



**MID-AMERICA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**October 14, 2010**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

H. David Williams, North Kansas City Fire Department, *Chair*  
 Paul Dolak, Brenntag Mid-South, *Vice Chair*  
 Steve Bean, KCMO Emergency Management  
 Les Boatright, KCPL  
 Jon Brady, North Kansas City Schools  
 Shane Burnett, Johnson County Environment  
 Richard Carrizzo, Southern Platte Fire Protection District  
 Michael Curry, Jackson County  
 Bill Fiser, Alternate for Richard Carrizzo, Southern Platte Fire Protection District  
 Bob Evans, Unified Government of Wyandotte County Emergency Management  
 Donna Maize, Alternate for Richard (Smokey) Dyer, KCMO Fire Department  
 Kevin Fightmaster, Missouri Gas Energy  
 Clyde Hicks, Honeywell Corporation  
 Bob Hull, KS Center for Safe & Prepared Schools  
 Greg Moerer, Bayer CropScience  
 Mike O'Neal, Platte County Sheriff's Department  
 John Spencer, Lee's Summit Fire Department  
 Mark Sherwood, Oak Grove Fire Protection District  
 Stan Swaggart, Cass County Emergency Management  
 Frank Tittone, Kansas City Fire Department  
 Carolyn Wells, Liberty Hospital  
 David Williams, EPA Region 7  
 Michael Williamson, Emergency Management Strategic Health

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Clarin Blessing, Inter City Fire Protection District  
 Michael Baughman, Wyandotte County Emergency Management  
 Christine Hoard, EPA  
 Marcia Hobbs, KCPL  
 Roarke Holzschuh, MO DNR EER  
 Mike Jenkins, North Kansas City Fire Department  
 Mike Klender, KCMO Water  
 Mike Latta, KCFD  
 Pat May, KCPL  
 Michael McMenus, KCPL – Hawthorn  
 Tim Lynch, Overland Park Police Department/Emergency Management  
 Phil Klein, Wal-Mart Distribution  
 Kim Piepmeier, Arnette LTD  
 Tim Richards, Olathe Fire Department  
 Ken Roggenkamp, US Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration  
 Blake Schroeder, EPCRA  
 Ken Smith, Lake Winnebago Emergency Management  
 Bill Stewart, Kansas City Terrorism Early Warning

**EXCUSED**

Mark Owen, Platte County Sheriff's Department

**MARC STAFF**Aaron Baumgarden, Research Services, MARC  
Chris Allen, Emergency Services, MARC  
Erin Lynch, Emergency Services, MARC  
Lisa Elsas, Emergency Services, MARC  
Justin Sorg, Emergency Services, MARC**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Dave Williams welcomed everyone and self-introductions were made.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING SUMMARY** – Chief Fiser made a motion for approval; it was seconded by Mr. Hicks and approved.**3. FINANCIAL REPORT** – Erin Lynch reported that as of September 30<sup>th</sup> the LEPC had expended about \$4,000 leaving net revenue of \$73,229 dollars in the CEPF fund. As for the HMEP fund, we are in the process of applying for a \$5,000 planning funds for FY2011. For the past year, we had received \$50,000 in HMEP training funds. The LEPC expended the majority of this award. \$5,547 will be given to the MERC to support their priorities. MERC staff indicated that this will not negatively impact the LEPC's application for funds in the coming year.**4. PRESENTATION: Chemical Suicide Overview, Mr. Blake Schroeder, EPCRA Specialist, Northwest Region Hazmat Planner** – He shared that the MERC will be having a POST-certified, three-hour training titled, "Chemical Suicide- Info for Emergency Responders" and attendees can receive three hours of credit. Because the information changes on a regular basis, the MERC is only distributing the presentation during class sessions. Chemical suicide (also known as detergent suicide) is a new phenomenon for the United States and changing rapidly. Individuals who commit chemical suicide are seeking painless ways to end their lives by mixing common household chemicals to create hydrogen sulfide gas. The trend first emerged in Japan around 2007 with approximately 50 – 60 suicides, and has grown from there with more than 1,000 suicides in 2009. Due to space limitations in Japan, there are often hundreds of other individuals unintentionally exposed to the gas. What is unique to the U.S. is that these suicides have been primarily in motor vehicles. He shared that these types of suicides are not meant to harm anyone else and usually the victim posts signs that say "stay away" to keep emergency responders safe. While hydrogen sulfide is the primary gas used, there have been a few incidents where hydrogen cyanide was used. The cyanide suicides are usually done by those that have access to it such as hospital or laboratory workers. Mr. Schroeder asked if the Kansas City area had any trainings scheduled. Lisa Elsas shared that North Kansas City Fire Department and the Southern Platte Fire Protection District are hosting consecutive courses in November 2010. Claycomo has also expressed interest in scheduling one in early 2011. Mr. Schroeder noted that Mike White, MERC, has been sending out course announcements. There has been significant interest in this program across Missouri. Missouri is fortunate to use a course already developed by New York firefighters. This is extremely new and the MERC is receiving daily reports and information updates.

