

**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 December 13, 2006**  
(Submitted by Dave Aucoin, Narragansett Bay Commission)

**ATTENDEES:**

Jim Gaffey – EPA, Region I	Dave Aucoin – NBC
Michael Russo – Save The Bay	Chris O’Connell – Dominion Energy
Diamantino Fonseca – Colibri Group	John Bissonette - NBC
Mike Turbitt – Univar, USA	Filomena Lupo – Community Rep.
Cy Cote – R.I. College	Jeff Fry - USCG
Mike Kirkwood – Keyspan LNG	Sue Mayo – J&W University
Jim McCaughey – NBC	Kevin Roy – Waterson Stevedoring
Chief Michael Dillon – PFD	Steve Kosh – J&W University
William Ostiguy – Ferguson Perforating	
Leo Messier - PEMA	

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- Meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM in the Main Auditorium of the Providence Public Safety Complex, 325 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903.
- Chief Dillon suggested a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. The motion was made, seconded, and accepted.
- Tom Deller contacted Dave prior to the meeting and apologized for not being able to attend.

**Correspondence/Handouts:**

- Dave provided three different handouts – 1) A colored map of all LEPC locations/towns in R.I., 2) Meeting Minutes from the June 14, 2006 LEPC 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter meeting, and 3) an updated Reverse 911 Port calling list.

**Membership Committee Reports:**

*City of Providence:*

Communications: *The Deputy Director* announced that the new 800 Mhz Radio System is up and running efficiently in most of South County. It is expected that the System will expand to northern RI within the next six months. Providence is currently trying to obtain the System through Grant money.

- The 800 Mhz Radio System allows Police, Fire, and Coast Guard personnel to talk with each other and different dispatchers at the same time while responding to emergencies.
- Providence Communications is currently “meshing” the system with CT and MA State Police, and also setting up VH and UHF tactical channels so that communications can be made available with Southeastern Mass.
- The 800 Mhz Radio System has evolved from recommendations that were originally made by the 9/11 Committee for Interoperability, and soon will provide seamless communication all across the state.
- The System will be going live in February or March of 2008, and Port companies will also have access to it.

Emergency Management: Leo Messier: Noted that certain important agencies were missing from the Reverse 911 spreadsheet, and that they should be added as soon as possible.

- DHS has a program called a “Sink Matrix Planning Tool,” which was originally a pilot program on the west coast. The Tool consists of having on-site federal assistance to work on emergency planning for the Port, and at the same time helps to identify any security shortcomings. This helps to cut costs because the hiring of a private consulting firm would not be necessary.
- A major, private facility meeting is planned for January, for all stakeholders to participate in an exercise using the Tool.
- Port Security Grant, Round 7: Coming out next week.
  - Providence can apply for three projects
  - There’s a 25% cash match for each project (PEMA trying to get the State and private companies to contribute a little to the 25% match)
  - Project 1: “Enhanced video surveillance of the Bay”
    - Law enforcement to have control over cameras, and Port facilities can view the cameras, but not control them.
  - Project 2: “Firefighting capabilities on the water”
    - It’s estimated that it would cost about \$200,000 to retrofit a tug boat.
  - Project 3: “Port Siren System:
    - Would cost about \$100,000.

Fire Department: See State of Rhode Island Reports.

Inspections & Standards: No Report.

Mayor’s Press Office: No Report.

Planning & Development: No Report.

Police Department: No Report.

Public Property: No Report.

Public Works: No Report.

Solicitor's Office: No Report.

Tax Assessor's Office: No Report.

- Chief Dillon announced that there is a firewall issue with regards to notifying individuals from the agencies listed above about LEPC 5 meetings. The matter will be fixed within the Providence Communications Division.

***State of Rhode Island:***

DEM: No Report.

Department of Labor and Training: No Report.

RIEMA: No Report.

SERC: No Report.

