



MINUTES OF LEPC MEETING –November 9th, 2021

LOCATION:

Virtual

ATTENDANCE:

LEPC Members:

Steve Wittmer, Jim Fry, Thomas Garrity, James Weller, Mary Newsom, Mike Italia, Megan Young, Erin McDermott, George Dula, Dave Brown

OEP Staff:

Jason Wilson, Brandon Pursell, Bev Stemple, Todd Stieritz

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wittmer called the meeting to order at 1300 hrs. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance. Motion by Bev Stemple to correct minutes by adding of percentage of plans completed. Ms. Stemple made motion to accept 8/10/2021 meeting minutes, motion seconded by Mr. Pursell.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hazardous Materials:

There were **10** calls since the August 10th LEPC Meeting. Most notable calls are the following:

- August 28 – Plymouth Township – Accident on I-476 SB involving tractor trailer hauling mixed load with hazardous materials. After determining the contents of the trailer through shipping papers, it was determined that the hazardous materials were concentrated soda flavoring and high-grade paints and lubricants.
- September 2 – Upper Providence Township – Several fuel oil tanks had become detached from their bases due to high flooding in the area. Due to the high waters, we were unable to contact the tanks or property owners. DEP was notified of oil tanks as we were dispatched.
- September 2 – Plymouth Township – 81 officers were dispatched to a SARA facility along Conshohocken Road that had been flooded out due to high waters from Tropical Storm Ida.
- September 25 – Cheltenham Township – Station 81 dispatched a level 2 response to gas readings inside of a residence. Technicians encountered high LEL readings from inside the property and the storm drains in the street. After notifying Philadelphia water authority,

crews flushed the storm sewer with several thousand gallons of water. Although the chemical was never determined it is assumed that some type of hydrocarbon was dumped down a drain or storm sewer.

There have been **10** trainings since the August 10th:

- August 21 – Air monitoring class which was a regional training hosted by Bucks County
- August 21 – Radiological review conducted in house for our technicians
- September 18 – State recertification exercise
- October 5 – Foam task force training day 1. Presented by Jim Cottrell of Combat Ready Support Products
- October 14 – Limerick Generating Station training for Upper Perkiomen emergency worker decon
- October 16 – Foam task force training day 2. Full scale exercise at Venezia Hauling in Limerick Township. Crews used training foam to test interoperability and capabilities
- October 19 – Limerick Generating Station training for Plymouth reception center
- October 20 – Evaluated exercises at Upper Perkiomen EWD and Plymouth RC. Station 81 personnel assisted with providing expertise on subject matter
- October 28 – One technician attended an LNG Safety and Emergency Response course at the Philadelphia Fire Academy
- November 2 – Blood Borne Pathogens

Other Notes:

On September 18th we successfully completed our PEMA Hazardous Material Team Recertification exercise. We had 22 team members participate in a simulated incident for a 150 pound chlorine cylinder leaking. Mr. Weller asked that a copy of the certification be attached to this meeting's minutes.

SARA Report:

Ms. Stemple stated that up to 4.4 million pounds of EHS has been reported, and she has reviewed about 250 plans which is 92%.

There is a Total of \$122,115.35 in SARA revenue. Of that revenue a total of \$7,525.00 was brought in through credit card payments. To date we have \$26,815.35 in hazmat reimbursement. As of October 29th, there is a total balance of \$1,926,202.47 in the HazMat fund. There are currently 432 facilities that have reported in Montgomery County. There are 147 facilities with payments pending.

