

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 March 14, 2007

(Submitted by Dave Aucoin, Narragansett Bay Commission)

ATTENDEES

Jim Gaffey – EPA Region I	Jim Celenza - RICOSH
Kevin Roy – Waterson Stevedoring	Susan Mayo – J&W University
Alan Cantara – RISD	Joseph Iannucci - PPD
Dave Aucoin – NBC	Dennis Leamy – Hudson Terminal
Rick Boyer – Miriam Hospital	Joe Murphy – Hudson Terminal
Mike Turbitt – UNIVAR	Chief Michael Dillon - PFD
Leo Messier – PEMA	Henry Huppert – Brown U.
Cy Cote – R.I. College	Mike Russo – Save The Bay
David Walker – Herff Jones, Inc.	Jim Ball - RIDEM
Chris O’Connell – Dominion Energy	
Kevin Roy – Waterson Stevedoring	
David Everett – Prov. Dept. of Planning & Development	
Filomena Lupo – Community Group Rep.	
Kim Gibson – Aramark-Providence Schools	
Scott Atkin – Roger Williams Med. Center	

- Meeting was called to order at 10:08 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 all of them are now posted on the new LEPC #5 website. The motion was made, seconded, and accepted.

Correspondence/Handouts:

- Dave provided a handout of the minutes for the previous meeting, held on December 13, 2006.
- Chief Dillon announced that the PFD has received about 200 Tier II Reports, most of which in a timely fashion.

Membership Committee Reports:

City of Providence:

Communications: No Report.

PEMA & PFD: Chief Dillon – RIEMA partnered with PEMA, to provide PFD staff with on-site Emergency Response software training, which is to be initially directed toward developing a Biological Detection System. Argon Labs is giving the actual training to the PFD.

Fire Department: No emergency responses during the last couple of months regarding hazardous materials.

- Monthly Hazmat Tech. Training for staff is ongoing:

- January: Technical De-con Training.

- February: CAMEO Class, facilitated by the RI Fire Academy (by Stephon Qulikas – E.G. Fire Department). Great feedback was received from all who took the class, and the Chief will be requesting funding from the SERC to hold more classes in the future for anyone interested.

- 35 additional PFD Hazmat Techs are currently taking the training offered by Argon during this meeting, and will be 120-hr certified by the end of the day.

Inspections & Standards: No Report.

Mayor's Press Office: No Report.

Planning & Development: Chief Dillon thanked Tom Deller for representing P & D at the meeting. Emergency Response Plans and GIS capability of the Planning & Development Office is crucial to the LEPC. Tom stated that all Emergency Response Plans and GIS activities are ongoing.

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: Chief announced that the next SERC Meeting will be on March 27, 9:00 AM at the DLT, Building 72, Conference Room #1.

- The SERC is currently "in transition," as it currently operates out of the Office of the State Fire Marshall. That office may eventually be used by RIEMA, and the SERC might begin meeting at DLT on a permanent basis. All TIER II Reports are still being submitted to the DLT (as well as LEPCs).

-Jim Celenza stated that the Emergency Preparedness Committee and the SERC have been meeting at the same time in different locations, and this is becoming a problem as some members have stopped attending their own committee meetings.

EPA: *Chief Dillon* introduced *Jim Gaffey*, and announced that numerous facilities that are supposed to be reporting Tier IIs and Emergency Preparedness Plans under EPCRA to the LEPC, are in fact not doing so.

- *Jim Gaffey* explained EPA's role in assisting LEPCs such as Providence with gathering Tier II information from companies.

- Offered advice and guidelines for businesses in RI to comply with Tier II reporting:

- Mentioned that it has been difficult to acquire needed information from the DLT, as DLT has not given much support to LEPC #5,
- Promoted the use of the CAMEO software to incorporate with Tier II EPCRA reporting and importing Facility Response Plans,
- Stressed that the companies in Providence who should be reporting, and aren't, are putting emergency responders in potential danger as the appropriate PPE needed would not be known ahead of time, and the reporting is still required under the Right-to-Know Act, also.
- There is **no fee for submitting Tier II Reports** and Emergency Response Plans to the LEPC and the State of RI.
- The state of Maine uses RCRA databases to track down H.W. generators, notifies them of their reporting requirements, and if the generators don't comply, then EPA will conduct an inspection, and the generators are automatically charged 5 years worth of "back charges" for not reporting. The money from the fines goes to the LEPCs in Maine, not the State.
- Reinforced the fact that ALL EHS Facilities (companies that have on-site any one of the Extremely Hazardous Substances contained in the EPCRA "List of Lists."), are required to participate in the LEPC in order to help support the overall community planning process.
- Chief Dillon further expressed concern over non-reporting by alluding to a recent fire at a jewelry company that had sulfuric acid on-site, and this company is a know "non-reporter."
- Jim offered EPA's full support to LEPC #5 for tracking down companies that should be reporting under EPCRA requirements.

