

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 June 13, 2007

(Submitted by Dave Aucoin, Narragansett Bay Commission)

(Recorded by Susan Mayo, Johnson & Wales University)

ATTENDEES

Jim Gaffey – EPA Region I	Susan Mayo – J&W Univ.
Max Haimowitz, EPA Region 1	Alan Cantara – RISD
Jim Celenza – RICOSH	Henry Huppert – Brown Univ.
Jim Ball – RIDEM	Cy Cote – R.I. College
Chief Michael Dillon – PFD	Greg Myers – Providence College
Brendan Duffy – Keyspan LNG	Scott Atkin – RW Med. Center
Mike Turbitt – UNIVAR	Filomena Lupo – Community Group Rep
Mike Russo – Save the Bay	Domenic Fonseca – Colibri Group
Kevin Roy – Waterson Stevedoring	
Bill Ostiguy – Ferguson Perforating	

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM in the Main Auditorium of the Providence Public Safety Complex, 325 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903.

Assistant Chief Michael Dillon made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes from the last meeting, as Dave has sent them out via email. The motion was made, seconded, and accepted. Copies of the meeting minutes were available at the meeting.

Correspondence/Handouts:

- Jim Gaffey, EPA provided handouts for the Hazardous Materials Transportation Training one-day workshop, to be held on July 31, 2007 at Providence College, Sponsored by US DOT Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.
- *Chief Dillon*: received some late Tier II Reports, will address this issue and talk about it later in the meeting.

Membership Committee Reports:

City of Providence:

Communications:

Chief Dillon: Providence Communications and Emergency Management are in Chicago to see an 800 MHz system up and running.

- The 800 MHz system was recommended by the 911 Commission for interoperations between fire and police, this was one of the main problems encountered at 911 (September 11th).
- The federal government is putting a lot of money towards the 800 MHz system to be sure everyone has interoperable communications.
- Providence Fire Dept. expects to go live April 2008.

Emergency Management:

In Chicago with Providence Communications regarding the 800 MHz system (see above)

Chief Dillon: spoke with Peter Marinucci, the Providence 800 MHz system will be tested in October at a large exercise in which all MMRS will participate.

Fire Department:

Chief Dillon:

- Two incidents
 - Brown Univ. Life Sciences Bldg, very minor incident, it was very good to see that the emergency response plan worked well because of the relationship with Henry Huppert. The incident was quickly mitigated and they had an opportunity to exercise the emergency response plan.
 - LPG tank fell off of a truck on Allens Avenue, gas leaked. No injuries, no ignition of the gas or explosions. Incident was quickly handled.
- Training: just completed HazMat Technician class, the fire department has 32 new technicians, they are members of the 47th training academy and will be available for use beginning on July 8th
- Chief Dillon participated with Jim Gaffey in Hurricane Yvette. There will be significant issues with a Category 3 or 4 hurricane. There would be significant hazardous materials releases and problems in the Port of Providence. Fortunately you have some advanced warnings with a hurricane and we could institute some things to minimize the impact the effects of a hurricane on the Port of Providence but not completely eliminate it.
- Port of Providence Annual Evacuation Drill, June 7th at 9 am
 - Took 35 minutes to completely “evacuate” the 9 or 10 companies who participated
 - There were less companies participating this year and the rally points were closer.
 - It took 54 minutes to “evacuate” the Port in 2005
 - In 2006 it took 52 minutes to “evacuate” the Port
 - RIPTA was right on schedule and did a good job.

- It took a total of 50 minutes going back & forth to finish contacting and evacuate those who did not receive a call.
- Save the Bay was asked to shelter-in-place.
- The Connolly Wharf Rally Point was very convenient and worked very well.
- Biggest problem was the Reverse 911 system, only cell phone numbers were called. Some contact people did not receive a call, although all zones were included in the test.
 - Will have redundant numbers in the system from now on, at least two phone numbers from every facility will be in the system
 - A question was raised on testing the Reverse 911 system once all the numbers are in, the Chief thinks it's a good idea and will talk with the IT guy and Dave Aucoin.
- Providence Fire will take part in radiation training at Roger Williams Hospital, there will be a meeting this afternoon on it.
- The Providence Metro Area has been designated as an Urban Area Security Initiative Plan (UASI) thanks to Senators Reed and Whitehouse, and Congressmen Kennedy and Langevin. This gives communities money for prevention, protection, response and recovery.

We've already gone a long way for prevention and protection in the Port of Providence, there is excellent security down there right now but there is still room for improvement in response and recovery. Chief Dillon is the chairman for an initiative for the vulnerabilities in the Port of Providence and throughout the City.

- Need to enhance and improve flammable liquid and shipboard firefighting capabilities
- Had to apply, write a strategy, write a grant proposal, being forwarded to the federal government today, will hear in July
 - Requested hazardous materials detection equipment, flammable liquid firefighting training, and shipboard firefighting training
- This will address regional response and will not only benefit the Providence Fire Dept. Chief Dillon spoke with Peter Marinucci who heads the MMRS which includes the 9 communities which are around the City of Providence, these communities will hopefully benefit from any training which Providence may receive.
- Chief Dillon publicly thanked Keyspan for sending several members from the Providence Fire Department to the Mass Fire Academy Gas Firefighting School. In addition two firefighters were sent out to Nevada for flammable liquids firefighting training.

