



HAMILTON COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

317 DAK STREET, SUITE 302
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37403
PHONE: (423) 209-6900 FAX (423) 209-6901

MINUTES

LEPC Meeting Minutes, March 11, 2009

A meeting of the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was held March 11, 2009 at Wally's Restaurant, 6521 Ringgold Rd., East Ridge, TN. The following constitutes the minutes of that meeting.

Those in attendance were:

Bruce Garner, CFD; LEPC Chairman
Wayne Stuntz, HC Emer. Svcs.
John Pottter, Env. Waste Svcs, V/Chair
Bill Tittle, Chief, HCEM V/Chair
Richard Taylor, TEMA
John Moorshead, DPC Enterprises
Dusty Rominger, W.R. Grace
Bob Watson, ADM
Jamie Farrow, Pilgrim's Pride
Mark Starrett, Chattanooga Gas
Justen Dick, S&ME, Inc.
David Gilberg, Clean Harbors
Michael Thompson, Chatterm Chemical
Susan Holmes, Tenn-American
Mike Flynn, Sr., East Ridge F/Dept.
Thomas Gallant, Marion Environ.
Karen Dale, INVISTA
Girish Patel, Akzonobel V/Chair
Joe Oliver, Norfolk Southern

Robby Brewer, UNIVAR
Nathan Hollingsworth, NA Industries
Mike Poe, SOFIX Corp.
Phillip Hyman, Chatt. Fire
Tim Arnold, USCG AUX.
Robert McCain, Chattanooga Gas
Tim McDonald, Hamilton County
Sabrina Novak, C-HCHD
Matt Taylor, Chatterm Chemicals
Kenny Custer, East Ridge F/Dept
Mark Dempsey, East Ridge F/Dept.
Indu Thaker, Hamilton Co. Engineering
Mark Zinnanti, Tenn-American Water
John Leach, HEPACO
J. Jeremy Swilley, Chatt. Land Devl.Ofc.
Don Hood, Marion Environ.
Charles Burton, Grace Engineering
Charles Correll, Akzonobel

Introductory Remarks: Chairman Garner began by welcoming all in attendance and asked for personal introductions.

Chairman Garner then asked if there was anyone in attendance who wished to become a member of the LEPC. There were no requests for new membership.

Approval of Minutes for Last Meeting

Chairman Garner asked for a motion to approve the January 14, 2009 meeting minutes. Motion to approve made by Jamie Farrow, seconded by Dusty Rominger. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Secretary Wayne Stuntz read the LEPC Financial Report, which covered the period from January 1, 2009 through January 30, 2009 and January 31, 2009 through February 27, 2009. Chairman Garner asked for a motion to approve the Financial Report. Motion made by Dusty Rominger, seconded by John Piotter. Motion carried. Mr. Stuntz recognized Marathon Petroleum for their \$50.00 donation during the reporting period. Chairman Garner also recognized DPC Enterprise for its donation of \$250.00.

Chairman Garner said that normally the LEPC would have by now already sent out a “request for donations” letter to companies—but, he said that we held off doing so in part because of proposals that will involve the expense of some money to be discussed later on in the program.

New Business:

Chairman Garner took the opportunity to pass around a 2009 sign-up sheet for the 8-hour HAZWOPER Refresher class set for May 14, 2009 at the Fire Training Center. Chairman Garner reminded LEPC members that they are eligible for “free” training for up to five members from their company. Bruce said participants will be accepted on a first come, first served basis with a class maximum of 25 participants.

Program:

Review & Update on Coal Ash Spill at TVAs Kingston Fossil Plant

Chairman Garner then introduced Richard Taylor, TEMA Area Coordinator, and guest speaker for today. Richard gave an excellent power point assisted Review and Update on the Coal Ash Spill at TVAs Kingston Fossil Plant. A question and answer period followed.

Mr. Taylor also gave a power point presentation on TEMA’s newly adopted E-Plan Web-Based Tier II Reporting System—the transition from hard copy to a “free” digital record. Richard noted that hard copy Tier II reports will still be accepted for the 2009 reporting year.

A brief discussion took place on how E-Plan worked. Sabrina Novak with the Hamilton County Health Department commented that each company would get their own User ID and Password and First Responders would have access to that entire data base. Sabrina said the good thing about E-Plan is that if you already use Tier2Submit, it can be

imported into the E-Plan database and vice-versa can be imported from E-Plan into Tier2Submit. For further information, go to the website at <http://erplan.net>.

