

**TO:** Deer Park CAER/LEPC Team

13-160

**SUBJECT:** Minutes of August 23, 2016 - Hosted by the City of Deer Park

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman James Stokes called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Self introductions were given by Gilbert Cantu of Hexion, Donnie Bell of Shell, Lucas Hilbrich of Shell, Clifton Ferrell of Vopak, Gary Sterkel of ITC, Tommy Hysler, Cami Siewers and Sylvia Boatright of the Houston Area Safety Council.

### **PRESENTATION**

Norma Hysler introduced the speaker, Tommy Hysler, MD, MPH of the Houston Area Safety Council (HASC). Tommy Hysler, Chief Medical Officer of the HASC provided the history of HASC and gave an overview of the training and trends in the Occupational Health field in which companies are moving towards. Mr. Hysler highlighted three topics that are trending in Occupational Health and Medicine field which are drug testing, functional capacity (testing to identify preexisting diseases and illness) and injury care. The Houston Area Safety Council's mission statement is, "Building Safer Work Places." Over one million safety classes or units of training are offered each year. Mr. Hysler briefly touched on what facilities the HASC could offer the LEPC in case of an emergency event in our area.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON LEPC MISSION/FUNCTION (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)**

There were no comments.

### **MINUTES**

Motion was made by George Tullgren and seconded by Rick Anorga to accept the minutes for June 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Motion was made by Rick Anorga and seconded by Kevin Rodgers to accept the financial report for June and July 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Jay Stokes, Executive Committee Chair, reported:** "We have information regarding the TCEQ Grant Opportunity, so I'll turn it over to Robert to explain."

**TCEQ LEPC Grant-** Robert Hemminger Deer Park Emergency Management Coordinator and Deer Park LEPC Communications Subcommittee Chair reminded the members of the grant mentioned in June's meeting and explained the grant application is due to the TCEQ by the end of August. The Executive Committee reviewed the suggested projects and decided to bring it before the members to further review the projects and ask if there were any more suggestions. He briefly touched on each project and allowed for comments. However, the Executive Committee has prioritized the list on behalf of the LEPC. He explained that grant monies are basically from Tier II fees received by the TCEQ. The list is quite lengthy, but we're hoping to receive some if not all grant monies to cover these needs.

Motion was made by Robert Hemminger to authorize the Executive Committee to submit a grant application of project ideas in prioritized order that the Executive Committee suggests on behalf of the LEPC and seconded by Rick Anorga. Motion carried unanimously.

**Appointment of Emergency Response/Transportation Committee Chair** – Jay Stokes, Chairman commented, “We’re not actually making an appointment today, but we wanted everyone to know that Stephen Greco who served in that capacity for the past couple of years, is no longer available to do that. If anyone has an interest in that, would you please let me, Robert Hemminger, Shannon Bennett, Chris Hext, or Norma Hysler know. We very much need someone to fill that role. We may have to tap on a shoulder or two if necessary. I just wanted to let it be known that there is a need to have that role filled and if you have any interest at all, please let us know.”

**Robert Hemminger, Communications Subcommittee Chair, reported:**

Robert Hemminger commented, “There are a few level two and level threes since we’ve had a couple of months since our last meeting.

Gary Sterkel of ITC reported, “On July 8th, there was a railcar spill, ERT responded. The incident was submitted as a Level two. It stayed on site and was a lube oil clean up.”

Mr. Hemminger gave a reminder to everyone to include chemical names on E-Notify. It’s not necessary for the CAER Line.

Donnie Bell, Environmental Supervisor of Shell commented, “On July 15<sup>th</sup>, there was a metering skid from a pipeline. The leak itself was very minor. It was a plug that wasn’t tightened, but it had been leaking long enough to form a pretty large ice ball, so the ice ball itself was emitting vapors. The chemical released was 1,3 Butadiene and it lasted a couple of hours. It was tightened up and stopped. A very good response.”