- On May 20th there was a terrorism WMD drill held with the 13th Civil Support Team National Guard Unit at the Providence Place Mall. The after-action report will be reviewed tomorrow (June 14, 2007).
- A large scale exercise is planned for October at the Providence Place Mall
- Jim Gaffey and Max Haimoinitz from the EPA will be assisting the Providence Fire Department with the Tier II Reports, Chief Dillon senses there is under-reporting.
 - Organize and put onto discs
 - Jim recently found 6 companies in Bangor, Maine who failed to file Tier II Reports
 - Chief Dillon will send trucks to each business with a pre-fire survey to check on chemicals. The Chief will then check to see if the business has filed 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.

State of Rhode Island:

DEM: No Report.

Department of Labor & Training: No Report.

RIEMA: No Report.

SERC: No Report.

EPA: (see also Providence Fire above)

Jim Gaffey: the EPA supports the City of Providence in their efforts for updated Tier II reports and information. Jim and Chief Dillon recently met with the Dept. of Labor & Training; the Chief is acting as a liaison for the whole state now to get the DOL&T to open their doors to EPA to support responders and planners all over RI for the same issue. Jim hopes to do similar projects all over the state.

Jim Celenza: There is an EPA course coming up in CT on using detection systems, Jim to send information to Dave Aucoin so it can be put on the LEPC website. There is a fee for the private sector. Even though the course is geared to hazardous waste sites, this is a good class which can be used by on-scene coordinators and hazmat teams.

MSO – Coast Guard: No Report.

Hospitals:

Scott Atkin (Roger Williams Medical Center):

- RW will host radiation training and drills with the hazmat team and the Providence Fire Dept.
- RW is still “recovering” from “Hurricane Yvette”
 - They had structural damage and used their alternate care site in Cranston
 - They were able to discharge or move all but 15 patients during the planning stages before the hurricane hit. The 15 patients were moved to the ER Dept.
 - RW used their own ambulances to move patients.

Red Cross/VNA: No Report.

RIPTA: No Report.

Facility Rep’s/Owners:

Domenic Fonseca (Colibri)

- Colibri will hold a fire drill exercise on June 26th, assisted by Simplex Grinnell. Another drill, this one unplanned, will be held before winter. Colibri will get their employees together and show them which way to evacuate, and would like suggestions from Providence Fire. Chief Dillon suggested checking the OSHA website for information on written evacuation plans, rally points, communication of the plan to employees, etc. Chief Dillon offered his assistance with the drill.
 - *Chief Dillon:* communicate to the fire dept who is missing, where was the missing person last seen, its all about communication.
 - *Chief Dillon:* Life Safety is #1, followed by incident stabilization #2 and property conservation #3.

Susan Mayo (Johnson & Wales)

- Johnson & Wales tested their new emergency communications system “Connect-Ed” during the Port of Providence Evacuation drill, some problems were noted and have been corrected.
 - *Henry Huppert* (Brown Univ): Brown will also use Connect-Ed
 - RISD, Providence College and Jim Celenza requested information on Connect-Ed, Sue to send via email.

Kevin Roy (Waterson Terminal)

- RIPTA did not go all the way down to their facility during the Port evacuation drill. Someone from their facility went and got on one of the busses and made them go down to pick up the other “evacuees”.
 - *Chief Dillon*: this should have been reported to the Rally Point Leader.
 - **Important: Next year make sure RIPTA talks with the bus drivers to go all the way down Fields Point Drive.**

Providence Harbor Co-op: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief Dillon: Thank you Susan Mayo, Bill Giannini and the SERC Training Committee for the 3 Cameo Classes held in May. This drives the Tier II reporting and the collection of the information.

- *Jim Gaffey* (EPA) The new chemical database website <http://cameochemicals.noaa.gov> works with Cameo. The site is user-friendly, contains over 8,000 chemicals, prints good reports, and lists all Extremely Hazardous Substances and their thresholds.

NEW BUSINESS:

Susan Mayo (Johnson & Wales): Sue is a member of the SERC Training Committee and informed attendees that there was grant monies available for hazmat/emergency response training. *Jim Gaffey*: this is important with the fire department going to businesses; need to let the LEPCs know about this to assist facility owners. One focus is to conduct a hazmat technician annual training class. The fire dept has 6 certified hazmat tech instructors.

Chief Dillon: The Providence Emergency Plan needs to be addressed according to the regulations and the Chief would like to form a subcommittee to look at the document, update the plan, and present it to the LEPC at the December meeting. Chief Dillon would like different representatives from all facets of Providence, industry, fire department, government agencies, etc. There are templates available on the FEMA and EPA website. “Hurricane Yvette” brought up a lot of problems with the present plans and now is a good time for Providence to take a look at it and update the plan. There is a need to know what resources are available. The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 28th, 10:00 am at the Providence Public Safety Complex. LEPC members who volunteered to be on the subcommittee include: Susan Mayo (JWU), Gina Gilmore and Scott Atkin (RWMC), Domenic Fonseca (Colibri), Mike Turbitt (UNIVAR) and Chief Dillon. Chief Dillon invited a Providence resident who works for the EPA and was a federal on-scene coordinator; the Chief has worked with her before and admires some of the things she has done, she would be a great asset to be sure we did the right things to update the plan.

The next LEPC #5 Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 10:00 AM in the Providence Public Safety Complex’s Main Auditorium.

Chief Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 AM. Motion was seconded and approved.

For additional information check out LEPC 5's new website at: www.rilepc.org,