- Chief Dillon stated that all Tier II Reports and Facility Response Plans received by the PFD have been uploaded to the CAMEO software, and Jim further promoted the use of this user-friendly, free software. CAMEO software training is also free, and is available through the LEPC, SERC, or the PFD. CAMEO

software gets updated annually by NOAA and EPA, and is also used by the Dept. of Energy and the Dept. of Defense. Jim alluded to the Danvers, CT explosion, where the local Fire Department did not have a record of what chemicals were stored on the site of the businesses that exploded. EPA had this information on CAMEO, and supplied it to the Danvers FD the morning of the explosion.

MSO – Coast Guard: No Report.

- Dave announced that during the previous day's USCG's Port Safety & Security Forum Meeting, the Final Rule (450 pgs.) on the Transportation Worker Identification Card (TWIC) System has confused many Port company employees as far as who exactly needs one.

DETAILS:

- The Cards are still required for any Port employee requiring “un-escorted access to any secure area of the Port.” The ID Cards will include biometrics by scanning thumbprints and also using facial recognition.
- Card readers will be purchased and installed free-of-charge by Dept. of Homeland Security.
- All Port workers required to have a TWIC are required to get one by June 2008.
- Concerns were also raised about an International “BoomWorks” Fireworks Festival scheduled for August 2007 at India Point. Fireworks will be launched from boats on the water.
 - The USCG will be charging a fee to enter India Point Park and watch the fireworks, but East Providence residents will be able to view the show for free from right across the River. It is actually an International competition, and no U.S. ships or residents are participating in the Festival.
 - The State Fire Marshall has informed Chief Dillon that the ships will be required to use limited-sized shells to protect the public.

Hospitals: *Rick Boyer* (Miriam Hospital) announced that Miriam will be participating in a tabletop Hurricane exercise, during which it will be simulated that the Hospital is unavailable for shelter or occupancy in the event of a major storm.

- Miriam is also planning a large-scale evacuation in late May of all patients in the hospital, focusing on getting the patients to another safe building.
- The Harbor Chief will also be offering evacuation training to Miriam Hospital in the near future.

Scott Atkin (Roger Williams Medical Center): Scott introduced himself to the Committee.

Chief Dillon:

- “ChemPack:” Used by the PFD, this is a collection of drugs and antidotes that can be used in the event of a WMD attack within RI, Eastern CT, Southeastern MA.
 - Stored at R.I. Hospital.
 - PFD is responsible for transporting the ChemPack to any requested location.
 - RI Hospital working with PFD to finalize a plan to quickly disperse the ChemPack to anywhere in RI in the most effective manner possible.
 - Contains atropine and valium, which can be used against a chemical nerve agent.

- R.I. Hospital Renovations:
 - Adding three additional stories to the “bridge building,” (houses the ER) and re-configuring the entrance to the main hospital, where the old ER used to be, on Dudley St.
 - Area is closed-off and construction is on-going.
 - ER will not be affected; only the main building.
 - Details about the renovations are important to the PFD as far as accurate response plans.

Red Cross/VNA: No Report.

RIPTA: No Report.

Facility Rep’s/Owners: Mike Turbitt (Keyspan) announced that KeySpan has recently performed a major upgrade to all call boxes, alarms, and strobe lights within the facility.

Providence Harbor Co-op: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

PEMA – *Leo Messier:* Port Security Grant Waiver (for Providence to pay 25% grant match) has been submitted by PEMA because the previous request to gather supporting funds from companies wasn’t too successful.

The Port Camera System that is now monitoring ships at the mouth of the Bay is eventually going to be accessible from cameras in the upper Providence River.

- Urban Area Security Initiative Plan (UASI)
 - PEMA has applied for 3 projects to be used in RI’s UASI Communities, which consist of 8 communities surrounding Providence.
 - Project #1: A more comprehensive Port emergency evacuation plan for Providence, East Providence, & Cranston.

- Project #2: The Whelen Siren System in the Port.
- Project #3: Expand the Reverse 911 System to include not only all of Providence, but also the cities/towns surrounding Providence. This also includes interlacing Reverse 911 with CAMEO software.

NEW BUSINESS:

PFD: *Chief Dillon* publicly thanked Dan Sarachick and Brown University for their efforts in developing the new LEPC #5 official website.