Mr. Hemminger commented, “Later in July we had some fire water that went out into the Houston Ship Channel. We don’t have much that we have to talk about here, but I’ll use it to point out that even when it’s not a hazardous chemical. It’s good to use E-Notify to let people know that something is going on. Using E-Notify is not limited to it’s a hazard to the community or we need to Shelter in Place. It’s the way we notify the LEPC that something is going on. When the TCEQ or EPA comes in to check on those RQ Reports we have good documentation that it was submitted and acknowledged by the LEPC through that same E-Notify system. Shell also had a couple of oil sheens.”

Mr. Bell commented, “It was just from rainwater run-off. A lot of that area comes through some process units and a little bit of sheen came out with the regular run-off of the water. We did trap it with a boom and it didn’t impact the ship channel. It was very minimal. The other was a dumpster fire. It was no problem.”

Mr. Hemminger thanked Shell for their good communications and asked Clifton Ferrell with Vopak for the report regarding an incident on a ship at their dock.

Clifton Ferrell, of Vopak reported, “On July 14<sup>th</sup>, we had a vessel at our dock that was discharging benzene into one of our tanks. They were also doing tank to tank transfers on their vessel at the same time. Those activities caused a pressure differential to build up on their ship and benzene came out of a pipe vent on the ship. Our PIC on the dock noticed the issue and tried to contact the PIC person in charge on the vessel. It took us six minutes to get a response from the person on the vessel to shut down their operations and so there was benzene coming out of the vent pipe for roughly six minutes. The initial report to us was that everything was contained on the ship’s deck, so we issued a level two at that time. Whenever our Response Team was able to review the video and go out to the dock to look at the activity, we noticed a sheen in the water and we issued a level three at that time. We dispatched some people to the State Park to the Battleship to go up and do some air monitoring. We did have some detectable benzene from our air monitors, so we issued a Shelter in Place for the Park. We estimate about 500

gallons of benzene was released during that activity, about 50 gallons made its way into the ship channel. We had a response from the Coast Guard, the Port of Houston and the General Land Office. The all clear was issued about two hours after the initial release was discovered.”

Robert Hemminger commented, “It started out as a relatively small incident. A good opportunity there, a level two moved to a level three. We talked with Clifton and some others at Vopak just about the communication, making sure that we have that good, constant communication into the City so that we could make good decisions or offer support. In this case, the State Park police were there on site to help evacuate the Battleship side of the State Park.”

Scott Triebes of the Texas Parks and Wildlife commented, “It was awhile before we were notified of the incident. Vopak was already on site and had contacted our Peace Officer. I actually put in the Shelter in Place to advise our people. Vopak was down contacting the Park’s contractors that were working next to the ship channel, which was probably more immediate. I think it could have been a little quicker contact.”

Clifton Ferrell with Vopak commented, “We got some similar comments at the Deer Park Community Advisory Council meeting last night, so we’ve scheduled a meeting for Friday to go over that with the Park’s shareholders.”

**Norma Hysler, Community Awareness Subcommittee Chair, reported:**

**2017 Calendar** – “Deer Park will be celebrating its’ 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017 and we’re currently working on the calendar that will reflect the history of Deer Park. The front cover will be the City’s 125<sup>th</sup> logo.”

**Salute to Education/Hot Zone** - “At the Salute to Education booth, we had three to four hundred people visit our booth. The Hot Zone will be on October 20<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup>. We’ll be emailing the sign-up sheet for those that haven’t signed up, your participation is needed.”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Buddy Rice, Fire Marshal announced that October is coming up and Fire Prevention Week begins with our parade on October 8<sup>th</sup>. We’ll be sending some things around to the LEPC’s to get your fire brigades out, even to drive a fire truck through our parade. We’ll be sending the information out to the LEPC and individuals as well. Put October 8<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. We’ll be having a parade here in downtown Deer Park.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on September 27<sup>th</sup>, October 25<sup>th</sup> and November 29<sup>th</sup> the last one for the calendar year. Meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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Shannon Bennett, TRMC  
Acting Secretary/Treasurer

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James Stokes  
Chair

