



Local Emergency Planning Committee
C/O KCOEM
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Kane County Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting Minutes August 15, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. in the Kane County Multi-purpose building training room by Chairman Jon Mensching.

ATTENDANCE

Members present – (*Names taken directly from the sign-in sheet*):

Bob Balsamo – South Elgin EMA, Mark Chmura – St. Charles EMA,
Deborah Dortmund – KCOEM & KCLEPC recording secretary, treasurer & grant coordinator,
David Esterquest – FERMI Lab, Cadence Griffiths – Kane County Health Department Emergency
Response Coordinator, Leandro Guardado – Smithfield Foods, Kate-Leigh McClone – America
Chemical Products Inc., Jon Mensching – KCOEM / LEPC Chairman, Patricia Mierisch – Huntley
CERT / Concerned Citizen, Anna Pace - Aurora Fire Department,
Deb Wilmont – Rush Copley Medical Center and Andy Zawada – Elgin Fire/Division 2 Haz-Mat
team/ LEPC Vice-Chair.

Guests:

Cheryl Alopogianis – Village of West Dundee Trustee * New Member*
Kyle Griffin – New Kane County Health Department Emergency Response person
Kevin Cotter – Messer LLC Plant manager

WELCOME: Everyone was welcomed. A Computer displayed flag was used for the Pledge of Allegiance. We were waiting to open the meeting to assure we would have a quorum.

Jon officially opened the meeting at 1:10 pm and asked the group to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Jon stated that he noticed some new faces in the room so introductions were made around the room. Jon welcomed the new people to the meeting. Jon explained that he did not have a lot on the agenda but next meeting we are going to go over the plan and adopt it for the upcoming year.

CORRESPONDENCE:

We received the correspondence that was sent to all the members from the State Senator regarding the proposed senate resolution no. 142. (Attachment #1)

Jon stated that there is a little history behind this. In the past there was a push for the LEPC's to work with every school in the State to develop a Hazmat response plan to include everything especially evacuations etc.

If we needed to work with every school in Kane County, it would drastically exceed our planning capabilities and we would not be able to do it. This might be the next version of that proposed bill. Based upon the letter, what they are looking at is how schools within a certain area of rail road tracks are prepared to deal with hazardous incidents. They are asking us to work with the schools in our region to inform them of the threats involved with the storage and transportation of hazardous substances. Jon thought that we could invite the school district representatives to come to the November meeting to meet the spirit of this letter. Having one or two representatives from each school district is a manageable number. At that meeting, they could learn about the Hazmat plan. Many of the schools already have good plans for their campus. If the incident does not happen on the school campus they, just like us, are at the benevolence of the first responders. There are a lot of variables that would need to be looked at such as how far away you would need to be or need to move in the event of an evacuation. Jon mentioned that when you look at the fact that most of the townships are approximately 6 miles by 6 mile and if you need to look at 5 or 6 miles from a railroad grade you are covering a large area.

Even if you were to narrow the view to only look at the EHS facilities or the use of chlorine for water treatment or anhydrous for use in farming, it would incorporate a great number of all the schools so it would be a good idea to work at the school district level.

Discussion:

There was a question raised by Deb Wilmont as to the scope of the request. It looks to specifically reference rail transportation but what about schools that are close to interstates and trucking?

Jon stated that when he read the cover letter and resolution, it states the storage and transportation of hazardous substances. That would encompass everything and all schools. We would talk to the school districts to be sure the schools did have plans that have a Haz-mat component.

Jon mentioned that he and Andy were just talking about a school in Elgin that happens to have a water treatment facility next door and a hospital across the street.

It was asked if this was State wide and what other LEPCs were doing about it. Jon stated he was going to the IEMA State Training summit next month (September) and he would ask the same questions. He thought this would probably be a topic of discussion.

Jon stated that with ROE (Regional Office of Education) having oversight over the school districts they were encouraging the school districts to have standardized response protocols through the *I Love You Guys foundation* program.

The question arose – what about preschools and day care centers? It doesn't specifically reference those but that is a good question. Is it assumed to include those?

Mark Chmura stated that while at the Training summit – it may be a good idea to 'stroll over to the hill' and talk to the senator. Perhaps have a conversation regarding what the size container the "storage and transport" would pertain to. At the moment it could be anything from a single truck transporting materials to a 100-car train. What exactly are you asking us to do? Will existing school plans suffice?

Jon stated that perhaps getting the school districts reps to the table so that we know that they at least address it and have the conversation with their emergency responders. We, at the county, are not primarily responsible for the schools; it is the police and fire departments. The police are very good at saying that they should go into a lock down or secure situation if there is something happening outside. The schools are good at doing that. They secure the buildings and go on. In a Haz-mat release in the neighborhood, we want you to secure the building and maybe turn off the HVAC system so they are not bringing in the outside air. That's what will need to happen until it is decided/determined that it is safe to get the students on busses and take them to another facility. Is it even safe to take all the students out of the building and transport them? Another problem for the schools could be how to the schools get the busses back mid-day especially if the drivers are part-time and have to clock out.

It was mentioned that the verbiage in the letter does not say anything about assisting the schools with planning, it says "to inform them of threats related to the storage and transportation of hazardous substances", not to make a plan for them.

