drill involves a derailed rail car of ammonia in front of the JWU Harborside campus as it is travelling southbound toward Univar. The rail car will begin to rapidly leak liquid ammonia and rapidly develops a plume that begins to drift southwest due to a northeast wind at 4 mph. Sectors A, B and C will be ordered to shelter in place, and sectors C, D and E will be ordered to evacuate to the North rally point at Conley's Wharf. Two planning meetings have been scheduled for this drill. One will be held on 10/7 at the NBC's Corporate Offices Building, and the other will be held on 10/20 at Save The Bay's facility. These meeting dates have been posted on the LEPC website.
- Some lessons learned from the last Port evacuation drill that will be applied to this drill include:
 - RIPTA will not be making sweeps through the Port. Instead, one bus will be parked at the corner of Allens and Ernest, and another parked at Allens and Harborside. PEMA and the PFD would like to see more Port tenants attempt to evacuate in their own vehicles to the rally points and not wait around outside for RIPTA buses to pick them up. The RIPTA buses will be on alert at the two locations listed above.
 - The USCG will give the order for all ships to shelter in place and stay in Port.
 - During the annual evacuation drill last June, only 16 of the 78 Port businesses reported to the rally point leaders. 100% participation by all Port companies is still needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

2010 AMSTEP Exercise - *Chief Dillon*

- The Area Maritime Security Transportation Exercise Program (AMSTEP) needs to be exercised once every 3 years by the USCG. The USCG will be holding the AMSTEP exercise from 5/4 – 5/8 2010 in coordination with the RI Civil Support Team (National Guard division that responds to WMDs). The initial planning meeting for the AMSTEP exercise was held at Camp Fogarty on 9/9. During the 4-day exercise, Providence Hazmat teams will be visible throughout the city.

AMTRAK and PWR Issues – *Chief Dillon*

- AMTRAK is currently looking to upgrade their commuter service to include TF Green Airport in Warwick. In addition to an increase in commuter traffic with AMTRAK, Providence Worcester Railroad is looking for technical solutions to protect people on platforms at the train station while transporting hazardous materials. PFD will be assisting PWR to determine a technical solution.

EPCRA Tier II Workshop – *Chief Dillon*

- The workshop will be held on 10/19 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, is free, and is a benefit to all facility owners. Registration forms were supplied by Chief Dillon at meeting and more information will be posted on the LEPC website. The workshop is funded by the USDOT and will be facilitated by EPA. Topics to be covered during the workshop include the Clean Air Act, Risk Management rules, CERCLA, and Right-to-Know responsibilities. Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet the other LEPC chairs in RI. Members from the SERC Committee, DEM and EPA will be available to answer questions.

Hazardous Material Exercise Program (HMEP) – *Chief Dillon*

- HMEP funds needed to be spent by 9/30. PFD submitted a grant proposal to conduct more public education on the city's Reverse 911 system, shelter in place and evacuation procedures. These are all aspects of the PFD's Hazmat Plan, but there is no current method to make them available to the public. PFD wanted to hire a consultant to conduct the public outreach campaign, but was denied funding. The grant focuses on hazardous material planning and hazardous material release.
- Chief Dillon referenced 49 CFR 110.4 – the regulation that pertains to the hazmat grant. All guidelines for planning and training under the grant are included in this reference, and all business owners are encouraged to contact Chief Dillon if they are interested in obtaining funding. Although the PFD was denied, Jim encouraged Chief Dillon to reapply for the grant before the 9/30 deadline and also offered assistance with specific language related to public protection measures. Under 49 CFR 110.4, the Narragansett Bay Commission was able to receive the free on-site 8 Hour Hazwoper Refresher training.
- Sue Mayo made the suggestion that LEPC companies who have a few employees in need of Hazwoper refresher, 24 or 40 hour certification at the Awareness Level be included in the regular Hazwoper trainings being offered, and to have the training right at the Providence Safety Complex. Chief Dillon will take this idea to the SERC, will formally request all 3 classes and schedule them throughout the winter. Any approved classes will be posted on the LEPC website.

New SERC Rules adopted for the LEPCs – *Chief Dillon*

- The SERC will now be placing stricter requirements on business involvement with their respective LEPCs. Chief Dillon will be requesting from the SERC exactly how many

meetings per year each business needs to attend the LEPC meetings. Members of the general public will also need to attend a certain number of meetings each year.

- All electronic Tier II filings at the Dept. of Labor and Training will be taken by Chief Dillon and inputted into one comprehensive database that first responders can utilize in the field during emergencies.
- Jim Celenza stated that it was originally a state law that required facilities to submit their Tier II Reports to the Dept. of Labor and Training and that it may be a good idea to change the law to require that the Tier II Reports be sent directly to DEM instead.
- Jim Gaffey pointed out the fact that even if the law stays the same, Dept. of Labor and Training will still be required to submit the Forms to DEM.
 - Jim offered EPA's assistance to RI to put together a public awareness message on the news that would explain what Tier II Reports are, how EPCRA works, and who needs to attend LEPC meetings. There is money available for this, so the funding would be free.
- Jim Gaffey raised the question of what exactly constitutes a "facility?" Although EHS Facilities are required to attend LEPC meetings and submit Tier II Forms, what other types of "facilities" could benefit from a public assistance campaign.

Chief Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 AM. Motion was seconded and approved.

The next LEPC 2 Quarterly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16th, 2009 at 10:00 AM in the Providence Public Safety Complex's Main Auditorium.

Please visit the LEPC #2 website at www.rilepc.org to check for previous meeting minutes, upcoming events, training opportunities, and important compliance information.