Co-chair Dolak asked what someone should look for in signs of chemical suicides. Mr. Schroeder advised to look for posted signs. If it is cold outside, you will get quite a bit of condensation on the windows. Look for a large amount of powdery substance (sulfur). Those committing these suicides are mixing quite a bit more than is needed so there is usually quite a bit of powder. In cars, also look in the back seat for a bucket and for broken door handles. Victims break these so that they cannot get out. First responders should be trained to first check for signs of chemical suicide when encountering an individual slumped in a car before breaking windows to assist the victim. When a responder breaks the glass, he would immediately get a smell of rotten egg that goes away after two or three breaths. Co-chair Dolak asked how long the gas would stay in the car and noted that if a large amount of chemical is used, it could give off gas for a long time. This is also an issue with the bodies that have a high amount of concentration remaining. Coroners and mortuaries have to take this into consideration. Mr. Schroeder mentioned a unique situation in a dormitory. The dorm had two wings with a community bathroom between. Everyone had left on break and the individual sealed the room with duck tape. He was there for several days before he was found and no gas had escaped because the room had been sealed. He left signs and when everyone returned, they called hazmat and emergency responders. The largest issue with this type of incident in a school setting is the risk of others being affected because they are often confined spaces.

Mr. Moerer asked if the course addresses emergency medical practices for responders. Mr. Schroeder indicated that it is not emphasized currently; the course primarily focuses on identifying the signs because this is so new. They would like to see more direction with this. Mr. Bean asked about a survival rate from these suicide attempts; Mr. Schroeder noted that there are generally not survivors because of the large amount of chemical used. Cyanide kits may be helpful, but in the majority of these incidents, the individual has used such a large amount of the chemical there is not an opportunity to reverse the effects of the chemical and bring them back. Co-chair Dolak asked about the danger to first responders if someone had been there for 12 hours or more and the chemical is all over their body. Mr. Schroeder noted that that example would be very dangerous for responders and would require full hazmat suits in response.

Mr. Evans asked about the cyanide kits that have been purchased as a part of the deployment of medications in the area. He asked if they were still being ordered and updated. The kits, which are expensive, are no longer being distributed regionally. Some hospitals have them but they may be expired.

Mr. Brady asked about profiles of individuals that might use this method of suicide. Mr. Schroeder indicated that these are often done in private by white males between 18 – 40 years of age. Chief Maize shared that the National HazMat Fusion Center ([hazmatfc.com](http://hazmatfc.com)) has a page on this topic; Mr. Sherwood added that the Colorado Fire Chief Association also has information on their website about it. Mr. Moerer asked more about the availability of the cyanide kits at area hospitals. Ms. Wells shared that all of the hospitals had cyanide kits, but usually only keep one or two. They would not have enough for a terrorist attack. He asked if the fire departments were still carrying these kits on their ambulances and they do not, but Division Chiefs usually have a small number of doses (i.e. 4).

