

*Kane County  
Local Emergency Planning Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 18, 2010*

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm in the Kane County OEM EOC.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members present – from sign-in:**

Bob Balsamo – South Elgin EMA, Frank Beierlotzer – DeKalb Co. LEPC,  
Don Bryant – KCOEM Director, Dave Carey – W.R. Meadows,  
Randy Deicke – Batavia Fire Department, Deborah Dortmund – KCOEM Administrative Asst. &  
LEPC treasurer, recording secretary & FOIA officer, JoAnn Foley – Sherman Hospital,  
Bill James – FERMI Lab, Sean Madison – KCOEM Deputy Director & USCG Aux Flotilla 41-07,  
Jon Mensching – Carpentersville Fire and LEPC Chairman, Vince Rychtanek – Elgin Fire ( also sitting  
in for John Fahy), David Sweigert – Producers Chemical, Jack Taxis – Rush-Copley Medical Center,  
Chris Weihe – LEPC Contractor, and Marty Wolding – Aurora Fire Department.  
(Bob Usab arrived @ 1:30pm)

**WELCOME:** Everyone was welcomed and asked the group to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTION:** Jon welcomed the new people. Nick Countouris of Kaneville Fire Protection District and KCOEM and Dan Smith of IEMA introduced themselves. We asked Dan to sign in for Lisa Anderson of Region 3.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Deb stated that she received an E-mail from Kathy Allen stating that IEMA would be launching a new program on May 24<sup>th</sup> regarding the notifications when a HAZMAT incident happens. Since Deb is the FOIA Officer and contact for the LEPC, she will be getting the notifications.

In addition, anyone with ideas for training or information for the committee as well as aids in planning please let Deb know. The grant paperwork will be coming out in a little while.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND NOTES:**

Jon asked if everyone has received the e-mailed meeting minutes. As there were no additions, corrections, comments or omissions, Marty moved to approve the previous meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Dave Sweigert. Motion passed by voice vote.

**LEPC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Jon stated he did not have anything specific to discuss.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REPORT:**

Deb stated that when everyone picked up their agenda, the spill report was printed on the reverse. The spills were listed from our last meeting in February to the current meeting. Besides the untreated sewage spilling into the Fox River due to power outages, the latest release of sulfuric acid into the Fox River by people washing out the containers has been the most unusual. (Attachment 1)

Comments: Jon stated that they have a clean-up company (Haz-Chem) working in Carpentersville in a house today trying to remove gasoline. They did not light the house so they are unsure what they were trying to do but there is gasoline all over the floors and in the crawl space.

**LEPC CONTRACTOR'S REPORT:**

Chris presented information in two upcoming events. The first is the Illinois Public Health Emergency Preparedness Summit to be held on June 15 - 17, 2010 at the Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort. (Interested parties may contact the event coordinator at **217-553-5246**.)

The second is the information that Frank Beierlotzer sent to Deb and asked that she forward to everyone last month. Everyone should have received the information in an e-mail earlier in the month. The Hazardous Materials & Rail Tank Car training that DeKalb LEPC is hosting is July 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. (See attachment 2 & 3)

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Education:**

**No Report / No committee**

**Financial:** Deb mentioned the items purchased during the last grant quarter and the items purchased so far this grant quarter. She also asked that everyone think of items to be submitted for next grant year. We have the standard office supplies, education and plan orienting and mailing supplies. Jon asked Dan Smith if IEMA is going to try the on-line registration for the IEMA conference that will automatically credit/deduct it from the LEPC account. There were problems last year but, Dan stated that Kathy may have a better idea of how things will work later.

**Membership subcommittee:**

Membership subcommittee: Vince & Dave Chair: Open

Deb asked Vince if there was anything new with membership. Vince mentioned that the responses of those that have been contacted have not really panned out. What he would like to do is focus in the areas we are having trouble.

Deb stated while at the Midwest conference she and Marty attended a session regarding the required members. It was stated that we can think 'outside the box' and get high school or college media students to attend and write about the LEPC meetings. That would fulfill the media requirement. So we could try ECC, Waubensee, Judson etc. It was suggested that high school year book editors may also be interested.

We also have Nick, who introduced himself earlier. He is an EMT and firefighter and can fill a slot for either of this if needed.

Vince stated that with the economy, it seems that companies are leery to send employees out for things. It was mentioned that even with KCSO, the deputies that would normally be in the office building doing work have been put out on the street.

Jon stated that we have a few target groups that are difficult to keep.

**Planning:**

Planning Committee: Co-Chairs: Sean and Marty.

Marty stated that we will review the plan quickly today.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Midwest Emergency Preparedness and Response Conference.**

Deb, Marty and Dave Carey attended the conference.

