

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

Minutes from the December 16, 2009 Meeting

Recorded by Kerry Britt – NBC
Submitted by Dave Aucoin - NBC

ATTENDEES:

Scott Atkins – Roger Williams Med. Center
Kerry M. Britt – NBC
Lt. Mike Carey – LEPC #5
Cy Cote – RI College
Asst. Chief Michael Dillon - PFD
Sean Donohue – Promet Marine
David dos Reis – City of Prov. – Planning
Mike Duchesne – UNIVAR
Jim Gaffey – EPA
Peter Gaynor - PEMA
Collin Guibeau – Contech Medical
Henry Huppert – Brown Univ.
Robert Johnson – RIBI Security
Craig Kampmier – Elmhurst Extended Care
Steve Knowles – Women & Infants

Erin Lambie - USCG
Filomena Lupo – Community Group Rep.
Jim McEvoy – RI Hospital
Joe Murphy – Hudson Asphalt
Greg Myers – Providence College
John O’Reilly – RI Hospital
Grant Parker – WTS
Scott Patefield – RI Hospital
Peter Popko – USCG
Chief Kevin Quinn – LEPC #4
Michael Russo – STB
Scott Smith – Miriam Hospital
John Stiller – PSC
Mike Turbitt - UNIVAR

-
- The meeting was called to order at 10:15 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 approved.

Correspondence/Handouts:

Chief Dillon stated a report was received from PSC regarding the small fire that occurred at the facility on November 24, 2009. The fire resulted from a reaction of alkali and metal. The fire was contained and there was no release of hazardous materials. Providence Fire monitored the situation.

Membership Committee Reports

City of Providence:

Communications: No Report

Emergency Management: Peter Gaynor

- Port Siren Update
 - Installation of the port sirens has been completed. There should be more than adequate coverage as the sirens can be heard as far south as Edgewood and north as far as Sprague Energy. The sirens are located 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
 - The sirens can be activated from five locations. The Providence Fire Dept., Providence EOC, Mobile Command Center and the Division 1 Battalion Chief's vehicle can activate all four sirens. Johnson & Wales can activate only the siren located on their property.
 - There are recorded messages for chemical releases, imminent weather and active shooters as they are the primary reasons to activate the system. However, the system can go live to address other situations.
 - A full-scale operational test of the siren system was held on October 23, 2009. A further discussion is below under old business.

Fire Department: Michael Dillon

- The Providence Fire Dept. continues to participate in the statewide HAZMAT working group.
- Two CAMEO and two HAZWOPER training classes were requested through the SERC. The classes will be held at the Fire Training Academy. Companies will be allowed to send personnel to these classes (2 – 3 people/company per class). If there is a good response to these classes, additional classes can be added.
- Providence Fire continues to train and partner with other agencies on HAZMAT activities.

Inspections & Standards: No Report

Mayor's Press Office: No Report

Planning & Development: David dos Reis

- The Waterfront plan was passed at a meeting on December 15, 2009.

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:

- A question of what type of HAZWOPER training is offered through the SERC. It was stated that only 8 hr refresher training is offered at this time.
- It was requested that when coordinating 8 hr training, the participants should be grouped together by operations so that the class can be tailored to their needs.

EPA: Jim Gaffey

- A Tier II workshop will be held on January 13, 2010 at the Amica facility in Lincoln, RI from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. To register for the workshop, go to the EPA Region 1 website.
- Tier II reports should be submitted electronically to fire departments so they will be able to input the data directly in to CAMEO. All LEPC chairs present at the meeting stated this is way to submit these reports. The sent item in the sender's email will serve as the receipt for the submittal.
- In order to submit the Tier II, all fields in Tier II Submit must be filled in.
- Companies must continue to comply with the Department of Labor & Training's requirements for submitting the Tier II report to them.
- EPA will be conducting a workshop for auto body facilities.
- The new administrator for EPA Region 1 is Curt Spaulding.

USCG – Sector Southeastern New England

Peter Popko

- Port Security Grants were announced during the second week of December, 2009. If a company wants to apply for a grant they should talk to Peter Popko, Erin Lambie or visit www.grants.gov.
- A workshop to answer questions regarding Port Security Grants will be held on January 20, 2010. Coast Guard Headquarters and FEMA personnel will be present to answer questions.
- Maintenance and replacement costs can be included in the grant process.
- Applications for Port Security Grants are due on February 14, 2010
- The ports of Newport, Providence and Fall River were each previously classified as Group 3 ports. A request to group these ports together was made and the cluster has been established. The larger port allows assets such as fire/response boats and camera systems, to be used as regional assets.
- An Area Maritime Security Committee has been established. This committee will work to determine the area needs and develop projects to fill in the gaps.

- A five year exercise plan is required to be developed. This plan must require that twice in the five years there be a full scale exercise.

Erin Lambie

- In May 2009 there was a table top exercise on terrorism in the Port of Providence.
- There will be a full scale exercise from May 3, 2010 to May 6, 2010. This exercise will correspond with Civil Support Teams who will be in Providence conducting their own training. (Civil Support Teams are made up of National Guard HAZMAT personnel.)
 - Three venues will be used for this exercise: On water, Davisville and the Port of Providence.
 - The exercise will include response and breaking out equipment.
 - Both the State and Providence EOCs will be stood up for the exercise.
 - There will be opportunities for people/companies to participate in the exercise.
 - Will hospitals be involved in the exercise? Not in Davisville. The Coast Guard will be looking for input from hospitals. At minimum there will be opportunity to observe the exercise.
 - The Port of Providence Evacuation Drill will be held in conjunction with this exercise.
- AMSC developed four sub committees. This will bring together Providence and East Providence to discuss security issues and grant opportunities. The committees will look at the Area Maritime Risk Assessment Model as it pertains to the port.
 - A meeting will be planned for after the New Year.

