



MINUTES OF LEPC MEETING –November 10th, 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 Brandon Pursell and seconded by Bev Stemple to accept the meeting minutes for August 11, 2020 meeting as submitted/amended. The question was called for, asked, and approved.

GUESTS:

Erin McDermott, Todd Stieritz

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The following committees have nothing to report:

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

Hazardous Materials

Ms. Stemple reported that 90% of the 256 plans have been reviewed for Reporting Year 2019. There is a reported total of 4.5 million pounds of Especially Hazardous Substances (EHS) within Montgomery County.

Mr. Zabinski reported that as of November 9th, there is a total income of \$129,400.00 of SARA revenue. Mr. Zabinski added that there is an additional \$3,932.18 in HazMat

reimbursement. There are a total of 446 reporting facilities in Montgomery County that have submitted their Annual Tier II Report.

Mr. Pursell reported that there have been 12 calls since the August 11th LEPC meeting most notable calls are as follows:

- September 13th – Lower Providence Township: Oil sheen in the river from a leaking generator at a nearby construction site.
- September 17th – Douglass Township: Suspicious package mail to a resident brought to police station. Resident believed package contained anthrax and testing and further investigation, no anthrax was found.
- October 8th – Upper Merion Township: Fire located in the yard at Shorty's U Pull it. There was a deeply seated fire in a pile of tires due to the potential for the fire to spread to adjacent cars. The Montgomery County Foam Task Force was requested and approximately 495 gallons of Alcohol Resistant Aqueous Film Forming Foam was applied. Fire was placed under control and all runoff was contained to the beds of abilities. DEP was on location for the call.
- October 9th – Upper Merion: Hydrogen Leak reported at a pharmaceutical company. Hydrogen alarm was sounding. After multiple entries and air monitoring it was determined it was a faulty alarm and was turned over to building maintenance.
- October 26th – West Norriton Township: Homeowner was attempting to clear clogged kitchen sink when he attempted to mix 2 chemicals together to help remove clog. The resulting mixture resulted in noxious gas fumes that caused the resident to evacuate. HMRT personnel along FD46 personnel made entry for air monitoring. No reaction was found, and atmospheric readings were normal. It was determined that the resident used foaming Draino and Spray Bleach.

Mr. Pursell reported that there have been 5 trainings since the August 11th LEPC meeting.

- August 11th – Air Monitoring RAE Meters
- August 29th – Chlorine A and B Kits
- September 8th – PPE Overview
- September 19th – Truck and Station Maintenance
- October 24th - Federal Resources RAE Technician
- October 25th - Federal Resources RAE Technician

Mr. Pursell reported that this evening, November 10th the HMRT will be training on Bloodborne Pathogens.

Lastly, Mr. Pursell reported that Cost recovery has been initiated to recover funds for foam expended at the October 8th call.

Emergency Management

Mr. Wilson Reported that the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) staff have resumed normal duties while still supporting aspects of the OPH COVID-19 response. The EOC was demobilized in August when Montgomery County was returned to "Green" status. Resource requests are still getting filled through the warehouse but have dropped dramatically as PPE and other related products are now commercially available.

DPS EM has started operations at new rented warehouse space located at 101 Brower Avenue in Oaks. This 32,000 square foot facility is being utilized to store and distribute stock-piled PPE and to act as a distribution point for all other County PPE initiatives. Logistics has recently accepted an order for 1 million N95 masks and is awaiting delivery of 100,000 surgical style gowns. The warehouse has been outfitted with pallet racking, forklift, pallet wrapping equipment and other necessary equipment for warehouse operations. This equipment will all be relocated to the DPS warehouse in Eagleville when it is completed.

Outreach Coordinator, Tim Elbertson has resigned and will be leaving the DPS on Friday, November 13th. Tim has accepted a position with PEMA in a similar role. The Outreach Coordinator's position will be filled in the near future after those current job duties are reviewed.

Progress continues with municipal emergency operations plan reviews with half of the reviews complete and others scheduled in the near future. Most reviews have been completed virtually. Those municipalities not complying will be notified via letter / email to the EMC and manager.

As the increase in COVID cases continues nationwide, the Montgomery County EOC will be activated virtually to support our response. An organization consisting of HHS, OPH and DPS staff has been created to organize and support this activation. The organization will receive guidance and direction from a Senior Policy Group and Medical Oversight Group and will be managed via incident command principles. The EOC will be activated virtually on Tuesday, November 17th and will function on Tuesdays and Thursday moving forward.

Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Garrity reported that the Fire Academy held 50 classes in the fall session with class sizes capped at 50% due to COVID social distancing requirements. 20 online classes were held with all being synchronous and some held as hybrid options. Prior to the Pandemic, the Fire Academy did not have any online course offerings and they plan to continue to offer them and expand offerings in the future. Mr. Garrity reported that there have been 885 enrollments in Hazmat courses including awareness, operations, and technician refresher.

Recent improvements at the Public Safety Training Campus include the installation of an outdoor classroom in the drill tower, installation of a gear extractor and dryer, replacement of a light post in the parking lot, installation of a TV amplifier in the cafeteria, and cleaning of the drafting pit.

Emergency Medical Services

Mr. Brown reported that EMS continues to be involved assisting agencies in sourcing PPE and reporting for potential COVID exposures. The EMS self-reporting form can be used by any first responder in the county and allows for follow up for contact tracing and quarantine following an exposure. Mr. Brown also reported that EMS classes moved to be fully virtual during the pandemic and many classes remain hybrid where possible. In person EMS training is occurring for items that require hands on instruction such as patient care.

Mr. Brown reported that seasonal flu shots continue to be available for first responders and three flu vaccinations were being scheduled at the Public Safety Training Campus, Landsdale EMS, and Second Alarmers EMS. Additionally, EMS is assisting with planning for COVID shots when they become available for both first responders and the general public. Finally, EMS is working with the healthcare coalition to install 800MHz radios in all county hospital Emergency Departments to allow direct communication from field users on the new system.

Public Health

Ms. McDermott reported that the Office of Public Health has continued to be involved with planning for future COVID responses. OPH has also hosted four drive through flu clinics at open POD sites throughout the county.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Zabinski Proposed four 2021 meeting dates for LEPC meetings to be held on February 9, 2021, May 11, 2021, August 10, 2021, and November 9, 2021. Meetings will be held via WebEx for the foreseeable future and can also be run on WebEx simultaneously when back in person. A motion was made by George Dula and Seconded by Tom Garrity to approve the proposed dates for 2021.

Mr. Zabinski reported that there are several positions open on the LEPC. Mr. Zabinski will work with Mr. Wilson to determine potential recommendations for addition to the LEPC to fill the open seats.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

No Comments

NEXT MEETING DATE:

December 8, 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.