

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 September 13, 2006

ATTENDEES:

Kerry Britt – NBC	Henry Huppert – Brown U.
Mike Kirkwood – KeySpan	Daniel Sarachick – Brown U.
David Walker – Herff Jones, Inc.	Alan Cantara - RISD
Filomena Lupo – Community Group	Dominic Fonseca – Colibri Group
Peter Popko – USCG	Bill Ostiguy – Ferguson Perforating
Grant Parker – Promar/Watson	Dave Aucoin - NBC
Kevin Roy – Watson Stevedoring	Susan Mayo - JWU
Chris O’Connell – Dominion Energy	Alfred Zonfrilli - PPD
Robert Botham – ProvPort	Jim Celenza - RICOSH
Michael Turbitt – UNIVAR	Leo Messier - PEMA
Tony LaRusso – Keyspan LNG	Michael Dillon – PFD

- Meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM. A moment of silence was held in remembrance of the victims of 9/11/01.
- Chief Dillon made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. Motion made, seconded, and accepted.

Correspondence/Handouts:

- Cy Cote from RI College contacted Dave before the meeting and apologized for not being able to attend.
- Dave provided handouts of the second quarter meeting minutes from 6/14.
- Dave provided handouts of the updated Port Reverse 911 Contact List, updated on 7/28.
- Jim provided handouts for an upcoming “Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Seminar” to be held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet.

Membership Committee Reports:

City of Providence:

Communications: Unable to attend, because they were in a meeting to discuss the new 800 MHz emergency radio communication system is currently being tested within Rhode Island, but not yet in Providence. The PFD will soon be the first group to switch over to this 800 MHz communication system.

Emergency Management: No Report

Fire Department: Chief Dillon announced that a Federal grant has been awarded to conduct a risk assessment of the Port facility Teppco. The PFD has chosen the consulting firm Woodard & Curran to conduct the assessment, and the findings will be included in a full report to be presented at the December LEPC meeting. The primary goal of the PFD in this risk assessment is to develop a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan for companies like Teppco, in order to improve response time/procedures. Woodard & Curran has so far made five important recommendations for the PFD to consider.

- Chief Dillon continued to stress the importance of “interoperability” among different agencies responding to or preparing for disasters.

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: No Report.

State of Rhode Island:

DEM: No Report.

Department of Labor: No Report.

RIEMA: No Report.

SERC: No Report.

EPA: No Report.

MSO – Coast Guard: *Pete Popko* stated that the 2006 Port Security Grants that have been applied for are still under review, and should be rewarded by the end of the month. There is only a 25% federal match per Grant, as opposed to 50% last year. The Grants for 2007 will be awarded within the next six months. The 800 MHz communication system has been applied for in the 2007 round of Grants, with the goal of expanding the Port security communications network (more interoperability).

- HomePort: Pete announced that the USCG’s Official Oil Spill Response Plan has been uploaded to the website. Companies can now also upload their own Facility Security Plans, and register to receive important notification alerts.

- TWIC System: The USCG has received over 1,900 public comments on the Transportation Worker Identification Card System, which is now required for all companies located directly on the Port. The System includes the use of biometrics, a photo, and a unique barcode on a transportation worker's company ID. The Card System is on hold right now because of problems with the "card readers" in different areas.
- Port Security Tabletop Exercises are being planned for the coming months. They will be a few hours in length, and will consist of walkthroughs, emergency plan reviews, and communication procedures. A similar tabletop was held three years ago, involving a hijacked gasoline truck...but that was practiced without incorporating interoperability.
- Jim Celenza raised the question of whether or not any hurricane information is available on the Homeport site. The National Weather Service supplies all weather information through Homeport. Pete stated that if a hurricane is at least 72 hours away, then an Emergency Operations Center would be setup, and all information would be passed along through Homeport. All ships in the Port would also be passed out to sea for safety reasons.
- Sue said that the USCG's Hurricane Plan is primarily designed to involve all marine terminals and the Port companies.

