

TO: Deer Park CAER/LEPC Team

2-178

SUBJECT: Minutes of March 24, 2015 - Hosted by the City of Deer Park

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman James Stokes called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Self introductions were given by April Mack Steger of Center for Toxicology & Environmental Health (CTEH) and Felton Greer of Texas Molecular. Chairman Jay Stokes introduced Kristen Edwards, Public Relations/Marketing Specialist for the City of Deer Park.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON LEPC MISSION/FUNCTION

No comments were received.

PRESENTATION

Chairman Stokes introduced Francisco Sanchez of Harris County Homeland Security, Emergency Public Information Officer. Mr. Sanchez gave an overview of the roles of Harris County as it pertains to public information and how Harris County would respond to incidents and to get resources as needed. Mr. Sanchez highlighted communications with the public; the joint information center process; getting accurate messages out to other jurisdictions on social media at the right time, and chemicals related to hazardous materials.

David Wade of Harris County commented, "There have been concerns in the past with media getting information released on the notification systems. I want to reemphasize, we do not give that information out. The notification content that we receive is held internally as situational awareness, because we need to know what's going on. I would like to plead with the group that you all put the County on your Level 1 incidents. A lot of the companies do not have the County on the Level 1 incidents. It helps us if you are flaring because elected officials may be calling or someone on Highway 225 and Beltway 8 sees smoke from the Channel and will want to know what is burning or what blew up, so we can inform them of the situation. I want to reassure you that we do not release information to the media. We have been accused in the past and I want to make it clear that we do not release information to the media."

Scott Green of Lubrizol asked Mr. Sanchez to elaborate on his role if there was a large incident and how the multi-jurisdiction would be organized and how this area compares to other places around the country that have similar scenarios to which Mr. Sanchez commented, "The relationships are better here in Southeast Harris County than anywhere I have ever seen. I don't know what the challenges to the partnership or trust are. Multi jurisdiction events are complex. Even with the best relationships they can be challenging. As long as, the coordination and the partnerships and relationships are happening on the small stuff and on a daily basis, it makes it very easy when an incident happens. That's why the drills are important."

Chuck Wolf of Media Consultants commented, "Deer Park has done full scale exercises and Sandra Watkins who is the Public Information Officer (PIO) for the City, has always set up a Joint Information Center (JIC) and invited outside partners to participate. I would encourage the chemical plants members of the LEPC to make sure your PIO takes advantage of free training that is available on how to be part of a JIC, because you don't want to learn those functions on the day of an incident. So, take advantage of the free training, join the PIO Network and come to the Harris County JIC meetings if you are in that role."

Mr. Hemminger commented, "We received immediate notification on E-Notify, so good job on being trained in getting out the notification."

Shannon Bennett reported for Tracie Copeland, Community Awareness Subcommittee Chair:

Totally Texas – "The 2015 Totally Texas Festival will be April 11th and Deer Park LEPC will participate with a booth. A sign-up sheet is being passed around for volunteers."

Scott Greene, Emergency Response/Transportation Subcommittee Chair, reported:

2015 Drill – "The 2015 Drill has been postponed. Robert Hemminger has only been here a month and a change in the drill scenario has occurred. It will be in the Fall. The drill will focus on EOC training for the City's EOC personnel as there have been a number of transitions of responsibility."

NEW BUSINESS

Approval and Adoption of Deer Park LEPC Rules – Robert Hemminger advised the members of the process of adopting the LEPC rules. The proposed rules were recommended by the EPA for LEPC's to govern the organization.

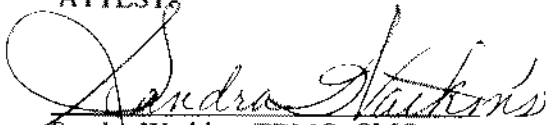
Chuck Wolf of Media Consultants commented, "Up until now, Sandra Watkins has only posted agendas and minutes for the full LEPC. One of the requirements says, the subcommittees will also prepare agendas and minutes and should be posted as a regular agenda."

Motion was made by Robert Hemminger and seconded by Danny Rouen to approve the Deer Park LEPC Rules. Motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be April 28, 2015 (4th Tuesday) at Deer Park City Hall.

ATTEST:


Sandra Watkins, TRMC, CMC
Secretary/Treasurer

APPROVED:


James Stokes
Chairman