



Dallas County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Virtual Minutes of the General Meeting

April 26, 2021

Virtual Meeting Host/Location:

Dallas County Homeland Security & Emergency Management, 2121 Panoramic Circle, Dallas, TX 75212. A meeting agenda was posted and the proper public notice was given in advance of the meeting.

Virtual Meeting Attendees:

Bernardo Salazar, Matthew Miller, Lisa Tatum, Scott Tarzwell, Adrian Lamar Grass, Alisha Gimbel, Ann Ratliff, Blake White, Brandi Lara, Charles Cavnor, Chase Wheeler, CJ Holt, D. Scully, Damara Winfrey, Daniel Ringhauser, David McCarty, Denisse Martinez, Doug Bass, Gene Paul, George Jones, Joshua Treistman, Kevin Dodge, Lauren Sanchez, Lauren Trimble, Lisa Brown, Melvin Cirilo, Molly McFadden, R. Savoy, Richard Esparza, Richard Woods, Rob Monaghan, Steven Bellew, Will Paiz-Tabash, Zane Kennedy, and many more attendees who joined us via phone line.

Minutes Approval:

A motion to approve the minutes for January 25, 2021, was made by Mr. Chase Wheeler (City of Grand Prairie) and seconded by David McCarty (Parkland Hospital) the minutes were approved as written by unanimous consent of the members present.

Meeting Minutes:

Watson Grinding Explosion, Blake White – Industrial Liaison for Harris County

The presentation started with a brief history of the Houston area's petrochemical industry, which is now the largest in the world and number one in the country for water-borne tonnage. There are 9000 miles of pipeline that come through the county. A brief overview of the neighborhood covered the construction of the Watson Grinding facility in 1972 and the lack of residential land use during its construction. Eventually, the current community grew close to the facility due to a lack of zoning regulations. The Watson Grinding explosion occurred early in the morning when most residents were home, which contributed to many injured and loss of life due to the facility's proximity. Communication dispatch issues led to 50 Houston Police Department units arriving on-scene. When responders reviewed Watson Grinding's chemical information, they found argon, nitrogen, and oxygen but nothing for propylene – the cause of the explosion. Mr. White then concluded the presentation with a discussion on the limitations of the TIER II data and the need for supplemental information like emergency response plans and safety data sheets during the response.

Q: This is Charles Cavnor. I had a question. First of all, great presentation, thank you. So my question would be, how does Houston fire actually pull up Tier two reports to actually use that information and route?

A: When it comes to when you say in Houston fire as far as suppression firefighters, they do not have that capability. I when I left, they could not pull up tier two. And a lot of that was due to our, I think, CAD system was a little antiquated.

TIER II Analysis – Denisse Martinez- DCHSEM Intern

Denisse started with a quick summary of the federal regulations governing the TIER II program and followed it with an overview of TIER II facilities in Dallas County. One of the biggest challenges to working with the TIER II report is the data quality. For this reason, Bernardo and Denisse developed a TIER II completeness score to provide a quick snapshot of the facilities' data completeness. As of April 2, 2021, one thousand two hundred and forty facilities submitted their reports to TCEQ and Dallas County with seven thousand eight hundred and four chemicals reported. Forty-five percent did not have a CAS number, and forty-nine percent did not have an average daily amount. Regarding facility contact information: forty percent reported four or more contacts - the required state minimum. Thirty-two percent reported three contacts; twenty-three percent reported two and, five percent reported one contact.

For reported location coordinates, sixty-two percent of facilities reported a correct location. Denisse then discussed the regrouping of chemicals by weight and hazards. For weight groups, DC HSEM classified chemicals into three categories:

- Chemicals weighing less than fifty thousand pounds
- Chemicals weighing between fifty thousand and one million pounds
- Chemicals weighing more than one million pounds

Chemical hazard groups include the following: Toxic Inhalation Hazards (TIH), Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHS), Fuels, Flammable and Explosive, Non-Flammable Non-EHS, and Batteries. Two percent of chemicals were in the TIH hazard group, nine percent in the EHS group, fifteen percent in the Fuels group, fifteen percent in the Flammable and Explosive group, forty-seven in the Non-Flammable Non-EHS, and twelve percent in the Batteries group.

Q: [Charles Cavnor] I love the idea of the completion score. I think they are kind of like a snapshot of where we are collectively as Dallas County. What plans do we have to work with TCEQ and get this information out to businesses that report their TIER IIs to help improve the data quality?

A: Currently, we don't have any plans, but it's something to keep in mind in the future. If we can have TCEQ work with businesses and emphasize the importance of accurate data.

LEPC Updates:

The Dallas County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has 20 Emergency Response Guidebooks (ERGs) left if Dallas County emergency managers need any.

Subcommittee Updates:

The Hot Zone conference, which is the HAZMAT conference, was canceled last year due to COVID, but it'll be back in person this year in October.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Bernardo Salazar, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by

Denisse Martinez, Office Support Clerk Assistant II, Dallas County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management.