A question was raised concerning any regulations that should have prohibited the activity at the Motiva facility from taking place during the recent lightning storm. A USCG rep. cited 33 CFR 1156.120, which cites regulations pertaining to the stoppage of product transfer under certain conditions. Chief Dillon announced that the investigation is currently on-going. Adequate water supply/pressure was one small issue PFD faced in fighting the blaze.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: *Chief Dillon:*

- #1) PFD responded to a lithium battery fire at 275 Allens Ave. on August 10th. No injuries were reported, but the blaze did leak some PCB – contaminated mineral oil into the sewer system.
- #2) An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exercise is scheduled to be held on October 1st at 8:00 AM in Kennedy Plaza. This WILL BE the largest mass casualty exercise on the east coast held for 2006, and will be named "Operation Unified Response." There are currently 200 volunteers for the exercise, and Sue Mayo is working to recruit more. Leo publicly thanked Sue for her hard work. A RIEMA Command Post will be used and will be federally evaluated. Exercises like this are federally required to demonstrate effective inter-ops communications.
- A "Prepare Providence Event" is scheduled for September 30th, (the day before the Kennedy Plaza Exercise) from 10AM – 3PM, sponsored by PEMA. Blue Cross and Blue Shield has also requested a private exercise to be held at their own facility.

- The MOTIVA Tabletop oil spill response exercise earlier this year was a huge asset for controlling the actual fire and spread of fuel at the real facility during the lightning storm.
- The PFD has also scheduled a boom deployment exercise for September 27, at Collier Point Park. Kerry Britt from NBC offered after-hours assistance with the exercise, including the lending of NBC's Bay monitoring boat and NBC owned booms for use.

Dan Sarachick – Brown U. EH+S

- Dan presented the draft version of the official **LEPC #5 website**. This is the only LEPC website in RI, and materials have been sent to Brown U. over the last several months for posting on the site. Brown U. will remain the host server, and may even link to the Texas LEPC website, which is a much larger site. Brown U. EH+S will notify the LEPC once the website is up and running.

Bill Ostiguy: “Why didn’t a Reverse 911 call go out on the night of the Motiva fire?” Chief Dillon responded by stating that there was no life hazard, so no call went out. If the fire had been out of control, then IC would have ordered the evacuation of the Port by using Reverse 911. Leo stated that the System *will be used* in the event of a similar situation in the future.

Chief Dillon: Gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Motiva fire, originally developed for the Coast Guard – Sector Southeastern New England. The best part of the actual fire was that “all the people from the Motiva Drill who responded to the actual fire were all readily prepared for a unified response.” Engine 13 initially reported the fire (7/18 @ 10:22 PM) while responding to another call. PFD requested three “foam task forces” to fight the blaze. However, the stormy conditions made mutual aid extremely difficult.

Pete Popko: Stated that a *Marine Firefighting Focus Group* has been formed and is being led by Captain Roy Nash, Paul Wentworth, and the Area Maritime Sub-Committee to investigate the Motiva fire.

Lessons Learned From the Motiva Fire:

- Pros:**
- Courage of Firefighters
 - Unified Command Success
 - Quick notification of, and response by, State and Federal agencies.
 - Outstanding performance by ship Captain and ship.
 - Motiva Operator praised by the Chief for closing appropriate valves to prevent spreading of fire throughout pipes.

- Cons:**
- Storm limited the resources of the PFD and mutual aid.

- Inadequate foam supply. (DEM to help with this in the future)

- Improvements Needed:**
- A reliable foam supply.
 - Major incident response protocol for disasters and heavy weather.
 - Faster activation of Unified Command.
 - Need to focus more on Consequence Management
 - Need more firefighter training and response plans that cover ALL hazards and ALL risks.
 - More training prior to emergency response.

Regarding the water pressure/supply problem the PFD faced during the fire, a question was raised about using seawater to fight a fire. That is not a practical solution, and the PFD would rather see “wider water mains installed in the street.” Jim Celenza inquired if any nearby companies had extra foam to let PFD use in case of another fire, but it appears most Port companies do not.

Meeting adjourned at 11:38 AM.