



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 10/23/08

Attendees:	Fred Webster	Wor. Co. Emergency Services
	Teresa Owens	Wor. Co. Emergency Services
	David Fitzgerald	Wor. Co. Emergency Services
	Jeff McMahon	Wor. Co. Fire Marshal
	Danny Tilghman	City of Pocomoke
	Col. Doug Dods	Wor. Co. Sheriff's Office
	Skip Mahan	Md. Emergency Management Agency
	Ed Potez	Wor. Co. Health Department
	Del. Jim Mathias	House of Delegates
	John Ross	Wor. Co. Public Works
	Virgil Shockley	County Commissioners
	Ed Berger	Atlantic General Hospital
	David Redinger	Tyson Foods
	Buck Shockley	Wor. Co. Jail

The meeting started at 9:05 with a welcome from Chairman Fred Webster and introductions from those present.

On a motion by Doug Dods and seconded by Ed Berger the minutes from the July 24, 2008 meeting were passed as presented.

Old business:

Fred Webster reported that due to lack of pre-registrations the Our Town tabletop exercise scheduled for October 11 & 12 had to be canceled. Fred asked the group for any suggestions on future training or training dates to accommodate more participation. He noted that this seemed to be a trend since over the last couple of years attendance at the seminars, scheduled for the second weekend in October, had dropped off. There was discussion among the group that better publicity regarding the training might help. Fred also said that the training topic

had been presented at the Worcester County Fire Chiefs meeting the night before and had trended in the same direction. Most of the county fire companies either don't meet or drill as often in the summer as they do during the fall and winter so announcing the training at the County Association meeting and Chiefs meeting in September doesn't give the fire service the opportunity to prompt members to attend the training. The Fire Chiefs had suggested the January/February time frame however due to the timing on the Maryland Department of Environment grant and travel concerns for the instructors this may not be practical. Fred asked that anyone with any suggestions either call or email him with suggestions. Skip Mahan suggested that since Ocean City was sponsoring a similar training scenario that we should consider coordinating with their LEPC to try to bolster enrollment. Fred noted that might be a possibility however the County had tried to schedule the training to benefit the volunteer fire service by scheduling on the weekend when more volunteers were available to attend where the Ocean City training is scheduled for weekdays.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: Commission President Virgil Shockley –The Executive Committee is continuing to try to bring relevant speakers to the meetings. Contact has been made with the Delmarva Poultry industry to get a speaker for the January 2009 meeting. Fred Webster had called Bill Satterfield at DPI earlier this week only to find he would be out of the office until Friday. During a previous conversation Mr. Satterfield stated he would contact Dave Redinger to represent DPI however Dave was in attendance at the meeting and said he had not been asked as of this time.

Delegate Jim Mathias suggested that after his recent trips to several flood prone areas that we might consider having someone speak on SLOSH data available to the Shore and also have someone speak on the topic of flood insurance.

Plan Development: David Fitzgerald – David nothing new.

Hazard Identification: Jeff McMahan-Nothing new to report on identification. Jeff did say that the County Special Hazards Team was still looking for persons interested in participating in the team. Team members don't have to be hazmat certified since there are lots of jobs at a scene that can be handled by people with no specific hazmat training. The last several Special Hazard Team meetings have had lower attendance. It was also brought up that the Somerset County Hazmat Team had gone out of existence. Jeff stated that while there had been talks with Somerset officials about the Worcester Team responding into Somerset there had been no official mutual aid agreement drawn up. The equipment that Somerset's team had purchased had been divided between Wicomico (City of Salisbury team) and Worcester. Most of the items received by Worcester could be used for training purposes but most of the really usable items had been taken by Salisbury. The suggestion was made by Skip Mahan that

Worcester might consider absorbing members of the Somerset team to add manpower. Jeff is to make contact with Somerset Emergency Services Director Steve Marshall regarding this.

David Fitzgerald brought up that maybe consideration should be given to incorporating County Public Works who have employees trained in handling chemicals at the different facilities. Consideration will be given to this.

Public Education: Choppy Layton – No report

Medical Coordination: David Collins – No report

Mutual Aid: Ed Carmean – No report

Bylaws: Sheriff Chuck Martin – No report

Recruitment: Buck Shockley – No report

New Business:

Fred Webster announced that there were several training opportunities coming up in Ocean City. They will be sponsoring the Delmarva Power electrical safety trailer on Wednesday, November 12th with multiple 30 minute sessions throughout the day. They will also be sponsoring the Abbottsville tabletop exercise on Wednesday, November 5th through Friday, November 7th at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center. The exercise will focus on ICS concepts, Continuity of Operations plans and storm related response operations. The course is free. Anyone interested should contact Bob Rhode, the City Risk Manager, to register or for more information.

Also, from Buzzy Bayles, the Ocean City LEPC will meet on Thursday, December 11th beginning at 1PM at the Public Safety Building on 65th St.

Executive Committee Chair and Commission President Shockley asked Jeff McMahon about any pot ash manufacturing facilities in the county. This has now become an expensive part of farming operations. Jeff is not aware of any facility manufacturing pot ash. Continued discussion on farm chemicals ensued with talk about the portable nitrogen trailers. Col. Dods said he had stopped one being towed at around 2 AM one morning. It did legitimately belong to the driver of the truck but did raise awareness of how easily the trailers could be hooked onto and moved.

Presentation:

Teresa Owens, Director of the Worcester County Department of Emergency Services gave an overview of Homeland Security Expenditures over the last 5-years. Included in the purchases were tools and metering devices for the Special Hazards team, purchase of decon, spill, mass casualty, and Special Operations trailers for use by the Special Hazards Team and the Department of Emergency Services. Money has also been provided municipal jurisdictions for fencing and security equipment for water and wastewater facilities.

In addition the Department of Emergency Services has worked especially hard on interoperable communications not just between police, fire and emergency medical responders but including county and local public works departments for interaction during emergency situations. Currently underway is an effort to equip the county schools and buses with 800 MHz radios to allow for better communications. An additional Homeland Security grant is being used to install additional equipment for the Maryland Eastern Shore Interoperability Network (MESIN). This will include additional tower sites in two locations and additional base station radios with UHF and VHF frequencies at several others.

Good of the Committee:

Fred Webster reminded everyone that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02