Mr. Schroeder also shared that Transcaer (Anhydrous Ammonia training car) guaranteed 6 spots for training locations for a train car in Missouri. They had twelve counties that are interested in participating. The MERC is hopeful they will be able to support those interested in the program. The closest training to our area right now is Buchanan County. Bill Britney is coordinating the offering. For those interested in attending, Mr. Schroeder suggested they contact Mr. Britney. He believes this training would be a three-hour course.

They also have a DuPont car coming to Missouri, but they are not sure of the dates or which counties will be getting it since this depends on the rail line and hosting. This will likely occur during the warmer months (between April and September). DuPont does offer a 4-8 hours of training on normal pressurized railcar safety training that addresses anhydrous ammonia.

## 5. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. Public Outreach

### b. Training Committee Report – Chief Maize

Nov 15, 16 or 17, 2010 – (handout) *Street Smart Safety for HazMat* training will be held at the KC Fire Department Eastwood Auditorium. Registration is open. Mike Callan is the instructor and is well known in fire service for his presentations and reference materials related to safety, fire suppression and hazardous materials topics.

Jan 4, 5 or 6, 2011 - *Basic Chemistry for Emergency Responders* training is an 8-hour training scheduled three different dates. The location for this training has not been determined. A flyer will be sent out closer to the registration.

The LEPC Training Committee met this morning. Chief Maize provided an overview of the activities on the HMEP training funds for January – September 2010. A total of 197 participants have been trained with the HMEP funds during April – September 2011. The majority of the funds have been expended except \$5,547. The committee considered asking for an extension to program the remaining funds for travel expenses related to the HOTZONE Conference scheduled October 14-17, 2010 in Houston, Texas. In checking with the MERC, releasing the funds back to the state was suggested and would not impact the next application for funding.

The LEPC Training Committee completed the prioritization of trainings for the application due October 15, 2010 requesting \$50,000 to support training activities. Chief Maize listed the following trainings which were added to the application for consideration to schedule in 2011: Hazardous Materials Incident Response: Awareness, Operations and Technician Level Courses. The committee would like to schedule 3 of each of the *HazMat Refresher: Work Practices* in

the spring and fall as well as scheduling an *Incident Management for HazMat* course which focuses on the HazMat Branch Supervisor. Funds were also programmed to support sending LEPC members to the following in 2011: HazMat Symposium, Region VII LEPC Conference to be held in Nebraska July 28-30 and the Bureau Explosives HazMat Symposium May 24-26 in St. Louis, Missouri.

(Handout) *The Impact of Social Media on the Incident Command System Workshop* is a one day workshop scheduled Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at the USDA Beacon Facility. Registration is limited to 75. The workshop is sponsored by the Training and Exercise Subcommittee and the Regional Association of Public Information Officers and is open to Emergency Managers, First Responders and Public Information Officers interested in learning how social media can affect the Incident Command System and what benefits there are in social media outlets during an emergency.

**c. Plans – Chair Williams**

This committee met earlier and discussed the RMP plans and developing of a template for reviewing these. Recommendations from the Planning Committee would be brought back to the full committee and then, basic information from the plans would be added to the LEPC plan and passed onto the local jurisdictions.

This committee is in the process of updating the LEPC plan. The State of Mo provided a template that our area has never used. The region had been use of the template is not mandatory, but in the Plans subcommittee meeting they agreed to consider transitioning the current plan into the State's template. Then, if there were any questions on our plan, our region could say that we followed their template and followed the MERC guidance.

