



MID-AMERICA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

March 10, 2011
MEETING SUMMARY

MEMBERS PRESENT

Paul Dolak, Brenntag Mid-South, Chair
 Bill Fiser, Southern Platte Fire Protection District, Vice Chair
 Micheal Boos, Raymore Emergency Management
 Jon Brady, North Kansas City School District
 Mike O'Neal, Alternate for Commissioner Jason Brown, Platte County
 Michael Curry, Jackson County
 Donna Maize alternate for Smokey Dyer, Kansas City Fire Department
 Clyde Hicks, Honeywell Corporation
 Bob Hull, KS Center for Safe & Prepared Schools
 Mike Klender, KCMO Water
 Matt May, Johnson County Kansas LEPC
 Greg Moerer, Bayer CropScience
 Mark Owen, Platte County Sheriff's Department
 Tim Richards, City of Olathe - Fire Department (Hamilton)
 John Spencer, Lee's Summit Fire Department
 Amanda Oliver, Clay County Sheriff's Office
 Lane Sekavec, Union Pacific Railroad
 Gene Shepherd, Kansas City Missouri Emergency Management
 Douglas Shroud, VA ALE MSHG Region VII
 Stan Swaggart, Cass County Emergency Management
 Frank Tittone, Kansas City Fire Department
 Mike Van Aken, South Metro Fire Protection District
 H. David Williams, North Kansas City Fire Department
 Mike Wilson, City of Kansas City Kansas Fire Department

GUESTS PRESENT

Mike Baughman, Wyandotte County Emergency Management
 Laurie Bonk, Clay County Risk Management
 Chris Dusil, Kansas City Kansas Fire Department
 Mark Falder, Kansas City Missouri Fire Department
 Preston Faudere, Clay County Community Relations
 Mike Jenkins, North Kansas City Fire Department
 Annette Lanfranca, Chactaw Kaul
 Mike Latta, Kansas City Fire Department
 George Moody, US EPA
 Kim Piepmeier, Arnette LTD
 Ken Roggenkamp, DOE-NNSA
 Maureen Scott, DuPont Personal Protection
 Mike Simms, General Mills
 Ken Smith, Lake Winnebago Emergency Management
 Bill Stewart, Kansas City Terrorism Early Warning
 Pete Sturner, Platte County Emergency Management
 Steve Wurtz, EPA Region VII

EXCUSED

Mike Shelton, City of Riverside
 David Williams, EPA Region 7

MARC STAFF**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Paul Dolak welcomed everyone and self-introductions were made. The Chair recognized Betty Knight for her enduring work with the LEPC. Past Chair Chief Williams presented Mrs. Knight with a plaque. Chief Williams noted that one of the reasons that he enjoyed the LEPC so much was because of members such as Betty and the wide variety of groups within the LEPC membership. He thanked Mrs. Knight for her leadership, input and assistance. As a Commissioner, she not only attended the LEPC meetings regularly, but participated in a number of other meetings and activities. Ms. Knight shared that when she first became Platte County Commissioner; they were not a member of the LEPC and she worked to have them join. She feels that it has been great for Platte County to be a part of the LEPC and it had been an honor for her to be a part of the LEPC and how she appreciated all that this committee does. Chief Tittone shared a story about a SEMA conference they had attended together and noted the great job she had done.

Chair Dolak recognized Ms. Allen Hunter for her work with the Tier IIs.

- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING SUMMARY** – Captain Owen made a motion for approval; it was seconded by Chief Williams and the motion was approved.
- 3. FINANCIAL REPORT** – Erin Lynch reported that the CEPF balance is \$47,536. HMEP Planning \$9,739 and HMEP Training funds approx. \$47,000. She noted the report now included the Kansas HMEP funding of \$25,000. Work is in progress with the Kansas counties to finalize the execution of the contract. We have been answering follow up questions from the State and it looks promising. Mr. May spoke to Jennifer Clark with KDEM and she clarified the question they were unsure about and they do have answer. The overall LEPC budget balance is \$129,000.
- 4. PRESENTATION:** “Dangers of Propylene Cylinders at High Temperatures”- Chemical Safety Board Video - Mr. Greg Moerer, Industry Subcommittee Chair, HSE Site Services, Bayer CropScience – Mr. Moerer shared that a few months ago there had been a discussion about periodically having a discussion at the LEPC meeting on industrial accidents from around the country using Chemical Safety Board videos. The videos document the impact and lessons learned from these accidents. After the video, there will be a discussion with the membership regarding how this might impact their response effort and/or facility. Bayer’s West Virginia facility had a video made about an incident at their facility which came out a couple of months ago and perhaps he could share that video at another meeting.

A Safety Board video was shown on an incident that occurred in 2005 in St. Louis, Mo which showed a serious fire on June 24, 2005 at Praxair. This is a company that manufacturers and packages liquid and compressed gas in cylinders. The fire lasted 5 hours and set off explosions which rocketed cylinders up to 800 ft. and debris into the surrounding neighborhood causing property damage to buildings and cars. This was a very serious fire and not the only one that has occurred at compressed gas facilities around the country. This fire showed the need for companies to follow the best safety practices for outdoor cylinder storage and fire protection. It also showed a problem with pressure release valves used on these cylinders, particularly during extreme hot weather. The temperature outside that day was 97. At Praxair, thousands of compressed cylinders containing highly flammable products were stored outside in the direct sunlight. As the sunlight radiated down, heat also rose from the asphalt; driving up the temperature and pressure of the gases inside the cylinders. Around 3:20 p.m. increasing pressure inside one cylinder activated its pressure relief valve and gas pushed against the spring loaded plug allowing gases to flow around it. Gases passed through the spring, out of a valve and into openings in the cylinder cap. Then, the propylene vented to the outside air and formed a flammable vapor which was likely ignited by static electricity. A security camera recorded the vapor release and ignition. An employee saw the fire and sounded the alarm. Because the alarm was sounded quickly, all workers and customers evacuated safely. One death was attributed to this incident due to an asthma attack from the fire’s smoke and fumes. The US Department of Transportation and Regulations requires pressure release valves on propylene cylinders, but the CSB found that the pressure release points, specified through standards, are too low for propylene and allow gas to begin venting during hot weather well below pressures that could damage the cylinders. Not only are the specified standards too low for propylene, the CSB found some valves begin releasing gases before the pressures reaches it set point. It was also found that each time a pressure release valve is opened its performance deteriorates

making it more likely to vent gas at too low a pressure in the future. In addition to this incident, the CSB investigation looked at other similar incidents; including one at an Airgas Distribution Center in Tulsa, OK in August 2003, fire and explosions at a plant in Phoenix, AZ in 1997 and a fire Praxair's California Fresno facility in July, 2005. All involved the conditions of weakened valves and all occurred on hot summer days with temperatures above 100 degrees. Gas cylinder fires spread very quickly and exploding cylinders put firefighter's lives at risk and endanger the public. The CSB's Safety Bulletin recommends a number of safe best practices for cylinder storage and fire protection. Companies are urged to install fixed fire protection systems, such as fire and gas monitors and/or water systems which can cool cylinders and prevent the fire from spreading. Gas release detectors can be used in storage areas to sound alarms and trigger fire protection systems. Barriers such as concrete walls can be installed to confine exploding cylinders to the storage area. The key lesson is that many relief valves still used today on propylene cylinders could lead to catastrophic fires during periods of hot weather. The CSB recommends that the Compressed Gas Association, Industry's primary safety organization revise its standards for propylene release valves so that they do not vent prematurely. Some compressed gas distributors are already replacing release valve (this includes Praxair) on propylene cylinders.