County HAZMAT Request for Laptop:

Chairman Garner said that the County HAZMAT team, under the direction of Field Services Chief Tony Reavley, asked if the LEPC would consider supporting the Hazmat Team by buying a new laptop computer. Chairman Garner asked Chief Reavley if he would put his request in writing, describing what he needed and why he needed it. Chairman Garner then read Chief Reavley's written request to the Committee. Chief Reavley, in his written request, estimated the cost of the computer to be \$1,500.00, which he said would be more than sufficient to cover the cost of the laptop.

Chairman Garner said that it seemed like a reasonable request and said he would entertain a motion from members present to support the request for the \$1,500.00 expenditure. Deputy Chief Mike Flynn with the East Ridge Fire Department made the motion to support the request. Motion was seconded by Mr. Mike Poe. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion carried.

Partnership with Hamilton County 911 Communications to Upgrade Rapid Public Notification System (aka "Reverse 911")

Chairman Garner said that this subject involves money also, and is related to our proposed partnership with the Hamilton County 911 Communications District. Bruce, in an effort to bring the Committee up to date on this subject, briefly recapped the results of the LEPC exercise conducted in April 2007. Bruce said that one item to be resolved was the issue of the Rapid Public Notification System calling only land line phones. Bruce said the outcome of the discussion with Mr. Don Allen, Director Hamilton County Emergency Services and Chief Tittle, Chief of Emergency Management was that jointly the LEPC would enter into a contract with a vendor to create a website, which would solicit the general public to submit their cell phones in which they would be making themselves available to be notified in the event of a catastrophic emergency.

Chairman Garner, referring to Mr. Taylor's presentation earlier regarding the coal ash spill in upper Tennessee and the public's response to that—said to imagine something happening that was more serious, in terms of protecting lives. He said there would be a lot of finger pointing going on. Bruce said that with this partnership we would be enhancing our ability to get the word out to the general public about a rapidly moving emergency by putting cell phones into the Reverse 911 system as a database to notify the public of the impending emergency.

Chief Tittle said that the problem lies in the fact that more and more homes rely on cell phones and not land-line phones—thus the need to notify people via their cell phones at their homes.

Bruce said that he felt that the LEPC is at least taking some action that will locally improve public notification procedures. Bruce said that we also have to address the problems with the Emergency Alert System (EAS), but that is something to be addressed later, hopefully with TEMA's help. Chairman Garner said that what we are addressing here is spending about \$7,500.00, during the first year, with a company called "21st Century Communications. Bruce said that 21st Century Communications would set up a website, and input cell phone numbers into the County's Rapid Notification System data base.

Responding to a question regarding how this would be publicized, Bruce said that in this partnership, the LEPC will be spending \$7,500.00, while the 911 Board is offering to spend \$40,000 to \$60,000 of their Public Relations budget to publicize the effort of getting the public to submit their cell phones numbers for the Rapid Notification system. Bruce said that, as Public Information Director for the Chattanooga Fire Department, his job is to notify the public about a dangerous incident, not after it happened, but while it is happening. A question was posed about the on-going cost—Chairman Garner said after the first year, the recurring annual cost is \$1,185.00 if the county does the updates and \$3,555.00 if the company does the updates.

Bruce said that he later spoke with Mr. Don Allen, Director, Hamilton County Emergency Services, and Chairman of the 911 Board, and said that the LEPC operates on donations, with no regular funding—it would be difficult for the LEPC to make a commitment on the recurring expenses. Mr. Allen assured him that the LEPC would not have to worry about that part. Chairman Garner said that our part of the partnership is putting up the up-front amount to contribute into the contract with 21st Century Communications. Bruce said that as we get into the workings of this system, it should include text messaging—a critical element, not just about receiving a verbal message—it needs to be in writing also.

Chairman Garner said that while there are details yet to be worked out, this is the first step—in the right direction. Chairman Garner asked for a motion on the subject of the Hamilton County LEPC agreeing to provide \$8,000.00 (rounded up in case of miscalculation) by December 31, 2009, to a vendor selected by the Hamilton County 911 Communications District for the purpose of upgrading the County's Rapid Notification System. A motion was made by Vice Chair John Piotter, and seconded by Ms. Jamie Farrow. No further discussion and no opposition was stated. Motion passed.

Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2009, 10:30 a.m. at Wally's Restaurant, 6521 Ringgold Rd, East Ridge, Tennessee.

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,
LEPC Secretary, Wayne Stuntz