EPA: No Report. (see Old Business)

MSO – Coast Guard:

- Pete Popko and Leo went with members of RIEMA to Washington, D.C. for the DHS Grants Training Conference. About 1,200 officials from around the Country attended.
- Deadline for Port Security Grant Round 7 is December 18, 2006. If submitted online, the deadline is February 1, 2007.
- \$168 million available last year for Port Security Grants, nationwide. There will be \$203 million available for 2007. All Grants are risk-based, and DHS has identified the top 100 U.S. Ports, and has divided all U.S. Ports into Tier levels.
- Tier I Ports: The “Top” Ports –
  - Examples: Los Angeles – Long Beach, New York, Houston.
- **Tier II Ports**: Four or Five (Port of Providence is included)
- Tier III Ports: Eight or Nine.
- Tier IV Ports: >80 Ports listed.
- “Regionalization Theme” has been growing since last year. (i.e. – 800 Mhz System)
- DHS grant focus areas have changed over recent years. The #1 focus area will be “enhancing maritime domain awareness.” The #2 focus area will be “enhancing protection, prevention, detection, and recovery systems” with a specific focus on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). The #3 focus area will be “training and exercises,” and the #4 focus area will be DHS and USCG coming to Providence to present ways to apply for well-rounded Port Security Grants. The location is TBD. DHS Secretary Chertoff has stated that “two-way communication is needed during the application process.”
- The key DHS priorities for the Grants are:
  1. Focus majority of funding where analysis indicates risk is greatest,
  2. Allow low-risk areas to compete for remaining funds,

3. Focus on a regional approach to risk management,
  4. Maximize opportunities for stakeholder interaction during the application period.
- USCG will be having it's Port Safety & Security Forum Meeting at J&W on 2/14/07.
  - A tabletop exercise (2 hrs. long) is being planned with PFD for Providence and EP. Last one was done in October in Quonsett with over 50 participants and focused on the smuggling operation of an explosive material in a car carrier on board a ship. The goal of the tabletop is to assess emergency response actions by the fire department, police department, and USCG, which are later critiqued by DHS. The R.I. Civil Support Team (National Guard group) helped by providing equipment that would be used to respond to WMDs. A tentative date for the Providence tabletop exercise was set for January 8, 2007. Pete will be sending Dave information to send out to Port companies.

Providence Fire Department: Chief Dillon.

- Safety training has been ongoing. Radiation training was conducted with the Civil Support Team (CST) on December 4, 2006.
  - The IED Exercise in Kennedy Plaza on October 1, 2006 was a success. Realized during the drill that there were problems with interoperability, and made changes right away.
  - Chief thanked RIEMA and the CST for support. 80 "victims" were transported to the hospital within 26 minutes.
  - EPA had done similar exercise in Boston the week before.
  - Six additional Hazmat Technicians have been certified. Two Captains have been certified by RI as Hazmat Tech Instructors.
  - PFD will soon get 2,500 gallons of alcohol-resistant foam from the State's oil spill contingency fund.
  - Three main problems within the Port: 1 – flammable liquids, 2 – training, and 3 - emergency response plans.
- Cranston, EPFD, and DEM conducted a boom deployment drill on September 27, 2006. USCG provided training on how to deploy the booms.
  - PFD has been participating in a Marine Firefighting Committee, led by the USCG.
  - A group from Delaware will be coming to Providence to teach a 16 hour "Awareness and Operations Level Training Course" to PFD, EPFD, and Cranston FD. Cost is \$18,000, and funding opportunities are currently being explored for this Training.
  - TEPPCO Risk Assessment Report from EPA (Jim Gaffey) is now complete.

Red Cross/VNA: No Report.

Hospitals: No Report.

RIPTA: No Report.

Facility Reps./Owners: *Sue Mayo:* J&W has purchased and tested its own software, similar to Reverse 911, called “Connect-Ed.” Sue is trying to get funding for this.

- Leo publicly thanked Sue for her hard work in gathering 186 volunteers for the Kennedy Plaza IED Drill.
  
- Chief Dillon publicly thanked Mike Turbitt for making important upgrades to the UNIVAR facility, and informing PFD to ensure the continuation of smooth operations. Chief Taylor from Providence Communications now has all the upgraded emergency response phone numbers for all Port companies.

