



HAMILTON COUNTY  
**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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## MINUTES

### LEPC Meeting Minutes, September 14, 2005

A meeting of the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was held September 14, 2005 at Wally's Restaurant, 6521 Ringgold Rd, in East Ridge, Tennessee. The following constitutes the minutes of that meeting.

#### Those in attendance were:

Dane Creel, Wrigley Co., **Chairman**  
Bruce Garner, Chatt. FD, **1st Vice Chair**  
Mike James, Marion Environ. **V/Chair**  
Wayne Stuntz, **Secretary/Treasurer**  
Jamie Farrow, Pilgrims Pride **V/Chair**  
Richard Twitchell, **V/Chair**  
Caleb Womack, Steward, **V/Chair**  
Dusty Rominger, W.R. Grace  
Craig Allison, Hawker Pwr Source  
J. Jeremy Swilley, City Stormwater  
Becky Simmons, Pilgrims Pride  
Grady Polk, TN State Guard  
Larry Martin, McKee Foods  
Mike Edwards, McKee Foods  
Glenn Atterton, WR Grace

Caroline Williams, LWV  
Candace Esparza, Aquaterra LLC  
Jack Gray, Hyperlast North America  
David Darnell, BASF  
Buddy Kamin, HC Emer. Svcs  
Charlie Larmar, Brenntag  
John Bennett, JIT Terminal  
Charles Burton, GSE  
John Piotter, PSC  
Rick Loope, Norfolk Southern RR  
Garish Paten, ALCO Chemical  
Jim Hoff, ADM  
Matthew Shawcross, Velsicol  
Jim Morgan, Velsicol

**Introductory Remarks:** Chairman Dane Creel began by welcoming all in attendance.

#### Old Business:

- Motion was made to approve July 13, 2005 LEPC Meeting Minutes was made by Ms. Caroline Williams and seconded by Ms Candace Esparza—motion passed.
- Financial report given by Secretary, Mr. Wayne Stuntz. Motion was made by Ms Jamie Farrow to approve Financial report as presented, seconded by Ms Candace Esparza—motion passed.

#### New Business:

- Secretary Wayne Stuntz read from an e-mail, subject: “New Service: Hurricane Katrina Victims Photo Project with FedEx Kinko’s”. This project will provide families with the chance to get pictures of missing persons (children and adults) scanned in for free or for

children looking for their parents/guardians to get their pictures taken for free and sent to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children—this only available to those missing persons and searching children who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina.

- Chairman Creel asked if there was anyone in attendance who wished to become a member of the LEPC.
  - Ms Jamie Farrow introduced Ms Becky Simmons of Pilgrims Pride and made a motion to accept Ms Simmons as a new member representing Pilgrims Pride. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jeremy Swilley—passed unanimously by committee.
- Chairman Creel briefly mentioned that at this meeting we normally would hold elections but since there were no Vice Chair positions willing to assume the role of Chairman—that there obviously would have to be some changes made to our by-laws.
- Chairman Creel then called for Sub-committee Chairpersons reports:
  - Training Subcommittee—Chief Tittle was not in attendance, however, Chairman Creel touched briefly on a subject Chief Tittle had discussed in the past regarding InfraGard—an FBI program offering a secure online information sharing environment, thus protecting companies internet activities, computer files, and records. Chairman Creel said that he would e-mail information regarding InfraGard to anyone upon request.
  - Plans Subcommittee—Dawn Ford was not in attendance. Chairman Creel mentioned that Dawn was successful with the LEPC brochure project and was working on the LEPC newsletter—anyone having information on training for the area or anything remotely related to environmental health and safety—give Dawn a call.
  - Exercise Subcommittee—Mike James said he has been coordinating the fall exercise with Hawker Power Source of Ooltewah. Mike said this is the first time the LEPC has conducted an exercise outside the City of Chattanooga. Mike said he has a meeting with Hawker Power next week to solidify some things. He said it will be a good opportunity for the firefighters of Ooltewah and the City of Chattanooga in coordinating the District 3 ten county plan.
    - Mike briefly spoke about the West Tennessee LEPC Conference that he attended in Savannah, TN—citing the West Pharmaceutical Plant explosion and the Granitville, South Carolina Chlorine leak. The major point he said about the West Pharmaceutical Plant explosion was that it took out half of the plant and the entire computer system—including their backup system. Mike said that there was no accountability system—none for employee accountability or keeping track of volunteer responders who later showed up to help. Lesson learned—have an off-site backup computer system.

- Regarding the 90 ton Chlorine leak, Mike said that Dupont had their spill response team on site (required whenever any of their rail cars are involved in an incident/accident)—later to find out that none of their three rail cars were part of the problem and Dupont could have left the scene, however, after being asked by the Railroad to stay—did so. Mike said

that the Railroad used all of their Level A suits by going in and out of the hot zone. Dupont, agreeing to stay, then used 800 of their Level A suits the first day and 1200 a day after that. Mike said that this just showed that Dupont is a dedicated and effective team player.