We will be applying for HMEP funds - \$5,000 (\$1,000 per each Missouri county in LEPC) for HMEP planning. This application also allows us to apply for \$50,000 for training. The planning dollars will be programmed towards updating our plan. Possible contract support will be used to migrate information into a base plan and develop annexes for each county with more specific information. Mr. Moerer asked if the Kansas counties would be included in the updated plan. Chair Williams replied the transition is being reviewed now and the Kansas guidance will have to be reviewed. The Kansas side already provides a report in their Emergency Plan. Our LEPC will probably not incorporate the Kansas counties plans, this year, but work through it next year. Mr. Moerer made a motion that the grant application request be submitted to the MERC for the \$5,000 HMEP planning funding and the \$50,000 request for training funds; the motion was seconded by Co-chair Dolak and was approved.

6. **MEMBERSHIP** – Chair Williams shared that a copy of the LEPC membership is required for the grant application submissions to MERC. MARC staff sent out a revised list and asked if anyone had been left off or if anyone wanted to be a member. Mr. Moerer shared that under his name, it should be “Mr.” Richard Rocha not “Chief” as an alternate. Mr. Tim Lynch asked how this related to the Kansas side and if this was the time for them to become members; it is and he will be added to the membership list. Chair Williams shared that it was a recommendation that the list be approved with the addition of Captain Lynch. Mr. Boatright made a motion to accept this recommendation; it was seconded by Deputy O’Neal and approved.
7. **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REPORTING** – Ms. Lynch reported that a continuous release was reported from Iatan.
8. **HOMELAND SECURITY ACTIVITIES** – Ms. Lynch shared that yesterday the Hospital committee had an evacuation exercise. Ms. Wells reported that most of the metropolitan area hospitals participated. It was more of a discussion on how an evacuation would be coordinated with their area partners such as fire and EMS and how the Regional Healthcare Coordination System would be activated. She felt they had an excellent discussion which may lead to some individual facility plans being revised. Having subject matter experts participate was very helpful and they were able to do some posting under WebEOC which will remain up for a while for everyone to review. She thanked all those that participated and helped with this exercise.

Ms. Lynch shared that the Training & Exercise Workshop (TEPW) will be Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>. The LEPC is invited to attend and express their training needs to help promote visibility of LEPC activities.

**9. LEGISLATION**

**10. ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Mike Klender advised the committee of an effort to close a road near the water plant because of dangerous conditions and security concerns. A recent accident where a vehicle crashed into the fence line at the facility served to reinforce the importance of this road closure. He will update the committee as any decisions are made.

Chair Williams shared that we had received the information brochure for the Region 7 LEPC/TERC Emergency Planning & Response Conference. It is July 28 – 30, 2011 in Nebraska. He shared that those interested in going should put this on their calendar.

He shared that the State of Missouri Department of Public Safety and the Missouri State Board of Education have joined together to start a Center for Education Safety. It has an all-hazards approach to provide tools for schools in Missouri. Chair Williams will be representing the fire department and LEPC to bring awareness to the schools on sheltering-in-place and evacuation. The Center is for grades K – 12, but also includes the college level. This might be a resource for the LEPC to use to get brochures and find out information for school safety and what information the LEPC can provide to the schools. Mr. Brady asked if there was a website and Chair Williams was not sure if it was up yet, but suggested going to the Board of Education's website to look for a link. Dr. Hull asked if they were going to hire a position coordinator with the funds they received. They plan to hire two part-time staff individuals that will be housed at the Missouri Board of Education office. These individuals will be responsible for outreach and statewide coordination. Chair Williams emphasized the value of being involved in this type of initiative. For example, he learned that there is a mechanism for first responders to be able to access daycare in order to respond to an emergency. The source of funding for the Center is federal Homeland Security funds awarded to the State of Missouri. 25% of these funds must be used for Law Enforcement terrorism prevention activities; this Center supports that requirement.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – No comments

**12. NEXT MEETING:**

Chair Williams mentioned the November 11 LEPC meeting falls on Veteran's Day and because the MARC offices are closed the committee agreed not to schedule a November meeting. The next LEPC meeting is December 9, 2010.

**Handouts:**

*October Agenda*

*September Summary*

*Financial Report*

*Training Fliers*

*Additional Financial*

*LEPC Membership List*