- Keyspan has been financing the PFD for the past 3 years so they can go to the Mass. Fire Academy’s “Gas Firefighting School.”
 - Keyspan has updated its Emergency Response Plan, and they will be testing it out on all shifts with the PFD for accuracy. (Chief worked with Brendan Duffy, Mike Kirkwood, and Tony Larussa on this project).
- Providence Post Office has a “Biological Detection System,” which was installed about 3 years ago. A separate fire alarm box informing the PFD of a biological emergency only has just been installed.
 - Emergency Response Exercise is planned. Bob Warren and Leo Messier have arranged for an outside company (Argon Labs) to give software training to the PFD on Emergency Response Plans
- PFD Hazmat Team and the Civil Support Team (CST) will be conducting a WMD exercise (nerve agent release) on May 20, 2007 at the Providence Place Mall.

RICOSH: *Jim Celenza* announced that RICOSH has been working on a “RI Safe Schools” Project.

- Assistance from DEM, DOH, and Brown University.
- Goal of the project is to coincide with DOH’s mandate that all RI schools get rid of Extremely Hazardous Chemicals. RICOSH began the project over two years.
- RICOSH has conducted lab safety training courses for schools, which promotes awareness and also requires each school to have a “lab safety officer.”
- Additional technical assistance for the project has been provided by CCRI, DEM, DOH, and Brown University. If members would like more information on the “RI Safe Schools” Project, Jim Celenza may be reached at 751-2015.

PFD: *Chief Dillon* announced that the PFD will be sponsoring two, 2-day CAMEO Software training classes on April 24 & 25, and May 8 & 9 at the Department of Labor & Training. (the Software is available for free download from EPA's website)

- The 13th Annual Providence Fire Department Safety & Survival Conference will take place. The main focus of the Conference is for firefighters, but the Chief welcomed any Committee members to attend.
- The 3rd Annual Port of Providence Evacuation Exercise is scheduled for Wednesday June 6, 2007 at 10:00 AM.
 - Notification method to be used: Reverse 911 System
 - Incident scenario – TBA. Chief welcomed any suggestions.
 - Exercise will take place rain or shine.
 - State De-Con Teams will be called when the exercise begins, and their response time will be measured.
- Expressed concern over the recent increase in use of Toxic Industrial Chemicals (TICs) (inhalation hazard) as a WMD. They are being used in Bagdad, and are disguised as small canisters that contain mainly chlorine.

Brown University: *Henry Huppert* presented the newly-launched LEPC #5 website, www.rilepc.org, which is hosted on a Brown U. server. The domain name is registered for three years.

- It has been discovered that LEPC #3 (Hope Valley) also has a website, developed by the Volunteer Fire Department.
- RILEPC is currently the 3rd hit on any Google search.
- “Upcoming Events” page needs more information, EPA, DOH, and DLT need to update their LEPC member contact information.
- Website contains a Tier II Reporting Link, as well as many others.
- Jim Gaffey announced that EPA has launched a national update initiative and will be sending out LEPC Surveys in the coming months. The contact information on the Surveys will also be used by the PFD to update Facility Emergency Response Plan (ERPs) contacts.
 - There is also a National Initiative by Press Companies to visit facilities and request updated contact information for ERPs.
 - Some concern has been expressed about Press Companies properly identifying themselves while gaining access to a facility.

- Dan Sarachick requested feedback from the Committee about the website, and who exactly is authorized to send information to him to post on the site.
- Jim Celenza proposed the idea of setting up an e-mail alert notification system in the future (similar to HomePort), that could refer members to the LEPC website for emergency messages.

PFD: *Chief Dillon* requested a location for a Planning Meeting in April, for the June 6 Evacuation Exercise.

- LEPC# 5 Action Items:
 - Get LEPC #5 members to sign up for the CAMEO class,
 - Identify all EHS Facilities that are supposed to be reporting under EPCRA to the LEPC,
 - Chief stressed the fact that there IS NO FEE for businesses to file TIER II Reports with the PFD. There are, however, two companies in RI that collect fees for filing TIER II Reports.
 - Chief is more concerned about gathering a larger attendance from local industry at the LEPC #5 meetings.
- EPA: *Jim Gaffey* announced the launch of a new chemical database website, called <http://cameochemicals.noaa.gov>. The site is user-friendly, contains over 8,000 chemicals, is printable, and lists all Extremely Hazardous Substances and their thresholds.
- DEM: Jim Ball announced that DEM is participating in the Hurricane Drill in early May, and will be agreeing on contracts with companies that would respond to different aspects in the aftermath of a Hurricane (i.e. – chemical cleanup, habitat studies, etc.).
 - Stated that DEM's RCRA Section can effectively communicate with the PFD for responses to hazardous situations, such as the recent fire at a jewelry company in Providence.

Dave will coordinate an April meeting at NBC to plan for the June exercise. Current scenario incidents are being explored for the exercise.

The next LEPC #5 Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 10:00 AM in the Providence Public Safety Complex's Main Auditorium.

Chief Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 AM. Motion was seconded and approved.