



WORCESTER COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
1 W. MARKET ST., ROOM 1002
SNOW HILL, MARYLAND 21863
410-632-1311
410-632-2141 FAX

LEPC MINUTES 07/23/09

Attendees:	Fred Webster	Wor. Co. Emergency Services
	Teresa Owens	Wor. Co. Emergency Services
	Jeff McMahan	Wor. Co. Fire Marshal
	Brian Winter	Wor. Co. Fire Marshal
	John Ross	Wor. Co. Public Works
	Buzzy Bayles	Ocean City LEPC
	Bob Rhode	Ocean City LEPC
	Roger Steger	Delegate Mathias Alternate
	Jim Mathias	Md. House of Delegates
	Ed Berger	Atlantic General Hospital
	John Brenner	Lower Shore ARC
	Troy McCabe	Lower Shore ARC
	Ed Tudor	Wor. Co. Dev. Review & Permitting
	Ric Chatham	Chesapeake Utilities
	Larry Miller	Chesapeake Utilities
	Capt. Lee Brumley	Pocomoke Police
	Janet Tull	Worcester Health
	Steve Price	Board of Education
	Lt. Dale Smack	Wor. Co. Sheriff-Alternate
	Tim Perry	Delmarva Two-Way Radio

The meeting started at 9:04 with a welcome from Chairman Fred Webster and introductions from those present.

On a motion from Ed Tudor seconded by Ed Berger minutes from the April 23 meeting were approved as presented.

Old business:

Chairman Webster again reiterated that any member with suggestions as to topics or speakers for future meetings is urged to contact either himself or Executive Committee Chair Virgil Shockley with suggestions.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: Commission President Virgil Shockley –Commissioner Shockley was unable to attend.

Plan Development: David Fitzgerald – Not present.

Hazard Identification: Jeff McMahon-Nothing new to report on identification.

Public Education: Choppy Layton – No report

Medical Coordination: David Collins – Not present

Mutual Aid: Ed Carmean – Not present

Bylaws: Sheriff Chuck Martin – Lt. Smack, representing the Sheriff, reported that there were no bylaws submitted for change.

Recruitment: Buck Shockley – Not Present

Chairman's Comments:

Fred Webster reminded the group that the LEPC now has current versions of the Community-Right-to-Know act regulations on hand. These come with newsletters with updates of regulations and also actions by the EPA. He cited three incidents where fines were recently levied. One of those, an auto parts store in Hancock, Maryland, was fined \$43,000 for various hazardous waste storage violations. Another case had a company fined \$10,421 in civil fines plus another \$10,000 to two local fire departments to by safety suits and gloves. This was the result of an unreported release of nearly 3,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia.

The Worcester County LEPC has received a Freedom of Information Act request from the Environmental Integrity Project for the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations reports that were filed by local farmers in January & February of this year. The request had been forwarded to County Attorney Sonny Bloxom for review. Chairman Webster was concerned about the release of telephone numbers of the farm operators and the latitude and longitude of the poultry houses. Bloxom had replied that the phone numbers could be removed from the copies but that everything else would need to be copied.

The Maryland Emergency Management Association conference mentioned in the April meeting had been deemed a success. Although a "all hazards" conference there were many good speakers covering a number of topics. This was an excellent opportunity for training located in Worcester County (the Clarion in Ocean City) and was reasonably priced at \$35 per day including meals and snacks.

There was nothing new on the state level hurricane exercise that had been mentioned at the last LEPC meeting. Skip Mahan was also not aware of any progress made this exercise.

The Department of Emergency Services is working with the Department of Social Services and Lower Shore Red Cross on a sheltering drill to be held prior to school starting. Pete Buesgens, heading the sheltering committee, was meeting with Board of Education officials (7/23).

New Business:

None

Presentation:

Ric Chatham and Larry Miller for Sharp Energy were on hand to talk about propane and natural gas safety. Ric explained that Sharp has an aggressive campaign with regards to helping train local fire departments in the response to and handling of gas emergencies. He spoke about the differences in properties between propane and natural gas. Also a part of the presentation was a video of a gas leak at a turkey farm where two firefighters died after failing to properly cool a tank fire. The tank exploded killing the firefighters with flying shrapnel from the metal tank. Then in Ghent, West Virginia an LP gas transfer between tanks went really wrong costing a couple of gas company employees and an EMT their lives and totally leveling a country store.

A short question and answer period followed the presentation.

Good of the Committee:

Fred Webster announced that Ocean City will be sponsoring an Advanced Incident Management/Unified Command class in January 2009 at the Public Safety Building in Ocean City. Bob Rhode's is the contact person at 410-723-6650.

Teresa Owens brought up that recently in New York State a law suit was filed against the volunteer fire company for failure to follow NIMS protocols. The result was that two firefighters lost their lives in the blaze. Skip Mahan added that while incident command had been established a higher ranking fire

commissioner had arrived on the scene and basically did not follow the incident command system.

Worcester County will be holding two NIMS 400 training classes. The first is July 29th and 30th followed by August 27th and 28th. The NIMS 400 is a command staff/decision maker level class.

Bob Rhode also announced that the Ocean City LEPC will be meeting on October 15th beginning at 1 PM at the Ocean City Public Safety Building's 2nd floor training room. Guest speaker will be Jeff Molnar from the Maryland Department of Environment's Emergency Response Division.

With no further business it was announced that the next Worcester County LEPC meeting will be held on October 22, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 AM.