Deb stated that she thought that it was rather good conference. There were several presentations that were interesting, the communication presentation, the '6 P's of planning, and the railcar derailment discussion/presentation. She had hoped to gain more information from the grant writing session. Deb also mentioned that she spoke with Kathy (Allen) while at the conference. She received a copy of the Emergency Release Notification Fact Sheet from Kathy. (Attachment 4). It seems a little large for our flip card idea.

Marty stated that there was a lot of good stuff that came out of it. Kathy always has good information. One of the items was that the fire departments DO have access to the State information; all they have to do is request it. The information for the MABAS areas is still a little difficult. If you open up Cook County it opens up all of Cook County. Perhaps it needs to be looked at by townships.

Dave stated he really enjoyed the presentation on the Ethanol tank car spill. The item that stuck out in his mind was that the police department called the railway an hour before the derailment happened and asked them to shut down the line but the information was lost somewhere along the line. The communication breakdown is being looked into.

He went to the HazWhopper training and they showed a video from the CSB (Chemical Safety Board). They have very interesting training videos. (CSB.gov) Once you get to the home page click on the link for videos and select training videos. After the investigation, the CSB actually dissects the incident to see how it happened. They do re-enactments of how it happened.

Jon stated that the CSB has a good video on reduced oxygen in the atmosphere and a building explosion due to a propane leak. They have a lot of current information.

Jon stated that they are to the Chemical world what the NTSB is to the transportation world.

**Review of Minor updates to the plan**

Deb stated that everyone should have received the e-mail with the three proposed changes to the plan. If you did not, they are available on the front table with the cover sheet for the plan. There are only three sentences that need to be looked at. All of the facilities have been updated as mentioned before, with their EHS status and the LEPC members added to the plan.

The sentence changes/additions to the plan are as follows:

Pg 15 in the Basic Plan, under placarded vehicles in lots; the statement below has been added.

In 2010, observation sessions were performed, at the same intersections noted in 2005, resulting in only nominal changes. Similar numbers were counted of regular vehicles and placarded vehicles and similar hazard classifications were observed.

Pg 17 in the Basic Plan, under the tables of Railcar information; the statement below has been added.

In 2010, all available 2009 railroad data was reviewed, the updated data continues to show transportation, in various volumes, of products that fall into all/most of the hazard materials classes.

And on page 20 under the population table the following statement has been added,

Population figures will be updated when the 2010 census information is released.

Discussion:

Chris mentioned he was still working on getting the railroad data. The data was being sent in various formats. He has stated that the railroads are saying that they are no longer going to provide the car loads of material to us. Perhaps it would mean that we need to change the way we report the data. Bob Balsamo asked if it was the railroads telling us what we need to put in our report. Chris stated yes, because of the Department of Homeland security's new restrictions.

Deb asked Dan Smith how this would affect us and our plan with the crosswalk. Dan stated that they could say anything they want but we should go back and have them show us where DHS has said that because DHS has not said that. He states our plan is not public knowledge- From a planning stand point, if you have a rail line going thru the county – there is no point in planning for “X” if “Y” has twice the amount. We are asking for the volume, end result – not the train or which car. If we need the information, ask for it. They are the ones that have to justify that they have gone to DHS and DHS has stated that they do not have to provide it. That information is something we would need to know from a planning standpoint. How much of what stuff is going thru the county.

Deb asked specifically that as the FOIA officer for the LEPC, when they ask for the plan she can redact the information before the plan is given out. That information can still remain confidential but we need it for planning purposes.

Dan stated that first we should get a letter from the Railroads stating that they want the information redacted. Secondly, we should avoid letting them ‘suck us’ into the ‘top 25’ substances. You want to know everything that is going thru the county, not just the top 25.

Example using the fire departments – it makes a difference what foam you buy – it is different for diesel than ethanol.

#### *Additional discussion on data and reformatting the plan*

The sharing of information and what the end use of that information is going to be helps our goal; we are using the data strictly for planning. Anything that is proprietary in nature and in the DHS rules is not open to the public. You can modify the plan so the basic plan itself is generic and then the annexes – which are not open to the public – have the data. The plan itself can be ‘public domain’ but the annexes are not. They are support documents. You can turn most of the current plan into Standard Operating Guidelines which are NOT FOIA-able.

Deb asked about the feasibility of having two separate plans; one for the public and one for the fire departments etc. Dan stated that the plan itself would be a very generic plan and then it will have references to the annexes. Example – all those responding to the incident will follow Standard operating guidelines Kane SG-1.

Jon stated that the format of this plan has been around since the beginning. We have not really looked at it from that aspect. We have not heard this type of information. We have not heard this *take* on things. Perhaps it is time that we take the different studies out of the plan and make them the annexes. The information is still there as supporting documentation but not in the main body of the plan. The hazard analysis tables can be taken from the body of the plan. Jon added that it is time to actually “look” at the plan again and revamp it to address these new issues and a different prospective.