- Mike said that the two-day conference was a well-planned conference, with good speakers and great attendance. He said that there was a \$45 conference fee charged but that did not seem to affect attendance.
- Membership Subcommittee—Dick Twitchell had no input.
- Programs Subcommittee—Subcommittee Chairman Caleb Womack absent.
- Public Outreach Subcommittee—Jamie Farrow said the County Fair Was coming up Sept 24-25—
  - the LEPC will have a booth again
  - will once again need volunteers to man the booth
  - will again have a give-away prizes
  - will give out new LEPC brochures and LEPC shelter-in-place magnets
  - face painting (for kids) may be an option at the booth
  - possibly having more LEPC dual topic video DVDs copied for handout.
- Jamie said her good-bye's to everyone as she has taken a job near Savannah, Ga. We wish Jamie all the luck in her new job.
- **Conference/Training:**
  - Chairman Creel asked Mr. David Darnel about the Conference grants—David said that nothing can be done at this particular time until Chief Tittle hears from Mr. Tim Holden (TEMA) regarding the availability of grants this year.
    - David said that he had the opportunity to speak with Capt. Jim Schuler, Incident Commander for the Granitville, SC, chlorine accident during its early stages. David said that he explained our LEPCs involvement with conferences in the past and said that Capt Schuler seemed very interested to participate in the conference (should it materialize) as a presenter—that he also had video coverage of the incident in its early stages.
  - Chairman Creel asked Mr. Dusty Rominger, chairperson of the Election subcommittee, to talk about the election process. Dusty said that currently there are seven persons willing to step into the Vice Chair positions, and at this time there were no volunteers to step up to take the Chairman position. Dusty explained that the LEPC By-Laws stipulated that the Chair elect had to come from the existing Vice Chair positions. Dusty said that it now looks like we will have to review the by-laws and make some changes—suggestion was to change the part in the by-laws that says: “The LEPC **shall** elect its Chairperson from among the incumbent Executive Committee members.” to read: “The LEPC **should** elect its Chairperson from among the incumbent Executive Committee members.”

- Chairman Creel said that there were really two issues here; one was to either have a co-chair led committee, or allow vice chairs to step in and chair a meeting when necessary. A second option was to elect a Chairperson directly from the floor.

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- Bruce Garner at this point suggested that we hear what the membership thinks about it. After a lot of discussion, a motion was made by Jamie Farrow, seconded by David Darnell and approved by the committee to hold a special meeting in October to work out the impasse for selection of a Chairperson by reviewing the By-Laws—with the idea that members would think about options and submit them to the Chairman Creel. It was decided that elections for Chairperson and Vice Chair positions would be delayed and could take place during the special meeting to be held on Oct 12, 2005.
- Bruce Garner commented that it is time for those who have not done so in the past to step up to the plate—take on a vice-chair or chairperson role. Bruce further said that he believed the LEPC leadership should come from the private sector—more so than from government or Emergency Services agencies, who have served in both positions admirably in the past.

#### **Other Business:**

- Chief Tittle said that one of the concerns for Hamilton County is what would happen if major flooding occurred in Hamilton County and a lot of chemical plants were affected? Chief Tittle asked those present to think about how a major flood would impact their facility and ultimately the community—and to seriously review that scenario in their planning. Bill further said that what we need to do is mitigate that—what steps could we take to lessen that impact? Bill sited many reasons to be concerned, i.e. the ever changing weather patterns, and reminded us that Hurricane “Ivan” instead of hitting Chattanooga went North and hit Richmond, Virginia and caused heavy flooding there.
- Garish Paten, Alco Chemical, noted his concern with major flooding that could be caused by the South Chickamauga Creek—asked Chief Tittle to meet with his company and perhaps other companies, i.e. BASF, to determine the impact major flooding would have on their areas. Chief Tittle said he would be glad to do this, and added that he would need a base elevation of their plants to provide a model for flooding in this area.
  - Chief Tittle said the best course of action would be to visit each facility, identify a model of flooding, discuss it with the company, and let the chemical company take the mitigation steps necessary to lessen the impact of a major flood.
  - Chief Tittle said that Hurricane Katrina evacuee's still dominates work efforts in that approximately 500 evacuee's in Chattanooga area are still in need of temporary housing and major efforts are being expended to get this done—trying to get people through donation warehouses to get furniture, etc. for their new living quarters.
  - Chief Tittle, responding to a comment about how devoted the Chattanooga Fire Department was to helping Kartina victims—said he couldn't say enough good things about the Chattanooga Fire Department—citing that they provided academy students to help clear out the Chattanooga Housing Authority warehouse to deliver it to another warehouse location; set up cots in the South Chattanooga Rec. Center shelter and much more. He said that Chief Coppinger offered every resource that he had in support this effort.

- Chief Tittle said that many new partnerships were formed as a result of the hurricane effort—i.e. working with the City Parks and Recreation, using one of their facilities and staff to operate a shelter; area hospitals, the Health Department, etc.

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**Next Meeting:**

- Next meeting will be a “special meeting” and is scheduled for October 12, 2005 at the Wally’s Restaurant in East Ridge. The regularly scheduled meeting for November 9 will still take place at Wally’s in East Ridge, TN.

Respectfully submitted...

Wayne Stuntz  
LEPC Secretary