

Broome County
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
LEPC /MEETING MINUTES
10/17/2024

- Call to Order 13:05 hrs.
- Introduction of guests/new members
- Attendees: Michael Bender, Mackenzie Squair, Sue Koza, Garrick Henry, Kim Saunders, Lynette Bellmore, Patrick Reardon, Gloryangeliz Lugo-Vazquez, Sierra Kunig, Tina Survilla, Stephanie Brewer, Ron Patti, Robert Bonanno, Stephen Smith, John McNulty, Pam Rexer
- Approval of minutes 8/15/2024: Motion Garrick Henry, 2nd Kim Saunders
- 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](#).

Old Business

- 1) **Committee Updates:**
 - **Health, Human and Animal Needs** – Meeting held on 9/19/24
H5N1(Bird Flu) outbreak being monitored
COVID/Flu updates
Guthrie Computer systems up and running
 - Report from Michael Bender-
 - Employees getting vaccinated for the flu
 - Dairy farms have a higher chance of getting the bird flu.
 - COVID-19 numbers/ difficult due to the home testing.
- 2) **Drills and Training Schedule 2024 – Updates and New Events**
 - Asset Distribution Exercise – Health Dept/Emergency Services – Still no date at this time.
 - LUMA fest on Sept 6 and 7. Went very well with no incidents.
- 3) **Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS)** authority was allowed to expire on July 28, 2023. ***The Program and compliance currently cannot be enforced by CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) – Program has still not been renewed.*** Voluntary Program, ChemLock, can be used in the interim. [ChemLock | CISA](#)
 - ***Homeland Security can still respond to incidents at previously regulated facilities – they just can't regulate***
 - ***No movement will occur on reauthorization (if any) until after the election***

New Business

- 1) **2024 LEPC PLANS**
 - Committees:**
 - Public Safety
 - Health, Human, and Animal Needs
 - Infrastructure
 - Training/Exercises – Drills – **NEED TO PLAN RMP DRILL**
 - Creating New Committee to Put together an exercise.
- 2) **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.

- Ideas: Weather Related Incident (Rivers could be affected), Anthrax, Chemical Spill in Vestal, Railroad, BU could be affected, Willow Point Nursing Home, Vestal High School, Lourdes, Perrineaus Dialysis, Hazmat Incident (Styrene, Chemical Plant Fire, Lithium Batteries Explosion, Rail Incident)

3) **HazMat Incidents:**

- **Styrene Leaks from Rail Car in Ohio**

Multiple class-action lawsuits involving 11 plaintiffs have been filed against multiple companies allegedly connected to the styrene release near Cincinnati, Ohio. A spokesperson for one company said affected residents could be reimbursed for expenses incurred due to the release.

Schools, businesses, and more than 200 homes in Whitewater Township, OH were evacuated after the chemical styrene leaked from a rail car on September 26.

Styrene is a flammable and toxic liquid used to make polystyrene, fiberglass, rubber, latex, and many other industrial products. When exposed to excess heat, styrene changes from a liquid to a gas. *In this case, the change in physical state put tremendous pressure on the tank car's valve, which failed, venting gas upwards.* Exposure to styrene gas can cause vomiting, dizziness, eye irritation, and respiratory complications. Officials have established air quality monitoring stations and did not detect concentrations of styrene in the air.

- **Chemical Plant Fire Affects 90,000 Near Atlanta**

In the Atlanta metro area, officials recommended that more than 90,000 residents' shelter in place and asked ~17,000 people to evacuate from the suburb of Conyers, GA, where a fire broke out at a chemical plant that manufactures pool and spa treatment products on Sunday, September 30. The US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) dispatched a team of investigators to the scene of the fire and chlorine release.

The fire reportedly started on the roof of the facility at about 5 A.M. ET. Initial reports indicate that the fire started when a malfunctioning sprinkler head caused water to contact a water reactive chemical. Air quality surveys showed that the large plumes of black, gray, and orange smoke that billowed above the facility contained chlorine.

Chlorine exposure can cause burning of eyes, nose and mouth, cough, choking, vomiting, and other symptoms.

The roof of the facility has caved in. By Monday morning, hazy conditions and a chemical smell had drifted to Atlanta proper, leading Atlanta Fire Rescue to monitor air quality around the city. On Friday, October 4, the Rockdale County Government extended the shelter-in-place order through the weekend, which ended at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, October 7, 2024. One of EPA's monitoring stations found chlorine concentration levels more than four times as high as the recommended action level from 1 a.m. to 3:15 a.m. on Wednesday, October 3.

- **Lithium Batteries Explode and Burn in San Pedro, CA**

Southern California experienced a hazmat transportation incident last week, too, on September 26. In San Pedro, a truck hauling a shipment of lithium batteries rolled over, exploded, and caught fire.

NBC Los Angeles shared a statement from an LA City Fire official that highlights several challenges of fighting fires involving lithium batteries in transportation:

“...the best course of action for this is to continue to let it burn. Lithium-ion batteries take copious amounts of water, so it’s generally better to just let them burn. It’s also better for the environment. We’re concerned about water runoff getting into the drains, eventually getting into the ocean. It could create an environmental disaster.”

- Captain Adam Van Gerpen, LA City Fire Department

4) **REGULATORY UPDATES:**

a) OSHA Hazard Communication Standard Update – Affects all workplaces with any Hazardous Chemicals: Took effect on July 19, 2024

Corrections to rule published on October 9, 2024

b) **OSHA Proposed Rule: *Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings***: The standard would apply to all employers conducting outdoor and indoor work in all general industry, construction, maritime, and agriculture sectors where OSHA has jurisdiction, with some exceptions. It would be a programmatic standard that would require employers to create a plan to evaluate and control heat hazards in their workplace. It would more clearly set forth employer obligations and the measures necessary to effectively protect employees from hazardous heat. **DATES:** Comments to this NPRM (including requests for a hearing) and other information must be submitted by December 30, 2024. Published in the *Federal Register* August 30, 2024, page 70698.

c) **OSHA “Emergency Response Standard:”** An informal public hearing on its proposed rule will begin November 12, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time (ET). The proposed rule was published in the *Federal Register* on February 5, 2024. The initial public comment period was scheduled to end May 6,

2024, but was extended to June 21, 2024, in response to numerous requests from the public. The comment period was extended again, until July 22, 2024, due to more extension requests from stakeholders. **DATES:** *Informal public hearing:* The hearing will be held virtually and will begin November 12, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. ET. If necessary, the hearing will continue from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., ET, on subsequent weekdays. Published in the *Federal Register* July 23, 2024, page 59712.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion Mike Bender, Kim Saunders 2nd

***Next Meeting December 19, 2024 at Public Safety Facility (and Virtual)
Committee Meetings November 21, 2024 (or alternate date as scheduled by committee)***