

Broome County
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
LEPC MEETING MINUTES
12/19/2024

- Call to Order 13:04 hrs.
- Introduction of guests/new members
 - Linda Taylor, Archie Brace
- Attendees: Trooper Robert Bonano, Michael Bender, Cortnianne Williams, Anne Smith, Sierra Kunig, Garrick Henry, Mike Heide, Tina Survilla, Lynette Bellmore, Jason Zheng, Stephanie Chapin, Pam Rexer, Linda Taylor, Archie Brace, Dave Tinklepaugh, Bill Miller, Cait Cavanaugh, Gloryangeliz Lugo-Vazquez, Steve Smith.
- Approval of minutes 10/17/2024: Motion Dave Tinklepaugh, 2nd Cortnianne Williams
- Correspondence /Announcements
 - a) **Training Notices:**
 - a. Further details on all courses listed above as well as **registration** can be found on the [DHSES Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#).
 - b. Useful resources including the DHSES LMS Student Guide and FAQ can be found on the [DHSES Webpage](#).
 - c. State Department of Health held 2 tabletops on December 16th at their Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition quarterly meeting. (Winter Weather Tabletop and Discussion-Based Exercise on CHEMPACK.)
 - b) **Kinder Morgan Pipeline Facility Safety Information**

Old Business

1) Committee Updates:

- **Health, Human and Animal Needs** – Meeting held on 11/21/24.
 - a. Emergency Planning and Preparedness People with Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs WEBINAR – December 17
 - b. GETS: Government Emergency Telecommunications Service
 - c. Innovative Readiness Training
 - d. Health Department monitoring H591, increasing testing. Someone did test positive in California.

2) Drills and Training Schedule 2024 – Updates and New Events

- Asset Distribution Exercise – Health Dept/Emergency Services – No Date currently.
- Training, Exercises and Drills Committee is going to plan and create a tabletop for the upcoming year.
- Innovative Readiness Training- No Cost Medical Services provided to the public by the military. Taking place on August 11th-20th at the SUNY Broome Ice Center.

3) Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) - *Program has still not been renewed.*

- a) *The Program and compliance currently cannot be enforced by CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency)*
- b) *Homeland Security can still respond to incidents at previously regulated facilities – they just can't regulate.*
- c) *No movement will occur on reauthorization (if any) until after the election.*
- d) Authority was allowed to expire on July 28, 2023.
- e) Voluntary Program, ChemLock, can be used in the interim. [ChemLock | CISA](#)

New Business

1) 2025 Meetings:

- a. In Person Meetings resumed at Public Safety Building. Zoom Link Available. **Meeting to begin at 1:00**
- b. Meeting Dates for 2025:
 - February 20
 - April 17
 - June 19
 - August 21
 - October 16
 - December 18
- c. *Legal Notice to appear in Press& Sun-Bulletin*

4) Election of Officers for 2025

Current Officers in 2024 are:

- Chairperson – Pamela Rexer
- Vice-Chair – Mike Bender
- Recorder – Cortnianne Williams
- Motion for current officers to continue in 2025, Dave Tinklepaugh, 2nd Garrick Henry.

5) 2025 LEPC PLANS

Committees:

- Public Safety- (Needs Members)
- Health, Human, and Animal Needs
- Infrastructure (Needs Members)
- Training/Exercises – Drills – **Exercise Inquiry email sent out on 11/13/24**

6) COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: RMP Facilities must develop plans for conducting Emergency Response Exercises by December 19, 2023. This consists of notification exercises, field exercises, and tabletop exercises.

Amrex Chemical has 3 RMP facilities – taking down to 2 facilities in next quarter.
 Binghamton Water Department? Endicott Water?

Broome County to plan Exercise – Need other agency exercise needs as well as ideas for the exercise itself.

7) REGULATORY UPDATES:

OSHA extends comment deadline for proposed heat rule.

The comment period for OSHA’s proposed heat illness prevention rule was scheduled to end December 30, but **the agency extended the deadline until January 14, 2025.**

The proposed rule would protect workers from the effects of working in high levels of heat in both indoor and outdoor workplaces. The rule would require employers to:

- Develop an injury and illness prevention plan to control [heat hazards](#) in both indoor and outdoor workplaces affected by excessive heat,
- Develop a plan to protect new or returning workers unaccustomed to working in high heat conditions,
- Provide employee training,
- Establish and implement procedures to respond if a worker experiences signs and symptoms of a heat-related illness, and

- Take immediate action to help a worker experiencing signs and symptoms of a heat emergency.

The extended comment deadline allows stakeholders more time to review the proposed rule and gather relevant information and data for their input.

An informal public hearing about the proposed rule is scheduled for June 16, 2025.

Broome County Office of Emergency Services:

- New Director on December 23rd, Neal Haight

Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services:

- Erik Verfuss has left and currently hiring a new employee for his position. As well as adding to the Vestal office for regional staff.

Binghamton University:

- New legislation added to the New York’s Nation-Leading Effects to Address the Opioid and Overdose Crisis and Signs New Legislation to Keep New Yorkers Safe.
- Legislation S.4393/A.5004 will require the Department of Health to distribute fentanyl test strips along with opioid antagonists, which it distributes to registered opioid overdose prevention programs. The legislation will also require that an informational card or sheet distributed along with the opioid antagonist contain information about fentanyl test strips and their uses.
- Legislation S.3112-A/A.1588-A will require the state to equip public institutions and buildings with opioid antagonists.
- Legislation S.7833-A/A.8467-A will authorize health care professionals, including pharmacists to dispense drug adulterant testing supplies used to test for xylazine. Xylazine is a non-opioid used as a sedative, anesthetic, muscle relaxant, and analgesic for animals, but it is not FDA-approved for use in humans due to severe central nervous system (CNS) depressant effects.

Presentation:

Michael Bender, CHEMPACK.

- It was a secret for many years due to the possible terrorists’ attacks.
- Overview of what a nerve agent is and what it can do the human body.
- Atropine is the primary drug for treatment of the nerve agent exposure.
- CHEMPACKS have a certain about of the Atropine in the package to take care of a huge outbreak.
- Training can be done with actual equipment from the State to conduct it as realistic as possible.
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Meeting adjourned: Motion Bill Miller, 2nd Stephanie Chapin.

*Next Meeting February 20, 2025 at Public Safety Facility (and Virtual)
Committee Meetings January 16, 2025 (or alternate date as scheduled by committee)*