Bob Balsamo suggested that we can state (in the plan) that the data/ information used for planning is confidential.

Dan Smith suggested that we squeeze the railroads for more information and then revamp things to put the data in tables outside the main plan; in annexes. If the railroads do not want to tell us *how much* of that substance they are sending thru the county then we should at least get them to tell us *what* they are transporting through the county. This will ensure that we are prepared or have at least planned for the chemicals that are going through the county. (In the event something happens and we are not prepared for it, the media will not be kind. “Why didn’t you plan for that” and we answer “because we didn’t know” – but “did you ask” and we reply “they would not tell us.”)

Further comments:

Deb stated that there were just a few other issues. Friday when she returned to the office from the (Midwest LEPC) conference, she downloaded the State Tier 2 information and uploaded it into our CAMEO and then verified it against what we have. The following week was spent going thru all the filers and making sure what we have and what the State has is correct and making sure everything in the plan was updated and correct for the facilities. The State record and our records have a little conflict, the numbers did not match. Our data shows 273 facilities listed, the State shows 270 active facilities. She believes that she knows what one of the issues is. There are still some places that she knows are around that did not report like the Home Depot in South Elgin on Randall. Also, our records show 216 facilities with EHS while the state shows only 171. The number of facilities with EHS is part of how are grant funds are allocated. She said she has to go back and review that data. Another issue could be some of the water treatment facilities that have reported in the past, but are not any longer. Are they all exempt? Are/were they reporting as a courtesy? Once the problems are resolved, the info will be shared with Kathy Allen.

Everyone has the three changes to the plan. Those changes need to be adopted.

Bob Balsamo made the motion to adopt the change presented. Dave Carey seconded the motion. The motion was passed via voice vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Update in the Chempack training**

JoAnne Foley gave a brief update on the Chempack issue discussed at the last meeting.

The drill was done outside the county, but inside the medical region at Alexian Medical Center in Elk Grove Village.

The scenario for this was nerve agents, neurotoxins & antidotes.

They wanted to see how long it would take them to get the antidote to / within Kane County?

And they needed to look at how quickly the antidotes could make it to the scene from the 2 secure caches. Regulations state they can not release the locations of the secure caches.

The exercise showed that the Chempack could be moved/ mobilized in 35 minutes, plus the ETA to the scene. They will repeat the drill in Division 2 at a future date.

They learned that the level 1 Hazmat teams do carry antidotes; Mark 1 kits (nerve agent antidote kits). They also learned there is not a lot of education/training or information on this (the Chempack).

As a result of this exercise, they are developing a training program for the EMS systems. Once that is done it will go out to the EMS coordinators for them to customize for their area.

### **IEMA conference –**

We have one more meeting before the IEMA conference, which is in September. But Deborah asks that if you would please look at your schedules and let her know early so we can get the registration done early etc.

Dan Smith stated that there is something for everyone at the conference. Also, with the economy the way that it is, the housing will be first come – first serve. Once those rooms are gone – they are gone and you are on your own. Therefore early registration is the way to go so you do not get disappointed. There will NOT be a golf outing this year.

**2010 IEMA Conference**

**September 7-9, 2010**

**More details to follow**

## **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Dan Smith thanked everyone for giving up their time to come to the meeting. This is an important function and sometimes we forget how important. In THE early 80's you would hear about the hazardous material incidents that would kill several people. We do not see that anymore thanks to people like you and everything that has come to pass.

Now, with all the new equipment the hazmat teams have acquired and the procedures that have changed, you really need to look at the plan with a very critical eye. You cannot get complacent.

There is a lot of stuff out there you now have available to you. You need to ask yourself – “are we doing what we are supposed to? Does this cover all the bases?” We are all in this together. Mr. Smith again thanked everyone for their time.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting is **Tuesday August 11** at 1:00 PM at the Kane County EOC.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Marty Wolding made the motion to adjourn and Don Bryant seconded. Meeting adjourned 2:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Dortmund  
KCOEM Administrative Assistant  
LEPC Recording Secretary & Treasurer

***Summary of Motions***

1. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes.
2. Acceptance of the addition of the three statements to the 2010 LEPC plan.
3. Acceptance of the motion to adjourn.

***Summary of Attachments***

1. Spill report 2/2010 – 5/17/2010
2. Hazardous Materials & Rail Tank Car Training information From DeKalb County LEPC pg 1
3. Hazardous Materials & Rail Tank Car Training information From DeKalb County LEPC pg 2
4. Emergency Release Notification Fact Sheet