

## **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 18, 2009**

(Submitted by Dave Aucoin – Narragansett Bay Commission)

#### **ATTENDEES:**

Chris O’Connell – Dominion Energy	David Dimaio – Cranston FD
J. Grant Parker – Waterson Stevedoring	Jill Eastman – RI DEM
Dave Aucoin – NBC	Alan Cantara - RISD
Filomena Lupo – Community Rep	Brendan Duffy – National Grid
Mike Russo – Save The Bay	Pete Gaynor - PEMA
Greg Myers – Providence College	Michael Dillon - PFD
Kerry Britt – NBC	John O’Reilly – RI Hospital
Bill Ostiguy – Ferguson Perforating	Scott Atkin – RW Medical Center
Henry Huppert – Brown University	Jim Gaffey – EPA 1
Maryann Medeiros – USDOL – OSHA	Joe Murphy – Hudson Asphalt
Jim Celenza – RICOSH	Steve Curtis – ProvPort/WTS
Terry McCormack – UMICORE	Bob Johnson – RIBI Security
Cy Cote – RI College	Donald Corbishley – RI Red Cross

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- Meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM by LEPC #5 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. Copies of the meeting minutes were also distributed at the meeting.

## **Correspondence/Handouts:**

Copies of the minutes from the previous meeting were distributed to all members. Chief Dillon announced that Tier II Reports are still being received electronically and through regular mail.

## **Membership Committee Reports**

### ***City of Providence:***

Communications: No Report.

Emergency Management: See *NEW BUSINESS*

Fire Department: *Chief Dillon*

- PFD participated in an exercise on 2/27 to distribute and transport Chempacks to several locations throughout the state. Chempaks were physically transported by fire personnel throughout the state to different locations.
  
- PFD will be co-sponsoring two training classes on CAMEO (Computer Animated Management of Emergency Operations) software:
  1. Class 1 – 4/11 & 4/12 – specifically on the updated CAMEO software that was released in January 2009.
  2. Class 2 – 4/13 & 4/14 – Initial CAMEO training.
  3. The training will be offered by the RI Fire Academy and is open to all fire departments, as well as the public.
  
- PFD has been working on the Tabletop AMSTEP (Area Maritime Security Training & Exercise Program) Exercise that will be held at Save The Bay on 5/21. The AMSTEP exercise is an annual requirement where agencies respond to a terrorist event. The interaction and lessons learned help responders react to any joint agency emergency.
  - Exercise will involve a terrorism incident in the Port, a hazmat response incident, and mock terrorists will also be planted throughout the City.
  - This tabletop will lay the foundation for a full-scale exercise in 2010 that will involve all the Civil Support Teams throughout New England. This full-scale exercise will also involve multiple hazmat incidents in different communities throughout RI.
  
- Recent mercury spill incident at a local residence while a contractor was doing renovations. The mercury was found beneath the floor boards in the house. The clean up went extremely well. DEM Emergency Response assisted, the home was

evacuated, surveyed and very low amounts of mercury were found. Jill Eastman from DEM was also on-scene.

Inspections & Standards: No Report.  
Mayor's Press Office: No Report.  
Planning & Development: No Report.  
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: *Jill Eastman*

- Air testing of the recent residential mercury spill showed high readings on the first floor, but all levels dissipated after a 2 day clean up.

Department of Labor: No Report.  
RIEMA: No Report.  
SERC: No Report.

EPA: *Jim Gaffey, Region I*

- EPA will be sponsoring a Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) workshop toward the end of May/early June at DEM on Promenade St. Information will soon be posted on EPA's website.
- A New England SERC conference is scheduled for the first week of June 2009. Each state's SERC will be attending this conference.
- A tabletop exercise is scheduled for 4/18 in New London, CT and will involve EMA officials and first responders from RI and CT. The goal of the exercise will be for both state agencies to become more familiar with the other's communication methods, emergency equipment, and overall response capabilities. Inter-agency communication and continuity of operations will be the primary focus.

