

Frederick County Local Emergency Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2009

The regular meeting of the Frederick County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was held at the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services Board Room at 340 Montevue Lane, Frederick, MD 21702, at 0835 hours. Acting Chairman Dennis Dudley called the meeting to order.

The following were present at the meeting: Dennis Dudley, Barry Stanton, Dave Eskilsen, Doug Orner, Stephanie Schlepp, Norris Gearhart, Kathy Forrest, John Veltri, Dave Chisholm, Steve Cooper, Jack Markey, Todd Johnson, Chip Jewell, Al Hudak; Garth Phoebus, Mary Chizmar, Brian Malseed, and Robin Santangelo.

OLD BUSINESS

June 9, 2009 Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the June 8, 2009, meeting were approved as written by motion Doug Orner, Second Barry Stanton.

LEPC Leadership: Dennis Wenner's resignation from the LEPC has been confirmed. Vice chairman Dennis Dudley will assume role of chairman until elections scheduled for December 2009. John Veltri volunteered to serve as the vice chairman until the end of the calendar year. A motion was made by Barry Stanton to elect Mr Veltri as Vice Chairman, seconded by Al Hudak. Mr. Veltri was elected vice chairman by a unanimous vote of members present. Robin Santangelo will reflect these changes on the LEPC website.

LEPC Membership: Dennis Dudley provided a membership listing for review. Attendees were asked to note three categories and send changes to Dennis Dudley or Denise Wyant. It was noted that John Molesworth should be removed from the list.

Volunteer Update: Volunteers remain ready for task assignments. Contact Stephanie Schlepp, Volunteer Frederick.

2009 LEPC Drill: Seamus Mooney is the lead for drill planning. A planning team met to determine the scope, objectives and location (Myersville with involvement from Middletown). The date has not been confirmed, but is likely to occur during the afternoon or evening hours to allow maximum volunteer participation. Jack Markey asked that the drill date, goals and objectives be shared with the entire LEPC membership at the next meeting.

Chip Jewell suggested that the drill include Washington County participants to promote resource sharing across jurisdictional boundaries. John Veltri would like to include a decontamination component for Frederick Memorial Hospital. Al Hudak reminded the group to include Maryland State Highway Administration staff on the participant list.

September Meeting: Charles Fitzsimmons, EPA Federal On-scene Coordinator (FOSC) has agreed to speak to the LEPC during the September 14th meeting, at Frederick Memorial Hospital, Classroom #3. Mr. Fitzsimmons will discuss the role of the FOSC and the National Response System.

Tier II Manager Software: Frederick County officials now have a limited number of accounts to view Tier II submissions to the Maryland Department of the Environment.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Outreach: For maximum public exposure, the new LEPC display has been set up in several different locations throughout the county during the past three months. The display is currently at the Office of Economic Development and will be moved to the Frederick Memorial Hospital for the September meeting.

Preparedness partners are launching a Community Risk Reduction Program in the Spring Ridge neighborhoods on July 25. The purpose of the program is to reduce residential vulnerabilities to emergency through fire prevention and emergency preparedness education.

Planned Events: Chip Jewell noted that the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend will occur on Oct 3 and 4, 2009, in Emmitsburg.

Roundtable Discussion:

Jack Markey reminded members to inform the Division of Emergency Management of training needs. Staff will research grant funding opportunities as needs arise.

John Veltri asked for training assistance to recertify Frederick Memorial Hospital staff on hazmat procedures. He will communicate with Rick Himes in the near future to request assistance.

Dennis Dudley shared that law enforcement partners are working with the Division of Fire and Rescue Services on SCBA training and certification issues. He also participated in the recent Health Department Strategic National Stockpile review and noted that the Federal Government representatives were impressed with the partnerships developed in Frederick County. Law Enforcement agencies are also addressing multi-jurisdictional problems at the Frederick Airport and outlining agency responsibilities and accident response protocol.

December will bring the formal LEPC officer elections with officer approval by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and letter to State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) in January. LEPC officers have a two-year term. Preparations for elections will occur during the next meeting.

Concerns were shared about the ability to identify small facilities with hazardous materials on site which potentially could be a safety threat, but in quantities under the reportable threshold. Members would like to have this information readily available for first responders. Other jurisdictions have a unified process to gather this information and provide it to public safety agencies. It was suggested that the LEPC, as a part of its pre-established role, serve as an advocate for public right to know and explain what this means to the BOCC.

Discussion followed on the procedures followed in Montgomery County, possibility of new legislation requiring an annual registration/fee reporting process. The value of the registration and associated fee was debated. A team will research, communicate with the Montgomery County LEPC and come back to the group with a plan next month.

Questions came forth on the proper reporting procedures for chemical spills, specifically (1) when to report in a timely manner to meet the legal requirements, and (2) when to report in a timely manner for emergency response. The group decided that further clarification was needed.

Jack suggested the October meeting include a speaker from the Maryland Department of the Environment to clarify reporting requirements and how and when data is shared by the State to the local agencies and LEPC.

Planned Events

The meeting adjourned at 0942 with a motion made by Robin Santangelo and seconded by Todd Johnson.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 10, 0830, at Frederick Memorial Hospital, Classroom #3. Thank you John Veltri.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy L. Forrest