Mr. Moerer shared that there are more videos like this and asked if viewing them was of interest to this group. He would discuss the chemistry and bring in appropriate props. He expressed what was of concern and for him is evacuation, the way the wind might be blowing and for this type of incident he felt a circular evacuation would be required. Chief Tittone asked if the St. Louis incident was in a residential area and it was. He also asked if they were allowed to rebuild and it is believed they did not. Mr. Moerer asked if there were any of these gas cylinder facilities in our area and yes, there are a few in the KC metro area. Chair Dolak believes that the LEPC should have more information from Industry, not just the RMP plants participating in the LEPC and this is one of the items the Industry committee is working on. Mr. McMenus shared that welding shops would have all kinds of cylinders and Mr. Moerer noted that this did not have to be a distribution facility, but could be a hospital or laboratory or government facility since these facilities probably have compressed gases of all kinds. He noted that in the video they talked about the valve degrading and what happens on a release valve is that the two metal surfaces have a spring on top that is pushing two metal pieces together and that is what keeps the gas from coming out. When the temperature rises and pressure increases, the valve can "chatter" and metal on metal chattering can cause deformities in the metal surfaces which can cause leakage. The video also discussed a safety valve tolerance which depends on the chemical involved. A pressure vessel (high pressure bottle) by law has to have a relief valve. If a chemical has a normal pressure of 100 lbs. for example, then a relief valve would activate at several times this pressure. The installation of the sprinklers, gas detectors and monitors around the storage area are items that a Fire Inspector would check during facility inspections. Mr. Moerer also noted that Industry does a lot to prevent these type incidents and perhaps they could do a presentation on some of the things that Industry does to prevent incidents.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Public Outreach – Captain Owen

- ❖ Today at 1:30 there will be a state wide tornado drill.
- ❖ Their committee is working with Project Community Alert and Price Chopper on a start date possibly April 11th.
- ❖ They committee will meet this afternoon.

Safety City - Deputy O'Neal

- ❖ This year it was located on the upper floor and attendance was lower than they wanted, but quite a few did go through.
- ❖ The after-action meeting is set for next week.
- ❖ Received good input on ideas for next year which will probably be presented at next month's LEPC meeting.

Workshop – Chair Dolak asked Mr. Wurtz to report on the conference they had recently attended. Mr. Wurtz shared that the EPA in their Environmental Justice program had worked with the TRI (Toxic Release Inventory) program on a presentation. The idea was to go out and meet with community leaders in the environmental justice area. This LEPC was represented by Chair Dolak, Vice Chair Fiser, former Chair Dave Williams and Ms. Lynch. They did a presentation on the LEPC, about what leaders and individuals could do to prepare for emergencies and accidents that might happen in the community. The EPA hopes to do more outreach like this.

b. Training Committee Report – Chief Maize

- April 2nd – Handling LP Gas Course at Sugar Creek
- April 16th – Hazmat Awareness will be at Kearney
- April 19th – 25th - Hazmat Operations – This will be a series of evening courses at Kearney
- May 9th – 13th – Hazmat Tech at Southern Platte

Their committee discussed broadening their scope with reaching groups other than the hazmat teams with the trainings that are offered. She asked for input on other courses that would assist them with this. These trainings have to be hazmat focused, but not necessarily geared towards hazmat teams and operational level personnel. She gave an example of healthcare workers or other industries that needed hazmat training. Those with suggestions or information about a course should forward that information to her, Chief Fiser or MARC.

- DuPont will be bringing up their railroad car in September and more information will be forthcoming. Chair Dolak thanked Ms. Scott for them bringing in the railcar and shared that Kansas City is 2nd in the nation for railway traffic. Chief Williams added that at one time in North Kansas City alone 3,000 cars came through per day and of those 120 carried hazardous materials. Chair Dolak attended this training the last time it was offered and it is also beneficial Industry. Brenntag has had about 4 derailments along the rail area near them in the last 8 years which is a high number. Ms. Scott suggested that while this unit is here for those that need an eight hour hands on refresher take advantage of the car's availability. It will be here for 5 days.
- Panhandle Eastern (a pipeline) – Chief Maize reported Leawood Fire and PD will be conducting a drill with Panhandle Eastern in late September or early October in the far southwestern corner of Kansas City. They drill will include mutual aid response across the state line.