Jon stated that was correct. We have two very large school districts in our area; U-46 and District 300. They should already have a plan that deals with some type of hazardous materials as many of the schools already have a chemistry lab on site.

Jon stated that he did forward the letter and resolution to the Mark Bozik at the ROE safety committee. Additionally he asked if he could address their next meeting.

Andy stated this reminds him of a similar thing that happened when they first started transporting Bakken Crude oil. There is a gamut of every chemical out there being transported by rail. You can't plan for everything. Jon added that it makes no sense to do specific plans but it would make more sense to do a boiler plate and tailor it to your response and your needs. You really are not going write a specific plan for every chemical for every school. Simple is better. This is just like making the generic facility plans. Some facilities have response teams where other facilities don't. You make it generic and then you rely on the first responders for the rest. You get the schools on board with a general plan and they rely on the first responders.

Jon mentioned that some of the planning is happening through the reunification planning at the schools. In a lot of the cases that have some of this planning already in place as part of their active shooter program. Now they can just put a Haz-mat spin on it and say these are the other cases where this may apply.

Mark mentioned that (in the news) an active shooter incident at a high school in Indiana came under criticism by some of the parents when they would not let student that drive

to school drive home. In the name of accountability they wanted all the students to get on the bus and go the pre-approved area. The parents complained that they were holding the kids. They countered that it would cause more traffic congestion in an already congested closed off area. Jon said when you are a student of the school you are in custody of the school. The schools can limit that and it can easily be addressed.

Jon stated we can identify the rail lines and road and we can look at the commodity flow to see what is coming and going on those roads and rail lines, which we already do in our plan. We can never really know what is really on the roads at any given time. The only thing we can really do is raise the awareness. There really isn't anyway that any county in the State has the ability to do this if taken any further.

The question was asked again, what about private schools, day care centers, and dialysis centers. You can't very easily evacuate a dialysis facility as you need to stop the procedure and disconnect the patients etc. Does this lead to us – the LEPC – making sure every facility has a plan?

Andy stated that he thought that the way it reads, they (the legislators) are looking to the LEPC's to say there is hazardous materials in the area and that they - the school - should be prepared in the event something happens.

Jon did a quick overview of events that brought about the Emergency Planning and Community-Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The incident in 1984 in Bhopal India and then in West Virginia with the release of methyl isocyanate. (For reference you can look here <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/what-epcra>). He then went on to talk about the list of lists for chemicals and the threshold planning quantities.

Jon said we can only try to meet the spirit of this letter and resolution. Right now it is just a resolution, not a law or a bill.

If we hear anything more about this, where it is going and what is happening with it – we will be sure to let the membership know.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting minutes were emailed out shortly after the meeting. Did anyone have any questions, changes, suggestions or comments? Nothing mentioned. Jon stated he would entertain a motion to accept the meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the May Meeting Minutes: Mark Chmura

Second: Patricia Mierisch

Voice vote: Motion approved.

LEPC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Jon announced that he had submitted the annual LEPC report to the State. Jon reviewed the report he sent and noted that Deborah had sent the roster of members.

He mentioned that in November we would like to go over the plan.

Jon added that Dave Carey from W.R. Meadows was leaving and moving to Florida. He will be missed.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPILL REPORT:

Deb stated that the spill report is on the back of the agenda.

Jon went over a quick review of the spills listed. He and Andy mentioned the Drymiller Meat market incident. The spill by Ashley Distribution was in the parking lot. The spill at our old facility on Fabyan – they are decommissioning the site and pulling the underground storage tanks. The Hampshire spill was the fire truck roll over and the fuel was prevented from running into the creek.

The report will be on file. (Attachment #2)

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning: No report

Jon stated that we needed to start surveying the facilities and the public response agencies to update our response capabilities as part of the plan. He mentioned it could be done via a simple letter or a Google questionnaire. He thought that the simple electronic survey may be the best as they only have to open their email and answer the questions. It has been several years since we sent out the surveys to all the departments and the facilities regarding their hazmat capabilities.

Jon stated that we may need to update the information on the questionnaire as there may be new preparedness measures that facilities need to take, with new rules. What are the different rules out there and the different rules the facilities need to follow? The RMP rule (Risk Management Program) was briefly mentioned.

The RMP rule requires facilities that use extremely hazardous substances to develop a Risk Management Plan which: identifies the potential effects of a chemical accident, identifies steps the facility is taking to prevent an accident, and, spells out emergency response procedures should an accident occur. (per the US EPA)

OLD BUSINESS: No comments or reports

NEW BUSINESS:

Jon will be attending the LEPC Session at the IEMA Training Summit and there should be an exercise so we can get exercise credit for our plan. There did not appear to be a lot of additional LEPC information at the IEMA Summit beside the pre-conference break out session. Jon will report back on that in November.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

A facility member mentioned that as of July, Homeland Security can no longer come in to a facility and do an inspection regarding CFATS and mandate specific things. The CFATS program was shut down. It is thought that legislation to reauthorize CFATS is underway.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting is **Tuesday November 21 at 1:00 PM** in this same location; the Kane County Multi-purpose building training room.

Motion to Adjourn: Anna Pace

Second: Patricia Mierisch

Voice vote: Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned approximately at 2:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Dortmund

KCOEM Deputy Director for Administration
LEPC Recording Secretary & treasurer