Providence Harbor Co-op: No Report.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

*-TEPPCO Risk Assessment Plan:*

- This was presented by Hunter Hill from Woodard & Curran, to assess emergency response actions to be taken by the PFD within the vicinity of TEPPCO, Keyspan, and UNIVAR. Consequence modeling was conducted for proper response methods. Recommendations were made to the PFD.
- Four scenarios were developed for the purpose of the study:
  - One was for Heat Intensity, and the other three involved Lower Flammable Limits for chemicals on-site.
- Modeling methods: Aloha software, and TNT modeling. (explosion modeling)
- Conclusion of modeling study: “A release of only 10% of the bulk storage of propane released during an incident would cause an explosion,” based on the ambient characteristics of the air.
- **Ten** recommendations as a result of the Risk Assessment:
  - Evacuation routes should always be kept clear,
  - Limit storage of chemicals, if possible, within the Port area,
  - Consider the use of gas detectors that are connected to alarms that would notify nearby facilities,
  - Evaluate the reliability of transportation during evacuation,
  - Evaluate water availability in the Port, if hydrants become exhausted,
  - Evaluate the possibility of using the Reverse 911 system in the Port if propane gas is released,
  - Stop all vessel traffic on the River if there’s a propane gas release,
  - If there’s a limited duration release, PFD should initially isolate the “Gate House” in the Port area and then evacuate everyone else up Shipyard St.
  - If there’s an uncontrolled release, close Allens Ave. southbound and Eddy Street, and re-direct traffic to Thurber’s Ave and head to Rt. 1.....

*Question by Sue:* “Does the assessment take into account student evacuation?”

-*Leo*: “The Port evacuation Plan is now also City-Wide – Reverse 911 can be used to notify listed and unpublished numbers. Three school buses per neighborhood will also be provided to transport residents to area shelters.

-*Chief Dillon*: “Comprehensive emergency response plans for the PFD have been developed so far for Keyspan, UNIVAR, and TEPPCO (stemming from lessons learned from the MOTIVA Exercise and the Fire). PFD would like to have all facilities included, or have all facilities submit their plans to PFD.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

-*Chief*: “A company in Delaware will be offering Marine Firefighting training, through their Office of Domestic Preparedness.” Goal is to get all of this training paid for by the end of the Grant period.

-EPA has inspected the PFD Tier II Reports. 20-50% of companies that are supposed to submitting Tier II Reports to the PFD are actually doing so. The actual percentage that has been received appears to be higher.

-*Jim Gaffey* (EPA): Passed around a “Hurricane Safety during Rescue Effort” handbook. Presentation on **Chemical Explosion in Danvers, MA** on November 22, 2006. Details:

- Two companies involved – both were Conditionally Exempt SQGs, in a highly residential area, and neither company was inspected often.
- Danvers fire department and local LEPC were not active, so nobody knew about large quantities of alcohol-based chemicals and USTs that stored toluene. Both facilities had both submitted Tier II Reports to the local FD. Mostly flammable liquids.
- Door-to-door evacuation of the area took over an hour. 20 homes had to be torn down, and about 100 homes became uninhabitable.
- The explosion was felt as far north as MAINE, and debris from the blast was found up to ¼ mile away. NO fatalities were reported. About 400 people became displaced.
- The local FD was unable to hand over jurisdiction to EPA until one week later because they were conducting a crime scene investigation. During that time, EPA and USCG continuously monitored nearby waters, and drinking water supplies for contamination.
- An EPA Command Post was setup, and an EPA and Incident Safety Board is conducting an ongoing investigation to find out the cause of the blast.

- *Emergency Planning/Regionalization Progress*:

- Jim noted that emergency planning in CT is starting to improve. Also stated that 243 facilities in RI have submitted Tier II Reports, and about 200 of those facilities are in Providence alone. There is more of a “push” in VT for Tier II Reporting because a fee is associated.

-LEPC #5 Website Progress: Dave briefed the Committee on the progress of the website, being developed by Brown’s IT/EH&S Departments. Funding and an agreeable domain name are the only things needed to launch the site.

-Sue announced she was going to the SERC Training Committee meeting in the afternoon, and offered to relay any requests from facility reps.

-The meeting adjourned at 11:27 AM.

- The next (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter) LEPC #5 meeting will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006.