Chair Dolak thanked the training committee for their hard work and noted that he believes the training program is the heart and soul of the LEPC.

- c. **Plans – Vice Chair Fiser** reported that their next meeting will be March 30th at 2:00 p.m. and anyone interested is welcome to attend.
 - d. **Transition – Chief Williams** reported that the transition is moving along as reported earlier.
 - e. **Metro Schools – Dr. Hull** noted as a follow up to the successful January 30th training. Folks have been invited back for another meeting on March 28th with school districts from both sides of the state line. Prior to the meeting, they are in the process of sending out a survey to prospective school members asking them to answer questions about preparedness and safety training; so that the meeting can be tailored. The comments received for the EM 101 workshop held earlier were positive. Mr. Brady is coordinating the Mo side and he shared that they had made additional contacts with Missouri Center for Education and hopefully, they can partner with this committee to help reinforce some of the trainings and possibly they could be another resource.
 - f. **Industry – Mr. Moerer** – This committee is planning to meet 30 minutes prior to the LEPC meeting (2nd Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m.). In addition, they plan to meet in late April on a Wednesday for a couple of hours to outline their priorities. This is a new committee and they are working on where they want to go and how they can support this body. They are working on developing a charter. He asked that anyone that had any particular concerns or ideas about this committee (Industry) to provide them to Chair Dolak or him. Chair Dolak shared that they would like for all the Industries to attend because everyone's input is appreciated.
6. **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/TIER II REPORTING – Ms. Lynch** provided that on the Missouri side, we had received 763 Tier IIs. This is up from last year which is good, but we are still receiving less than the State. Follow up will be done with the State to see what they have vs. what we have to be reconciled. Mr. Sekavec asked if you could submit electronic forms across the board. Ms. Lynch noted that MARC had received these for several years. He wanted to know if what the State received was sent to the LEPC from their electronic submission and that is not the case. Ms. Lynch noted that the state's system is secure with MARC and fire departments having access (this shows up just like a Tier II report), but she did not believe others are access. Mr. Sekavec would like for this process to be completely electronic. He's like to submit the information to one place and then it be further distributed to other parties. Ms. Lynch explained that this is not the current process. Tier two reports must be submitted to the MERC, LEPC and fire departments. Mr. May shared that Johnson County puts out an email and if you capture the signed Tier II in a PDF form, that is all they need. He knows that this is still a process, but will probably stay this way until there is better reconciliation up front. He feels that if it was electronically for all; that 20% would not provide copies to the LEPC or fire departments. The percentage differences happen on both sides and until there can be a guarantee that all sides are getting everything, he feels we will have to continue with the way we do

it. Mr. Sekavec sees submitting it to one place takes care of this issue and Mr. May offered that those that are not as aware of this as him, would not file at all. Mr. Sekavec asked about this because several years ago this was discussed. Then, it was said that the regulations were not written for the ability to not submit hard copies to the Fire Department and LEPC and he had not heard anything else about this. Ms. Lynch shared that this could certainly be broached with the State.

