

# **STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION**

**Monday, September 12, 2011**

**RIEMA Headquarters**

**Cranston, RI**

## **Attendees:**

**Jim Ball, DEM**

**Paul D'Abbraccio, RIEMA**

**Steve Preston, LEPC-1**

**Gina Friedman, DEM**

**Jim Gumbley,, RIEMA**

**Richard James, Fire Marshal's Office**

**Edward Johnson, Acting Director, RIEMA**

**Ray Laprad, RIEMA**

**James Larisa, Dept. of Labor**

**Chief Fed Stanley, Fire Chiefs Association**

**Elise Ilona Jakabhazy-EPA**

**Paul D'Abbraccio called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 P.M.**

## **Old Business:**

**Gina Friedman started a discussion pertaining to a draft letter that the**

**Committee will be mailing to school superintendents. On the draft, only one response was returned with a couple of comments. The letter will be re-drafted and provided to Committee members for their approval. Added to the letter was a list of common mistakes made regarding acid storage cabinets. Ms. Friedman questioned whether money was available to cover the cost of mailing the letter and list (the list is about seven pages long) as opposed to emailing the packet, in order to make sure it gets into the proper hands.**

**Suggested additions to the draft:**

- 1. OSHA regulations regarding chemistry labs should be referenced in the letter, since the Department of Labor is the enforcing agency for state statutes and is the regulatory agency for the Department of Education and their chemistry labs.**
- 2. Both SERC and the Department of Labor should sign the letter unless it would delay sending out the packet.**
- 3. That what is already prepared be sent to superintendents and each fire department with the list developed from EMA.**
- 4. The letter should indicate that a chemical plan must be submitted to the Department of Labor prior to the opening of school. Thereby, if superintendents are aware of the fact that they have to supply a plan to the Department of Labor and Training and it has not done so, then they know there is an issue. The Department of Labor and Training**

**has the authority and responsibility to oversee inspections of chemical labs.**

**5. The letter should delineate all those requirements that will prevent spills.**

**6. The letter should indicate what steps should be followed immediately after a spill: a call to 911, DEM, and the NRC (1-800-424-8802).**

**7. The letter should include a reference to NFPA Guidelines and a link to the OSHA Guidelines (video).**

**8. The letter should be signed by the following entities: SERC, all LEPC's, DEM, DOT and the Fire Marshal's Office.**

**There followed a general discussion on whether a training course could be put together for the benefit of those charged with responsibility for chemical labs in schools and where the funds could/might be found to support such course.**

**Planning Committee Reports:**

**Plymouth, Mass., September 22, 23 for hazmat training**

**LEPC's have been getting their district plans updated**

## **Training Committee Report:**

**Meets on Wednesday, September 14th**

### **District Reports:**

**LEPC-1 Next Meeting: October 20 @ North Providence Public Library, 1:30 pm. Reviewed final draft of the district emergency response plan. Plan is heading back to the consultant for final changes. Should be done by the end of the week. Sent out 36 surveys to the multiple fire departments in LEPC-1, asking them for their special responsive list, phone, initial dispatch for chemical emergencies. As of Friday, only six have been returned.**

**LEPC-3 (Speaker not identified) The next meeting will be in December.**

**This LEPC chair questioned why he was not notified of a fine placed on Hess Chemical. The LEPC chair was contacted about whether the company had a record of violations and fines, or what their participation has been with the LEPC training, etc. The only notification of the fine came from Jim Gumbley who indicated that the Providence Journal had carried an article on the event.**

**Have stopped working on District Plan because Ellary Gamache has left RIEMA and she was the regional planner.**

### **LEPC-4**

**Met on Thursday, September 8. Andrew Grebowski is working for the wire group, they're finishing up and reviewing their response plan,**

which should be completed shortly. The next meeting for LEPC-4 is scheduled for December 13th at 10 am at the Union Fire District office.

**New Business:**

**Preston:**

On the HMEP grant: the LEPC chairs are voting in October to provide the training funds to the Fire Academy to provide the training on our behalf to provide the widest possible group training opportunities, and that the training is consistent throughout the state, meeting and exceeding the grant. It has come to our attention that the State Police Finance Control officer has refused to accept any purchase orders for training past September 20th. The performance period of this grant is October 1 through September 30. We have 30 days to close out the grant. This is causing us to send \$17,000 back to the federal government unnecessarily. If the State Police and the Fire Marshal's Office can not manage the funds in a timely fashion, then LEPC-1 will not participate in continuing to give our training dollars to the academy.

**Discussion ensued.**

**Mr. D'Abbraccio:**

**Next Topic:** In an effort to spend some money before the end of September, they tried to push through some RAD training, but it was

not possible to get some paperwork done. Will bring this up Wednesday at the training meeting. We'll try to move forward to try to get DOT RAD training. I'll make sure there are enough seats available for commercial truck drivers, who have requested this to fulfill a DOT requirement.

**Jim Ball:** I tried to put together the 40-hour HAZWOPR training but I couldn't get 10 people; I could only get seven and it wasn't enough to go forward with the class.

**Chief Stanley:** Last year, we sent out RECON teams throughout the state, made up of HAZMAT people, Coast Guard, etc. To this date, no one has ever been reimbursed for having sent those people out.

Also, from my perspective as a Fire Chief, this storm was the worst handled disaster in the last 47 years. Lack of communications between state officials was terrible. Something should be brought up at the next meeting with the Lieutenant Governor. The fire, EMS, highway departments, the police departments were all working when we found out that the governor had ordered the state DOT and National Guard off the road. And everyone, including National Grid, must have followed suit. This set everything back. We never had sustained winds over 50 mph.

**Jim Ball:** I talked to Larry about the flood funding. Marc Pappas was going to look into it too, because he just got payment for the USAR

teams.

### **Tri-State:**

**We had three venues: fire fighting venue on the water, the hazmat venue just around the corner where we had two rail cars come in and P&W was able to obtain them. We had hazmat teams from Woonsocket, Providence, Mystic and other Connecticut agencies. It ran from 12 – 2:00 PM with about 8 teams that went in. And the last venue that we had, was Motiva Enterprises. We had buses come in to bus people from the venues out to Motiva. Mike Sullivan, the superintendent of the facility, gave a speech about all the safeguards and issues and how everything operates. Great feedback on the exercise. We had an issue with the evaluators. We were supposed to get them from Connecticut, but that fell through at the last minute, so we had to come up with evaluators and design a whole new evaluator form for our folks. When I get the evaluator forms in, I have to write up a report and will probably do that sometime in October.**

**The East Providence Oil (diesel) Spill: we're involved with the Coast Guard and DEM. We have an estimated 60,000 gallons were released, but we have to do some calculations to see how much was left in the pipes, but we could have up to 160,000 gallons. We removed about 23,000 of oil that was impounded or from catch basins in other areas. We removed about 18 cubic yards of contaminated soil; most of it has gone off to a location for proper disposal. And then we also have some materials that are lead contaminated because as part of this**

road entry that they designed, they went to an area that had some lead contamination. So they have separated those materials and will have to address those materials in a different fashion. We have three recovery wells at the location. We've been pumping out the recovery wells and recovered about 1,000 gallons of diesel. I'm hoping that at some time in the near future we can get it out of the emergency response phase and into a remediation group within DEM.

**Next meeting: October 3 @ 10:00 a.m. at RIEMA Headquarters.**

**Meeting adjourned 3:09 pm**