Hospitals: John O'Reilly – Rhode Island Hospital

- H1N1 / Emergency Preparedness Supply Cache: RIH warehouses an extensive supply of medical supplies configured for rapid deployment in a major medical emergency outside of the routine services offered in the medical world. During the spring and fall H1N1 medical emergencies, the Hospital stood up Incident Command structure, as did other hospitals statewide and responded in an area command structure with Lifespan Corporate Services. The structure assisted us in answering the questions and solving the problems associated with the evolving H1N1 events.
- Providence Healthcare Service Region Alternate Care Site (ACS): Work is ongoing with PEMA, HEALTH, and HARI to implement a drafted Pandemic Plan for the City of Providence. RIH and W & I are responsible for the Providence region and completed a tabletop on July 15th and functional exercise August 4th of this year. This was designed to reach a new level of preparedness and is in line with the anticipated autumn outbreak. The Dunkin Donuts Center was the site of the functional exercise and though certainly large enough, operational considerations were of concern and an alternate plan was adopted for an intermediate site located in the care units and the Gerry House on the RIH Campus. Further information to follow. A functional exercise of the Out Patient H1N1 Clinic operation was completed to test the new ACS location at Gerry House and such was seen as a successful response to an area needing correction.
- H1N1 Mass Vaccination Effort: Acting as the Healthcare Service Region lead for the Department of Health in serving the Providence region, RIH, W & I, PEMA and

Department of Health (DOH) have devised a plan to vaccinate the Providence based healthcare workers and 1st responders, Police & Fire. The system is operating currently at RIH through employee Health Services who are currently vaccinating hospital employees and Fire Department personnel from Providence and some surrounding area EMS staff. Additionally, private ambulance personnel are eligible are being offered the vaccine.

The Mass Vaccination Point of Distribution POD is scheduled to open for Healthcare workers outside the Hospital, in private practice and the like on January 9th and 10th at the Mount Pleasant High School during the daytime hours. Contact will be made to those eligible recipient organizations.

The DOH is publicly announcing the particulars of the current stages of the vaccination efforts and recipient eligibility through the print and broadcast media. LEPC member organizations should watch for applicable information there or through the DOH website.

In addition, RIH is offering a clinic to chronically ill citizens at a date and location soon to be determined. This will serve in an outpatient clinical type operation.

Additionally, we have been asked to assist PEMA in a clinic to be created to address the indigent, chronic illness and other identified populations through am municipal POD. Work is ongoing in this effort.

- Rapid Emergency Satellite Communications Systems (RESC): The RESC program is underway and the equipment is received, being inventoried and scheduled for training and deployment in early 2010.
- Patient Tracking System (PTS): This innovative project of following a patient through an information system is currently being piloted in the region. The patient digital identity will be established in the street and will follow them through the system. This system allows better communication daily with the receiving facility and will serve the health care providers and first responders in a beneficial manner in mass casualty incidents.
- Port Evacuation Siren Test: Spotters on the hospital campus reported their observations to the Emergency Preparedness Office that were compiled and forwarded to Director Gaynor at PEMA.

Red Cross/VNA: No Report
RIPTA: No Report
Facility Reps/Owners: No Report
Providence Harbor Co-Op: Chief Dillon

- There is a marine strike team for search and rescue which was activated during a recent incident with a missing shell fisherman.
- Below is a listing of future drills:
 - Cranston will host a drill for a response to a downed plane off of Conimicut
 - East Providence will hold a CEBRNE drill
 - Providence Fire will hold a ship board drill in May or June of 2010 to deal with a fire
 - Warwick will hold a dive operations exercise
- There was a drill of the regional Foam Task Force in October 2009. The drill went well.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

- The newly installed Port Sirens was tested on October 23, 2009. The Reverse 911 system for the Port was also used. The scenario for the evacuation drill involved a derailed rail car of ammonia in front of the JWU Harborside campus as it was travelling southbound toward Univar. The rail car began to rapidly leak liquid ammonia and developed a plume that began to drift southwest due to a northeast wind at 4 mph. Sectors A, B and C were ordered to shelter in place, and sectors C, D and E were ordered to evacuate to the North rally point at Conley's Wharf.
- The following were identified as areas needing to be addressed:
 - There are choke points in the port. They are located at Harborside Blvd. and Terminal Rd. In the past RIPTA was used for evacuation but there were delays. Now RIPTA will continue to be used but the buses will be parked at the choke points. Personnel will be asked to use personal vehicles to get to the buses.
 - Reverse 911 is problematic. 1.5% of the phone numbers called were fax machines, 11% hung up, 44% went to answering machines, 1 was busy and some of the numbers were disconnected. It was also stated caller ID most likely identified the call as from the City of Providence. To help alleviate these issues, we will try to obtain a grant for public education on the Reverse 911 and siren system.
 - Sirens: not everyone knew this was a siren drill. Community education will be conducted on the sirens. The next drill will have the sirens as the primary notification.
- There was good participation but not 100%. This is due to the Reverse 911 issues as well as the Amtrak work that was being conducted on Allens Avenue which shut the road down during the drill.

NEW BUSINESS:

Radiation Monitors at Hospitals – Scott Atkins – Roger Williams Medical Center

- Radiation monitors will be installed in all Emergency Rooms.
- On January 29, 2010 there will be training on how to install them to detect the presence of radiation.
- The set up will be done with the DOH.
- Hospitals are aware the monitors may go off around patients undergoing radiation treatments.
- It was stated HAZMAT teams should be made aware of the set up of the monitors even they only transport clean patients.

Chief Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 am. Motion was seconded and approved.

The next LEPC 2 Quarterly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 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.