



MINUTES OF LEPC MEETING –August 11th, 2020

LOCATION:

Montgomery County Public Safety Training Center
1175 Conshohocken Road
Conshohocken, PA 19428

ATTENDANCE:

LEPC Members:

Steve Wittmer, Jim Fry, Armand Alessi, John Corcoran, Thomas Garrity, Greg Janiec, George Dula, Erin McDermott, Mary Newsom, Scott Aharonian, Don Sirianni, James Leary, Michael Italia

OEP Staff:

Bev Stemple, Brandon Pursell, Jason Wilson, Jack Zabinski

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wittmer called the meeting to order at 13:02 hrs. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

A motion was made by Greg Janiec and seconded by Jim Weller to accept the meeting minutes for February 11, 2020 meeting as submitted/amended. The question was called for, asked, and approved.

GUESTS:

Erin McDermott

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Wilson noted that Jack Zabinski would be taking over the role as LEPC Coordinator from Brandon Pursell.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The following committees have nothing to report:

Transportation, Law Enforcement, Media, Local Government, Administration, Finance, and EMS

Hazardous Materials

Mr. Pursell reported that there have been 17 calls since the February 11th LEPC Meeting, notable calls are as follows:

- February 28th – HazMat Inside – Upper Dublin Township
- March 3rd – HazMat Inside – Lower Gwynedd Township

- May 7th – Fire/ HazMat – Upper Providence Township
- July 20th – Fire/ HazMat – Lower Merion Township

Mr. Pursell reported that there have been 11 trainings since the December 10th LEPC meeting.

- February 11th – Decon Operations Review
- February 20th – Keeping USAR Operations Working
- February 25th – Detection and Identification Equipment
- February 29th – HazMat Team Positions (HMO/ HMSO)
- March 1st – Wet Chemistry
- May 7th – Lion MT94 Virtual Training
- May 26th – Chemistry Review Virtual Training
- June 23rd – Chemical Suicide Virtual Training
- June 27th – Haz Cat Kit Review
- July 14th – Fluid Transfers and Grounding
- July 25th – Rad Exercise

Lastly, Mr. Pursell reported that this evening the HMRT will be reviewing Air Monitoring

Ms. Stemple reported that 60% of the SARA plans have been reviewed. Ms. Stemple noted that 4.1 million pounds of EHS Chemicals were reported within Montgomery County, a rise since the last report. This was likely attributed to the EPA advising wastewater plants to move back to utilizing chlorine in their facilities in lieu of Sodium Hypochlorite.

Mr. Zabinski reported that as of August 10th, there is a total income of \$117,375.00 of SARA revenue. Mr. Zabinski added that there is an additional \$2,560.35 in HazMat reimbursement. There are a total of 175 reporting facilities in Montgomery County that have submitted their Annual Tier II Report. Mr. Zabinski reported that since the February 11th LEPC meeting, the MCDPS has put on or attended 16 outreach events. Lastly, Mr. Zabinski reported that work was done with Aristatek in order to update all PEAC facilities with the most recent Tier II filings as well as all Unclassified Plans held by the county to make them more accessible by responders throughout the county.

Emergency Management

Mr. Wilson Reported that the Division of Emergency Management has worked closely with COVID-19 operations within the county. Mr. Wilson provided the following timeline of events pertaining to the COVID-19 response within the county:

- March 6th – MCDPS notified of first case of COVID-19 within Montgomery County
- March 9th – MCDPS Opened the EOC to Level II and submitted a disaster declaration to PEMA
- March 12th – EOC upgraded to a full Level I Activation
- March 16th – Montgomery County Schools close for 10 days.
 - County offices close with the exception of essential workers
- March 19th – Non-life sustaining businesses close physical locations
- March 21st – Upper Dublin Community Based Testing site opens to the public serving 250 residents a day

- March 22nd – First Montgomery County COVID-19 death occurs
- March 30th – MCDPS COVID-19 warehouse opens at the Oaks Expo Center
 - MCDPS EOC operations adapted to conform to social distancing measures
- April 9th – Ambler CBTS closed as the federal contract ended
- April 16th – Montgomery County Community College CBTS opened to the public
- April 22nd – First nursing home visit conducted by FAST team supported by the DEM and EOC
- June 4th – Stay at home order lifted for Montgomery County

Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Garrity reported that training at the fire academy was stopped in mid-March due to COVID-19 mitigation efforts and the fire academy staff being reassigned to the Temple Ambler Campus Community Based Testing Site. 5 Classes were stopped and four of the five have been completed with the final class pursuing dates to successfully complete the course. When relieved from their duties at the testing site, Mr. Garrity reported that online training was begun starting with *Introduction to Fire Service* in late May. These online offerings were expanded in June and July to include two additional Introduction to Fire Service courses, a Fire Dynamics course, Public Relations for the Fire Service Course as well as a Hazardous Materials operations Refresher.

Mr. Garrity reported that when Montgomery County moved into the Green Phase, the Fire Academy received approval for their submitted plan to operate. This plan included temperature scans upon entrance, reduced classroom capacities, masks for students and teachers and an additional mid-day temperature scan. Mr. Garrity reported that the Public Safety Training Campus remains closed with the exception of Department of Public Safety Training. Lastly, it was reported that the Fall 2020 training schedule is available online and includes both in person and online offerings.

Public Health

Ms. McDermott reported that the Office of Public Health has been heavily involved in COVID-19 Testing at two Federally Supported Community Based Testing Sites at Temple University Ambler and Montgomery County Community College. Ms. McDermott worked on location to coordinate Office of Public Health staffing and provide Just in Time training to staff and volunteers to support the National Guard and US Public Health Service in operation of the site. Following the closure of the Montgomery County Community College Test Site, 6 regional test sites were opened on July 6th.

Ms. McDermott reported that OPH was in the process of working with municipalities of open Flu Clinics as drive through POD sites with the expectation that the POD sites would assist in mass vaccination when a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available.

Fire Chiefs Association

Mr. Jones reported that there have been no meetings of the Fire Chiefs Association since the beginning of COVID-19 and that there have been ongoing email communications between Municipal and Volunteer Chiefs.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS:**Pennsylvania Air National Guard**

SMSgt Weller Reported that the PAANG supported several COVID-19 related operations including

- Food distribution sites in Philadelphia and Bucks Counties.
- Movement of PPE stockpiles from national to state storage.
- IMT support with PEMA.

Additionally, SMSgt Weller reported that the Civil Air Patrol supported the operation of the Philadelphia and Bucks Counties food distribution sites and conducted flights for tornado damage assessments following hurricane Isaias, including 3 assessments in Montgomery County.

SMSgt Weller Noted that this past year has been one of the largest National Guard Deployments in the History of Pennsylvania supporting missions including COVID-19 as well as Civil Unrest

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Zabinski Proposed a meeting be held on December 10, 2020 for the missed May LEPC meeting. Additionally, it was proposed that an online option be available for all future LEPC meetings. A motion was made by Brandon Pursell and seconded by Greg Janiec.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

No Comments

NEXT MEETING DATE:

November 10, 2020 at 13:00 hrs.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Brandon Pursell Seconded by Greg Janiec to adjourn the Montgomery County LEPC meeting for August 11th, 2020. The meeting was adjourned at 13:49hrs.