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

August 12, 2024

Meeting Host/Location:

Grand Prairie Public Safety Building in Grand Prairie, TX; 1525 Arkansas Ln, Grand Prairie, TX 75052. A meeting agenda was posted, and the proper public notice was given in advance of the meeting.

Meeting Attendees:

Aaron Bouchard, Addison Holmes, Amanda Livingston, Anwar Johnson, Antoine Howard, Armando Garza, Brad Kavanaugh, Brian Chamberlin, Brian Chamberlin, Chase Wheeler, Christopher Babina, Clarke Novak, David Gifford, Erin Buttitta, Jay Johnson, Jason Payne, John Genuise, John Nelson, John Ross, Julie Winkler, K. Ray Feagins, Ii, Keith E Miller, Kristin Green, Michele Larry, Michael Walker, Nadia Avalos, Richard Long, Rigoberto Crispin, Roy Porras, Scott Greeson, Sergio Campos, Laura Sifuentes, Denise Martinez

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 April 15, 2024, meeting minutes.
    - A motion to approve the minutes was made by Addison Holmes and seconded by Jay Johnson. The minutes were approved as written by unanimous consent of the members present.
- Chair introduces Lt. Payne to talk about the Grand Prairie Fire Hazardous Materials Team.
    - Team Overview
        - The Grand Prairie Fire Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Team was established in 2016 and has grown into an elite unit. It now meets the qualifications for a FEMA Type I HazMat Team, representing a high level of capability in hazardous materials response.
    - Response Model
        - The team provides HazMat response assistance both within Grand Prairie and regionally, covering any county in the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) region.

- Main Response Capabilities
    - The team’s core competencies include:
        - Atmospheric monitoring for toxic or hazardous gases.
        - Natural gas and vapor leak control, along with liquid leak control.
        - Mitigation of flammable/combustible liquids through absorption, damming, diking, plugging, and patching.
        - Fuel transfer and grounding/bonding techniques to safely handle fuel spills or transfers.
        - Crude oil fire control and WMD/CBRNE detection for incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.
        - Explosive precursor and bomb detection, addressing potential explosive hazards.
        - Incident response for highway, railway, and pipeline incidents, including drug lab sampling and evidence collection.
        - Handling "white powder" incidents, often related to suspicious substances.
        - Acid/base neutralization and product identification for unknown chemical substances.
        - Lithium battery thermal runaway issues, addressing risks associated with overheating batteries.
        - Public safety sampling and evidence collection with capabilities in decontamination and container identification.
        - Monitor calibration and repair, ensuring equipment is always operational.
- Additional Assets Beyond HazMat
    - The team’s capabilities extend beyond hazardous materials. They also handle:
        - Rope and confined space rescues.
        - Vehicle rescue and stabilization.
        - Structural collapse response, providing rescue efforts in building collapses.
        - Specialty fire suppression, using advanced methods and tools to combat specific fire types.
        - FLIR Cameras for thermal imaging in low-visibility situations.

- Squad 5 Apparatus
    - Squad 5 is one of the newest additions to the fleet, specifically designed for HazMat response and equipped to function as a mobile command post.
    - Size and features: It stands at 11 ½ feet and is equipped with dual awnings, a mounted outdoor TV monitor, and specialized compartments for HazMat equipment.
    - Walkable workspace: Inside, it provides space for firefighters to research and analyze hazardous materials for proper response tactics.

- Chair introduces Michele Larry and John Ross to talk about the Azelis – Garland Incident.
    - Incident Overview
        - Event: Roof collapse at Azelis site in Garland on May 28th, 2024.
        - Initial Actions:
            - Incident reported at 6:15am; one person was on-site with no injuries.
            - Incident management team assembled by 7am to manage product release and coordinate emergency response.
            - Site visit by Garland Environmental Health, utility shutdown, containment, and security measures implemented.
    - Immediate and Follow-Up Activities
        - Coordination:
            - Conducted calls with TCEQ, Garland, Dallas County, and EPA.
            - Monitored Duck Creek for water runoff impact; drone footage helped identify damage.
            - Azelis EHS commander on-site on June 3rd; original contractor replaced due to severe weather challenges.
        - Environmental & Safety Measures:
            - Constructed containment berms; focused on securing the building and shoring walls for safe removal of undamaged products.
    - Environmental Impacts
        - Product Releases:
            - Specific chemicals (e.g., Rhodacal LSS-40 AX, Plurasafe Concentrate 1225, Planataren 200 N UP) were confirmed as damaged, contributing to foaming and other environmental risks.

        - 100 gallons of diesel fuel released due to generator damage; some products contained to dock.
    - Sampling Results:
        - No VOCs detected; semi-VOCs included small amounts of di-n-butyl phthalate, phenol, 4-nitrophenol, and benzoic acid.
        - Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons present below reportable limits; elevated metals (e.g., barium, boron) detected in specific samples.
- Key Lessons for Response Improvement
    - Contractor Vetting:
        - Need for detailed vetting, including response plan and contractor capabilities.
        - Importance of timely and well-coordinated response, with preference for quality over speed.
    - Guidance from TCEQ:
        - Desire for more direct TCEQ involvement in sampling and testing procedures, specifically in Duck Creek.
        - Suggested specific sample locations (e.g., facility run-off, creek entry points) to measure environmental impact effectively.

Public Comments:

Secretary, Laura Sifuentes asks for a motion to end the meeting. A motion was made to end the meeting. No comments were made once this presentation had concluded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm