



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

April 25, 2022

Meeting Host/Location:

Grand Prairie Police-Fire Building, 1525 Arkansas Lane, Grand Prairie, TX 75052. A meeting agenda was posted, and the proper public notice was given in advance of the meeting.

Meeting Attendees:

Adam Traylor, Andy Medina, Bernardo Salazar, Brad Trefz, Brian Ross, Chase Wheeler, Damara Winfrey, Denisse Martinez, Ervin Taylor, Gene Paul, Jacob Hempstead, Jean Carleton, John Howard, Lauren Sanchez, Lauren Trimble, Leopoldo Cacho, Lisa T Brown, Mason Harness, Michael Walker, Michaela Sandefer, Nadia Avalos, Phyllis Jones, Rachel Rueda, Rigoberto Crispin, Rob Medford, Sandra Long, Scott Greeson.

Meeting:

Bernardo Salazar introduces the first speaker, Lt. Hempstead from Irving Hazmat. Lt. Hempstead was asked to discuss challenges and obstacles in revamping Irving's Hazmat team. COVID-19 was a major challenge for the team as in-person training opportunities were postponed or canceled due to social distancing requirements. Limited training opportunities affected new team members brought in to replace members lost to retirement and other turnover. To address this issue, Irving Hazmat identified areas needing improvement to meet the team's training goals over the next three years. For example, all team members currently possess Hazmat Technician certifications, but the new training goals would increase the team's capability to a Type 2 Hazmat Team. In addition, Irving Hazmat has reached out to TIER II facilities to coordinate trainings and receive information whenever facilities conduct their exercises. Lt. Hempstead is also working closely with Robert Medford to identify and apply for grants that will upgrade equipment and request funds for local and out-of-state training opportunities.

Bernardo Salazar thanked Lt. Hempstead and introduced the next speaker:

Phyllis Jones from Zep Manufacturing. Director Jones provides a brief background on Zep Inc, headquartered in Atlanta, GA, that started as a janitorial company and later grew into a large chemical manufacturer, distributor, and warehouse company. The Desoto facility employs 50 people handling over 5,000 SKUs on a daily normal operating process. The facility also receives small and large quantities of raw materials, and employees continually train on a weekly, monthly, and annual basis on appropriate response to chemical spills and fires. Training includes information on how to report and give as much information as possible; provide CPR; and not move injured persons unless there's an

imminent threat to life. Flipcharts, Spill Kits, and Safety Data Sheets placed across the facility help employees quickly deal with small non-hazardous spills. In the event of a large chemical spill, the facility relies on its onsite Respond Team to communicate with first responders from Desoto Police and Fire. Director Jones discussed plans to reestablish regular tabletop exercises with Desoto Police and Fire after two years of COVID.

Bernardo Salazar thanked Director Jones and introduced the final speaker:

Brad Trefz from Texas A&M Transportation Institute. Mr. Trefz was invited to discuss Commodity Flow Studies and how LEPCs can use these to inform plans, recommendations, trainings, and when applying for grants. In Texas, the Texas Department of Emergency Management plans to fund Commodity Flow Studies through the Hazmat Preparedness Program. The grant application for 2022 opens on July 1st and closes on August 31, 2022. Commodity Flow Studies look at where the Hazardous Materials are moving across communities and primarily focus on trucks due to the lack of data available. LEPCs can feed Commodity Flow Studies into their Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) projects to help reduce uncertainty about materials passing through their communities. Commodity Flow Studies are also useful to Fire Departments and can be used to inform training opportunities, develop exercises, and secure funding to upgrade equipment for chemicals identified. Overall, Commodity Flow Studies are valuable to LEPCs that can turn information into action by supporting the creation of Emergency Response Plans and identifying protective areas of concern. Working with LEPCs, researchers typically identify five to seven locations where data will be collected. Once these locations are identified, a research team will safely gather truck count and chemical placard information from the side of the road to get a snapshot of Hazardous Materials flowing on the roadway. The Commodity Flow Study grant starts after TDEM selects an application and then creates a contract for the study. Data collection starts after a Kickoff Meeting with stakeholders with a completed date of September 30, 2023. More information about the grant can be found on the TDEM Technological Hazards website.

Bernardo Salazar provided updates on the 2021 TIER II reporting period, ongoing work with LEPC partners, GIS Fire Station data, and upcoming grant opportunities. During the 2021 TIER II reporting period, facilities with known location errors were asked to make corrections in their 2021 reports. Facilities failing to comply with the request were forwarded to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for a deficiency correction notice. The project intended to provide better TIER II data to Emergency Managers and First Responders. Working with Hazmat teams in Dallas County, Mr. Salazar created a survey to assess team capabilities for Dallas, Richardson, Grand Prairie, and Irving. Additional projects included training on accessing TIER II reports using STEERS and importing the data CAMEO Data Manager. For the July LEPC meeting, Dallas County and Tarrant County plan on conducting a joint LEPC meeting with speakers and topics yet to be determined, but Emergency Managers are encouraged to submit ideas and topics. Mr. Salazar briefly discussed a small GIS project involving the collection of Fire Station responsibility districts to help connect TIER II facilities to their appropriate station. Finally, Dallas County LEPC plans on applying for a Commodity Flow Study in July and is aware of upcoming grants from the TCEQ.

Emergency Management updates:

Lisa Tatum Brown, Planning Section Chief, provided updates on behalf of the Dallas County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, which primarily consisted of upcoming workshops and training. The trainings will cover topics such as Disaster Recovery, Cyber Security, and Domestic Violence Extremism. A document with course information and dates will be sent out to Dallas County Emergency Managers.

Bernardo Salazar opened the floor for public discussion, and without any comments or question, the meeting was adjourned at 2:57pm.

Submitted by:

Bernardo Salazar, Hazardous Material Planner, Dallas County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management.