- The AMSTEP exercise is required by the Port and is going to focus on overall security. The PPD – Homeland Security Division will be using DEM’s Geographical Response Plan (GRP) during the drill to map out flammable liquids throughout the Port and around the Bay. The goal of the GRP is to respond rapidly to a petroleum spill anywhere in the state.
- USCG wants to combine all the small ports that border the Bay (Pt. Judith, Newport..) into one large port. This would enable the Port of Providence to be categorized as a Tier III Port, making it eligible for more grant money.

Hospitals:      *John O’Reily – RI Hospital*

- **CDC/Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) training** – In partnership with Providence Fire, State & Local police and DOH, RIHOSP is continuing planning and response training in preparation for medication distribution under potential emergency conditions. A tabletop walkthrough of the PFD CHEMPACK response assistance duties was conducted on 2/27 and a combined exercise with DOH and RIEMA is planned for 3/20 & 3/21.
- **The Emergency Preparedness Supply Cache:** RIHOSP warehouses an extensive supply of medical supplies configured for rapid deployment in a major medical emergency outside of the routine services that are offered in the medical world. Pandemic Flu preparedness is the main focus for this supply cache. Working with clinical health care professionals and the Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), RIHOSP has identified the basic needs under emergency circumstances and strives to prepare for rapid response to these needs, thereby expanding its capability for storage and inventory management.
- **Patient Tracking System (PTS):** The PTS is in the rollout stage where several pilot cities have received computers, screens and software to initiate the program which will carry information directly from the scene to the receiving hospital and also to DOH. The system can also track mass casualties throughout an incident. This was a specific need that was mentioned in the “Titan Report” following the Station Night Club fire.
- **Rapid Emergency Satellite Communications Systems (RESC):** This program is underway and the equipment has been received, is being inventoried and is scheduled for training and deployment through spring 2009. These RESC systems will allow all participating hospitals and health care entities to communicate via satellite technology

under extreme conditions such as those identified in the after – action reports for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. With hurricanes identified as high probability and extreme impact to the hospitals of RI, grant funding was secured to provide these self-contained communications systems.

- **Hospital On-Scene Coordinator (HOSC):** HOSC efforts are ongoing as RIHOSP has offered training and on-scene coordinator services at two recent exercises. This aspect of ICS was drilled at the Operation Solid Curtain exercise recently conducted at the Naval Station in Newport, and also at a multi-state Incident Command Training and Simulation conference and workshop held last week. The coordinator would serve to convey accurate casualty information from an incident to the hospitals to ensure that adequate preparation is enabled in the event of a possible intake surge. John has also met with other hospitals in northern RI to discuss this program.
  - Chief Dillon stressed the importance of the HOSC program, as all hospitals have different levels of capability. The HOSC program is also more efficient in terms of preparing for the highest level of care.

*Scott Atkin Roger Williams Medical Center*

- RWMC has 14 de-con training classes scheduled from April – October. Wet de-con will be used and everything will be coordinated with PFD.

Red Cross/VNA: *Donald Corbishley*

- Currently preparing for hurricane season by working with PEMA, updating phone numbers and contacts, and inspecting area shelters. Three shelters have been inspected and are in good shape and ready.

RIPTA: No Report.

Facility Reps/Owners: No Report.

Providence Harbor Co-op: Steve Curtis – ProvPort/WTS

- ProvPort will be participating in the AMSTEP exercise and invited any other Port companies to attend.
- UASI Grant Funds: ProvPort has applied for UASI funds to obtain fixed firefighting equipment along the seawall.
- PFD will be conducting ship-board firefighting training in the near future.

## OLD BUSINESS

- *Chief Dillon:* Through the Port Security Grant, the PFD was able to replace the old foam dispensing truck at engine 13 with a new one, and thanked the Coast Guard for assisting with the bid process and timeline.
- PFD has contacted PWRR to be a part of the AMSTEP exercise. One of the major lessons learned from the Univar exercise was that the railroad would need to be notified immediately in the event of any emergency in the Port.