Hurricane Ida

The Hurricane Impacted Montgomery County, September 1st, 2021, with record flooding and damage to 17 municipalities. There were 476 dispatched water rescues. The storm included an EF-2 Tornado which caused damage to commercial, public, and residential properties in 3

municipalities. There were 9,034 9-1-1 calls in a 36-hour period. Damage assessment for Individual and Public Assistance was conducted over the week of September 6th and September 13th. This totaled 447 damaged properties with 46 Destroyed, 269 Major, 91 Minor, and 41 Affected classifications. Debris Management Plan was activated—DRC Services mobilized to provide debris clean up services throughout MontCo—DebrisTech Inc. hired as a monitoring firm. A Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) was established at MCIU by MCDPS to start assisting victims and provide temporary housing when needed. MontCo Commissioner’s Office and HHS Office providing temporary housing to 180 households. There was a Presidential Declaration for IA—September 10, for PA—10/20. A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) established at MCCC Blue Bell which resulted in 5,400 registrations. \$8,480,000.00 has been dispersed to County residents for repairs to homes and housing assistance. A mitigation group has been created to look at flooding issues county wide. Mr. Weller noted that residents in Upper Dublin were grateful for phone notifications.

Emergency Management

Mr. Wilson reported that Hurricane Ida impacted Montgomery County, September 1st, 2021, with record flooding and damage to 17 municipalities. There were 476 dispatched water rescues. The storm included an EF-2 Tornado which caused damage to commercial, public, and residential properties in 3 municipalities. There were 9,034 9-1-1 calls in a 36-hour period. Damage assessment for Individual and Public Assistance was conducted over the week of September 6th and September 13th. This totaled 447 damaged properties with 46 Destroyed, 269 Major, 91 Minor, and 41 Affected classifications. Debris Management Plan was activated—DRC Services mobilized to provide debris clean up services throughout MontCo—DebrisTech Inc. hired as a monitoring firm. A Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) was established at MCIU by MCDPS to start assisting victims and provide temporary housing when needed. MontCo Commissioner’s Office and HHS Office providing temporary housing to 180 households. There was a Presidential Declaration for IA—September 10, for PA—10/20. A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) established at MCCC Blue Bell which resulted in 5,400 registrations. \$8,480,000.00 has been dispersed to County residents for repairs to homes and housing assistance. A mitigation group has been created to look at flooding issues county wide. Jim Weller noted that residents in Upper Dublin were grateful for phone notifications.

Joe Anna Haelig has been promoted to Community Resilience Coordinator—filling vacancy left by departure of Tim Elbertson. There are several resignations, the open positions advertised are: Emergency Planning Specialist, Community Resilience, Emergency Planning Specialist, Municipal Planning, and Training and Preparedness Coordinator

Municipal plan reviews are ongoing.

Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Garrity reported that Class 2102 is scheduled for a live graduation ceremony on December 1st at 7:00PM. The 35 students in Class 2103 are nearly finished the Exterior Firefighter course. We are offering a live daytime Haz Mat Operations Refresher class here on November 18th and an online HMOR class on December 6th. The Haz Mat Technician class is running with 17 students in the class. The highest enrollment in years. Online Fire Dynamics is tomorrow evening. Engineering survey of the Burn Building is completed. Auditorium and Conference Room A were painted, new carpeting is installed in Conference Room A and Lutron Lighting controls installed in the Auditorium. To date this year, we have processed 3851 enrollments, run 239 classes (48 Haz Mat) for 1644 students

totaling 40,313 hours of training including 60 virtual classes for 1233 students. And, we have conducted 16 certification tests for 309 candidates.

Public Health

Ms. Young reported that OPH continues to manage COVID-19. There are five county COVID test sites and four vaccine sites in operation.

Media

Mr. Stieritz reports there has been 45 hours of Public Outreach. Elyse Rivera helped deliver a baby which occurred on the Blue Route. The story was on NBC10 and included a facetime with the mother of the baby to thank Dispatcher Rivera. The story will be on national news in December. Additionally, there is a graduate student interning with MCDPS and researching weather history. He will be presenting these findings.

Additional Reports

Mr. Weller is involved with Horsham and Upper Dublin damage assessments and has loaded photos to FEMA. Horsham Air Station is now Biddle Air Base.

NEW BUSINESS:

2022 meeting dates are:

- February 8th, 1300 hours
- May 10th, 1300 hours
- August 9th, 1300 hours
- November 15th, 1300 hours

VISITOR COMMENTS:

None

NEXT MEETING DATE:

February 8th, 1300 hours

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Garrity and seconded by Mr. Weller. Meeting Adjourned at 1327.