



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

**April 15, 2024**

### **Meeting Host/Location:**

Fire Admin and Training Building in Garland, TX; 1500 State Highway 66, Garland, TX 75040. A meeting agenda was posted, and the proper public notice was given in advance of the meeting.

### **Meeting Attendees:**

Nadia Avalos, Jose Enrique Araiza, Aaron Bouchard, Erin Buttitta, Brian M. Chamberlin, Jeremiah Coleman, Taylor Conti, Che Costa, Rigoberto Crispin, Jason Earll, Ray Feagins, Scott T. Forster, Samuel Friar, John Genuise, John Geurian, David Gifford, Addison Holmes, CJ Holt, Brad Kavanaugh, Brandon Knapp, Matt LaMunion, Sandra Long, Matthew Martin, Keith Miller, John Nelson, Luke Parten, John Patterson, Yulandor Plater, Maricarmen Palomares Garcia, Roy Porras, Elliott Reep, Cathy Riley, John Wise, Julie Winkler

### **Meeting:**

- Chair, Denisse Martinez opens the meeting and brings the first order of business.
- Chair introduces Secretary, Laura Sifuentes. Secretary proceeds to seek approval of the February 12, 2024, meeting minutes.
  - A motion to approve the minutes was made by Elliott Reep and seconded by Luke Parten. The minutes were approved as written by unanimous consent of the members present.
- Chair introduces Barb Fox and Jason Earll from the Texas Department of Insurance-Division of Workers' Safety (TX-OHSA) to talk about the TX OSHA Consultation Program.
  - What is **Texas – OSHCON Safety & Health Program**?
    - In Texas, private employers with one or more employees are required to follow OSHA's rules, regulations, and standards.
    - Not covered under the OSH Act:
      - public sector (state and local governments)
      - self-employed;
      - immediate family members of farm employers; and

- workplace hazards regulated by another federal agency (for example, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the Department of Energy, or the Coast Guard)
- No-cost confidential Occupational Safety and Health Consultation (OSHCON) Program designed to help small, private sector Texas employers understand and comply with Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) standards.
- OSHCON consultants help Texas employers understand their roles and responsibilities and become more compliant with OSHA standards.
  - OSHCON Consultants:
    - are employees of the Texas Department of Insurance - Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI - DWC), not Federal OSHA;
    - are NOT Federal OSHA enforcement activities;
    - OSHCON consultation services are at no-cost and are confidential;
    - do not issue citations; and
    - do not assess fines.
  - OSHA Consultation Program (OSHCON) offers no-cost confidential help for Texas businesses.
  - OSHCON Consultants help with the following:
    - Help you find, reduce and remove safety and health hazards
    - Help you with your safety and health written programs
    - Provide hands-on training
    - Provide air sampling
    - Provide noise monitoring
    - Help you understand OSHA standards
    - Help you with your OSHA 300/300A and injury/illness recordkeeping logs
- Most Frequently Cited OSHA General Industry Violations:
  - Reporting Serious Injuries
  - OSH Act of 1970-General Duty Clause
  - Eyewash

- Unobstructed Exit Routes
- Electrical - Approvals
- Electrical – Strain Relief
- Storage of Materials
- Housekeeping
- Written Hazard Communication Program
- Respiratory Fit Test
- Electrical – Unused Openings
- The Workplace Safety Resource Center offers a listing of more than 1,000 links to safety videos, hosted mainly on YouTube, by government, educational, and safety organizations.
- Connect with OSHCON:
  - Jason Earll – Texas OSHCON Safety Consultant  
jason.earll@tdi.texas.gov / 800.252.7031 x32571
  - OSHCON Website: txoshcon.com
  - Call OSHCON to request virtual or on-site OSHA compliance help or to ask safety and health questions 800.252.7031 Option 2
  - Email OSHCON - [oshcon@tdi.Texas.gov](mailto:oshcon@tdi.Texas.gov)
- Chair introduces John Patterson from the City of Dallas OEM to talk about the City of Dallas Outdoor Sirens and their uses.
  - Outdoor Warning System (OWS)...Not Just for Severe Weather Anymore
    - City Of Dallas OWS: 178 Sirens
    - Activate the OWS for the following:
      - Tornado Warning
      - Winds >70 mph sustained
      - Hail > 1.5"
      - Other
    - Should a hazardous materials release occur, the OWS is just one tool in our toolbox. We would also use the following:
      - Rave Alert (IPAWS)

- Social Media
- Broadcast Media
- Intended outcome of activating the OWS is to get people inside and seek more information.
- Limitation include:
  - Reliant upon other tools to get information out
  - Widespread coverage: Will the OWS warn the correct individuals?
  - We must properly educate residents on the use of OWS during HAZMAT incident.

**Public Comments:**

- Secretary Laura Sifuentes asked for a motion to end the meeting. A motion was made by Maricarmen Palomares Garcia and seconded by Julie Winkler. No comments were made once this presentation had concluded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.

**Submitted by:**