



Memphis / Shelby County
Local Emergency Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2006
Web: www.mslepc.org
Meeting Location: Memphis-Shelby County EMA HQ
2668 Avery Road, Memphis, TN

Call to Order: Nick Ridge: 2:33 P.M.

Roundtable Introductions: 37 attendees present

February 16, 2006 Meeting Minutes: Nick reminded the attendees that it was their responsibility to read and review the web posted previous meeting minutes. The meeting minutes are now sent to participants on the membership roster electronically for review. Comments are to be sent to Karen Birkenstock (kbirkenstock@5rltd.com) prior to the next months meeting for discussion and incorporation if approved. A motion was made by Rob Hooper and seconded by Butch Pennington to accept the minutes as written.

Financial Report: Larry Hill reported balances in the checking and savings accounts as follows with no outstanding checks:

Current Balances: Savings: \$6162.10 Checking: \$13,944.70

Incidents Discussions/Company Drills

- Butch Pennington stated that Valero Refinery had a reportable event however, no representation from the company was present at this months meeting. Butch Pennington made a motion that Nick Ridge - LEPC Chairman mail a letter to Valero to obtain a synopsis of the event for the record and reminding them of their obligations to attend LEPC meetings, and of the reporting requirements. The motion was seconded, there was no further discussion and the consensus was that Nick should prepare that letter to Valero. (A copy of this letter should be placed in the LEPC minutes archives.)
- Nick reminded everyone of reporting requirements under the regulations including notification to EMA. In the future, Nick will request a report from EMA regarding incidents that have occurred.

Task Team/Committee Reports

- Ken Laseter, **Membership** Chair was not in attendance to provide a report for March.
- Nick Ridge reported on the **Emergency Response Handbook** update. Nick met with EMA last week and went over requirements. Tier Two Reports have been coming in and the information needs to be put in CAMEO or similar database which will allow easy access to information provided by reporters and to provide data to fire departments and other organizations in need of the information. Nick discussed again hiring the University of Memphis to provide a part time person to take on the responsibility of data entry and providing administrative support to LEPC. It was noted that the fire department may already have information in CAMEO.





- **Outreach and Funding committees still are not chaired.** Butch Pennington and Toleda Burton may co-chair Outreach.
- **Drill Committee:** The committee is to meet in two weeks at EMA to finalize details of the drill now scheduled for April 28th. Nick met with the Hospital Council earlier today to obtain input and feedback on plans to date. All groups appear to be on board however, a final scenario is yet to be determined. Some discussion on overturned truck and Alton Lanier suggested a scenario could be planned at the airport. He will be at the committee meeting March 27th at 2:30. The airport has empty buildings that may be utilized. Nick reported that “victims” were needed. A suggestion was made to contact the University of Memphis Theatrical group to provide “players/victims”.

Old Business –

- **Grant:** We do have a copy of the \$7000 grant which has been signed by the City. The grant provides funding for the Drill, Outreach and GIS work. Butch Pennington again put the grant together. There will not be a conference in 2006.

New Business –

- Alton Lanier reported that Paul Dunn had passed away last week. Any details needed, please contact Alton.
- Butch Pennington announced RCRA and DOT training classes to be held in Jackson sponsored by Safety-Kleen next week. Handouts were provided.
- The Weather services announced contact information: 544-0400 or 0401 7/24. Call if the service can be of assistance.

Special Presentation – Rob Hooper, Manager of Safety and Environmental Affairs at Schering Plough, provided a special presentation on Emergency Communications. Rob was joined by Joe Lowenthal as co-presenter. A copy of the presentation is provided on the LEPC web site for those who have interest. The presentation included information on amateur radio systems as a powerful communication network when all other communication systems fail. Key points:

- There is no one system that covers it all
- Amateur radio is the most flexible
- Largest single “user” allocation of radio frequencies globally with frequencies up to 300 GHz
- Normal communication may not be enough – what’s there normally in routine emergencies, but not when extreme emergencies occur.
- Emergency communication may be what is missing in your Emergency Response Plan
- Locally, integration of amateur radio is further along in the hospital systems
- ARES = Amateur Radio Emergency Service links to EMA, Homeland Security, Military Affiliate Radio System
- Amateur radio can get through when other forms of communication don’t work.
- FCC rules – cannot be paid to be on the radio while at work.
- **There is a need to develop an alternative emergency communications infrastructure within industry and amateur radio may be one of those means you should evaluate.**

Suggestion was made to include ARES on drills but again, caution given that not to violate FCC rules.





Next Meeting: April 20, 2006 – Topic: Spill of National Significance (SONS) – Phil Boruszewski U.S. Coast Guard . Location: **American Red Cross, 1400 Central Ave, Memphis, TN**