- 7. HOMELAND SECURITY ACTIVITIES – Ms. Lynch reported** at the last LEPC meeting, there was a conversation about the National Level Exercise. So, in the handouts was a timeline for this exercise that tries to illustrate the week of May 16-20 and what is occurring in the region. She briefly reviewed the timeline. Much of the activity is around EOCs being activated and communicating amongst their selves. Mass care operations will occur on several of the days. Day 4 will be particularly active in this region with a NDMS exercise at Wheeler Airport. Mr. Shepherd shared that there are three locations that will be activated for the NDMS exercise: Wichita, Omaha and Kansas City. 35 patients will be brought in on a C130 and transported to five local hospitals. The main testing is on the electronic tracking system. So, there will be several different agencies participating such as the Red Cross. Their EOC will be activated to support mass care. Ms. Lynch asked that everyone review the timeline and let MARC staff know if there were any errors. She invited people to work directly with the participating emergency managers if they were interested in participating and noted that this exercise was not specific to hazmat. The focus is primarily on EOC operations, mass care and NDMS.
- 8. LEGISLATION – Ms. Lynch reported** on the current status of the federal budget and the uncertainty of continued federal funding to support homeland security. The House passed a bill (HR1 which included an amendment #334) that basically would reduce the number of Urban Areas that are part of the Urban Area program. The amendment reduces it to 25 Urban Areas and it is unknown if KC will be a part of that 25. As a region the emergency response community, the public, everyone has benefited from the federal funds that have helped support emergency preparedness including the LEPC. There was a recap on the status in the packets. There was two pieces of information the committee needed to know. 1) This bill passed in the House and is now in the Senate. 2) It is not known what impact this will have on Homeland Security. Chair Dolak asked that this information be shared including contact information for your elected officials, in case you wanted to express your interest in retaining homeland security funding. Erin reported that through the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee there have been a number of efforts to educating our elected officials about what this could mean to the Kansas City area. The reason it is being brought to the LEPC is the LEPC has benefitted from the funding. The specialized teams, hazardous teams; their capabilities today vs. 10 years ago are enhanced which provides an increased level of protection to the community, to our Industry partners and everyone else. Chair Dolak thought it was important for this committee to know that there is uncertainty in the future with Homeland Security funding.
- Mr. May asked if the handouts were in available electronically and Ms. Lynch noted that it was. The information has also been shared through the RSHCC. Chair Dolak noted that the email addresses had also been included and he asked members to send emails to their representatives and contacts that this committee needs the funding that it receives. Ms. Lynch reported it is anticipated that there will be some level of reduction, but the message the RHSCC has been communicating is: keep the Urban Area Program intact even if there are budget cuts, do not hold certain jurisdictions harmless from no budget cuts. Mr. Moerer asked if it was true that the UASI awards were mostly spent on assets; it's not a service or a salary but it is a truck, equipment or a building. Ms. Lynch shared that the Urban Area funds have really supported investments in planning, equipment, training and exercise for the last 8 years. It is not only equipment and it has shifted from the early days to where it is today. She invited him to look at the investments in GIS, Planning and Public Ed. Mr. Moerer asked if there is a match requirement for local agencies. There is not a match requirement, but there was some discussion several years ago about possibly putting that in as a requirement. The message that our area tries to send to the federal government is that local agencies invest significant funding and resources to partner with the federal government. She gave an example of local jurisdictions incurring the costs associated with sending staff to attend trainings. Another example would be those agencies that have agreed to have enhanced teams that are able to respond anywhere within the eight county area that are maintaining a level of readiness on a daily basis. Those investments do not come close to the funding. Chief Williams gave a good example of this with the fact that North Kansas City had people on overtime today conducting a hazmat training with their own funds and this is done monthly and comes out of their training and overtime budgets. There is quite a bit of money spent locally to support the urban area program.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

Upcoming SEMA Conference – May 3-6, 2011 – Chair Dolak – He reported that the following individuals had expressed an interest in attending: Himself, Bill Fiser, Frank Tittone, Kevin Fightmaster, John Spencer, Dave Williams and Erin Lynch. Captain Owen shared that he was interested in attending. Anyone else was asked to contact Chair Dolak or Ms.

Lynch. Ms. Lynch went over some of the sessions being offered and shared that these are subject to change. She also noted that there is funding to send 15 representatives in the budget. Chair Dolak shared that this is a great way to get to know others on the LEPC.

10. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - Mr. Sekevac said that the Transcar event will occur this year, but that the date has not been set yet. This will be 3 days which will be right in the middle of the summer fire school and this year's focus will be on anhydrous ammonia, emergency response: trucks, rail, and chemicals properties. There will be a 2nd stop on the east side of the state somewhere with the closest stop right now being St. Louis. It was his belief that BNSF was going to have a stop in Springfield. He will share more detailed information when he has it. Those with questions may contact him
11. **NEXT MEETING:** April 14, 2011

Handouts:

March Agenda

February Summary

Financial Report

Tier II Report

Training Fliers

Safety City Flyer