## NEW BUSINESS

- *Pete Gaynor:*
  - Meds distribution exercise on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at DOH. Statewide involvement, and all meds provided will be from the “national stockpile.”
  - Port Grants:
    - All grants have been submitted. One grant in particular requests that the Ports of Galilee and Quonset be included in the RI Port System. The Economic Development Corp. assisted with this grant. Other grants focused on surveillance systems for the Port and the Bay.
    - **Port Camera Grant:** Cameras are almost ready to turn on and test (can view from Beavertail to Providence)
      - The grand opening of the new Providence EOC and a live demonstration of the Port Camera System will be held on 4/15.
    - **Port Siren System:** The sirens have been received - each one is 105” tall, solar-powered with a battery backup system, and is attached to a 50’ high wooden pole.
      - Construction is ready to begin, and PEMA has developed a draft educational outreach presentation for Port tenants and nearby residents
      - The sirens cannot be heard indoors as they are only designed for outdoor use
      - The sirens would be activated during life threatening emergencies only (severe weather, chemical spill, hostile intruder/active shooter), and JWU will be able to sound their own siren through the Port’s in the event of an active shooter incident.
      - Each siren would begin with a tone alert (starting low, rising and leveling out, and going low again) followed by a voice message.
      - The four Whelen Sirens will be installed at the following locations: Conley’s Wharf (Providence), PFD Engine 13 (Providence –

Allens Ave.), JWU Harborside Campus (Providence), Bradley Hospital (East Providence)

- Each siren can project 125 dB up to a 100 foot distance and is loud enough to cover a 5,400 square foot area. The alert tone will be the same for each emergency, but the voice message will be different.
- Each siren is wirelessly activated and includes a Whelen “hack-proof” system. There are 5 separate activation boxes for the sirens.
- All sirens will be tested annually, beginning with the 2009 Port Evacuation Drill in June – future test schedules will be posted in the Providence Journal and the media will also be notified. More information is available on PEMA’s website at [www.readyprov.com](http://www.readyprov.com).
- If anybody happens to hear the tones from the siren but no voice appears, then tune into the local TV news networks and also wait for a Reverse 911 phone call.
- Jim Gaffey asked if the public outreach campaign would extend to Cranston, and yes, it will. Chief Dillon will be bringing in the Cranston and EP fire departments during the AMSTEP exercise.

- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Port Evacuation Drill: Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - GOAL – Ensure public protection/life safety, and practice interagency coordination.
  - SCENARIO – Anhydrous Ammonia leak somewhere in the Port. The actual wind direction on the day of the drill will determine response actions.
    - Some facilities will be sheltering in place and some will be asked to evacuate. All facilities should be prepared for either situation.
    - The Command Post will be parked where the 2010 full scale AMSTEP exercise will be taking place in the Port. The Port Sirens and the Reverse 911 system will be used for the drill.
  - Chief Dillon reviewed the layout of the Port and the individual sectors.
  - A planning meeting for all Port companies will be held at the Narragansett Bay Commission’s Corporate Office Building in late May.
- A TEPPCO evacuation exercise is scheduled for May.
- *Jim Celenza – RI Committee on Occupational Safety & Health*

- Jim is currently working with the DOH Carbon Monoxide Task Force to provide guidance on the dangers of CO for businesses and for EMS personnel. Residential guidance will be offered, as well. An EMS alert template has been completed and will soon be posted on the DOH website soon.
  
- *Maryann Medeiros – USDOL – OSHA*
  - USDOL will be offering training in September for EMS personnel responding to CO incidents. Maryann posed the suggestion of possibly developing a CO form that first responders could use to fill out when recording CO levels at an area. The PFD doesn't use a specific form, but they do use their CO meters. The major concern from USDOL and the PFD is that EMS personnel may be exposed to undetectable "low" levels of CO. The PFD has "pulsox" machines to measure hemoglobin levels in blood.
  
- *Brendan Duffy – National Grid*
  - Brendan offered the PFD tours of the LNG facility.

Chief Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:19 AM. Motion was seconded and approved.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Port of Providence Evacuation Drill will be held on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. Please check your email and the LEPC website for details and updates about the drill.**

**The next LEPC 5 Quarterly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 10:00 AM in the Providence Public Safety Complex's Main Auditorium.**

Please visit the LEPC #5 website at [www.rilepc.org](http://www.rilepc.org) to check for previous meeting minutes, upcoming events, training opportunities, and important compliance information.