



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

July 17, 2023

Meeting Host/Location:

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

Meeting Attendees:

James R. Pogue, Rigoberto Crispin, John Hower, Jon Berry, Lauren Sanchez, Ervin Taylor, Brian Chamberlin, Jennifer Dunn, Colin Willingham, Cindy C. Triplett, Andy Medina, Erin Buttitta, Billy Gipson, Elliott Reep, Sandra Long, Josh Velasquez, Nadia Avalos, Madison Sims, Laura Sifuentes, Richard Faulkner, Joshua Tincopa, Todd Sellars, Mason Harness, Addison Holes, Rachel Rueda, Olivia Holdsworth, Maricarmen Palomares, Chad Johnston, Gene Paul, Amber Gardner, Scott T Forster, Matt Lamunion, Adam Traylor, Aaron Wallace, Lauren Trimble, Taylor Conti, Jordan Serrano, Melissa Rascon, Ryan Steel

Meeting:

Chair, Denisse Martinez opens the meeting and brings the first order to business. She introduces Rachel Rueda. Rachel proceeds for approval of the May 22, 2023, meeting minutes. She gives the audience a few minutes to review. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lauren Sanchez and seconded by Adam Traylor. The minutes were approved as written by unanimous consent of the members present.

Denisse Martinez introduces the LEPC guest speakers, Jennifer Dunn & Chad Johnston. Jennifer starts the first presentation about the National Weather Service (NWS) and gives some background while also explaining what modeling capabilities and limited hazardous material support the organization can provide. Legacy Chat NWS August 1 is when it moves to version 2.0, those that got the email are encouraged to sign up.

Jennifer then gives a quick explanation of the Hy split which the NWS uses to make a plume model for known and unknown chemicals so long as other variables can be given. If material is radiological or biological in nature; then some level of modeling projection success can still be achieved. However, if it's a known chemical, then NWS will collect more information using Cameo and Aloha to make a plume model. Then send back to the requester usually by email, however typically the model will not be sent as a PDF so a moving map can be presented. While NWS are not chemical experts, they can assist with modeling requests to get the process going so first responders and emergency management officials have an idea of what to expect. Usually, requests have a 15-to-20-minute turn around for a response

from NWS unless there is about to be a new weather update that could affect the plume modeling.

Denisse introduces next guest; Chad Johnston is from Cyber-Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) an agency that focuses on risk management with critical infrastructure. During the presentation the topic was on the chemical sector which is 1 of 16 sectors that focuses on critical infrastructure. CISA heavily relies upon building relationships with these different facilities in the chemical sector because different organizations define terms regarding critical infrastructure. While some of the terminology might be different; the goal of CISA when working with these organizations is to ensure key concepts are shared with stakeholders when dealing with critical infrastructure, resilience, risk, and partnerships.

Chad gives examples how CISA is trying to develop more cyber physical services to address growing concerns in the future and physical impacts that some organizations have already suffered from. CISA has multiple tools to enhance security for organizations not just a security report, one example is a dashboard to build different scenarios to test capabilities of an organization and better visualization of the data. In Addition, CISA built out the CHEMLOCK program to address those facilities under tier 4 and help manage them more effectively. Looked to deliver resources to these different tiered facilities that should have been getting resources but weren't. Which is why CHEMLOCK became a focus for CISA. Tier 5-9 gets all the CHEMLOCK services. Only things not available on the on-site security assessments is to the CFAT for level 1-4 facilities. Reason for that is the chemical security inspectors are required to do regulatory assessments on facilities 1-4. Protective Security advisors cannot provide those services from tier 1 to tier 4.

Chad gave an example of ransomware as a cybersecurity threat and how impactful it could be, and how it ties back into risk management. While reminding how the chemical sector is heavily interdependent on other sectors and how those links could be exposed by bad actors seeking to harm or phishing for information to exploit later. Chad Points out the free cyber resilience review tool from CISA and encourages everyone in the room to check it out. While CISA does offer 8 different levels of cyber security services, the two which are recommended for everyone in attendance was the vulnerability scanning and phishing campaign to test any organizations cyber security capabilities. Chad thanks everyone for their time and to contact CISA if there are any future questions.

Voting

After the presentations, a vote is held to fill the two open positions in the LEPC. The open positions are the vice-chair which Josh Tincopa is running unopposed and secretary; the two people running are Laura Sifuentes and Colin Willingham. After the voting period concludes the count is Josh Tincopa running for vice-chair with 30 votes; and for Secretary: Laura 24 votes; Colin for 6 votes. The winners are Josh Tincopa and Laura Sifuentes for the July 17, 2023, LEPC election.

Public Comments

There are new people at this LEPC, so introductions are made. Denisse asks for a motion to end the meeting. Elliot Reep and Lauren Sanchez motion to end the meeting. No comments were made once this presentation had concluded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:44pm.

Submitted by:

Richard Faulkner, Office Support Clerk II, Dallas County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.