

BELLINGHAM

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Minutes of November 25, 2008

Roll Call

Shannon O'Leary (American Red Cross), Greg Stern and Marcus Deyerin (WCHD), Joy Hedger (WWU-HSP), Neil Clement (Port of Bellingham), Robert Muzzy (WTA), Gayle Shipley (WWU –Environmental Health & Safety), Ron Cowan (Bellingham Schools), Brian Keeley (WCC), Lynn Murphy (PSE), W. Preston Lamp (Citizen), R.H. Severson (Citizen), Rick DeFehr (Citizen), Andy Day and Don Davis (OEM).

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Andy Day from the Bellingham Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

LEPC Organization

Proposed by-laws were presented for consideration. Critical elements of all Articles were briefly discussed.

Motion by Clement, 2nd Stern, to approve LEPC By-laws as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Chief Day will contact LEPC stakeholders to solicit applications for membership. Link to adopted by-laws:

[Initial by-laws adopted November 25, 2008 \(PDF\)](#)

Planning

2009 Meeting Schedule. Meetings will be held quarterly: January 27, April 28, September 22, and November 24 between 1:30 and 3:30 at the Health Education Center.

The Emergency Operations Plan revision has been completed and a new Hazardous Materials Response Plan, including an annex for pipeline emergencies, is nearly ready for review.

Working Groups

Disaster Healthcare Coalition

The group is working on developing a strategic plan to coordinate community medical assets during disasters. In a related planning initiative, St. Joseph Hospital and the fire service have completed a mass casualty plan to address incidents with up to 40 casualties. The City facilitated purchase of three new treatment trailers to be strategically staged throughout the county to support the plan.

Community Training and Exercise

The group has developed a three year plan that includes identification of target capabilities and an incremental approach to developing the capabilities over a three-year period. View the comprehensive plan at:

[Current three-year emergency exercise plan \(PDF\)](#)

Specific to hazardous materials reporting, on January 28 OEM is sponsoring a workshop with Department of Ecology and the Environmental Protection Agency to help business storing hazardous chemicals learn how to report their inventories.

Public Education

OEM has secured the services of Applied Research Northwest to assist the workgroup in developing a social marketing-based approach to preparedness messaging. Their study is due in January and will include a marketing plan.

Public Information Officers

Emergency Management Public Information Officers are organizing and planning to conduct training on Joint Information Center operations.

Recovery

A focus group met on September 30 to discuss the need for, and approach to, community disaster recovery planning. Conclusion from the discussion was that recovery activities are situational depending on the nature of an event. Thus, there is no intent to draft a general recovery plan at this time. Interest in building awareness of recovery issues through tabletop discussions following response drills.

Given the appreciation that preparedness efforts can increase the speed and effectiveness of recovery efforts, there will be a push for increased organizational continuity planning throughout the community next year.

Mass Care

Working Group is organizing to address sheltering, feeding, evacuation, distribution, and re-unification issues. At the next meeting, hope to meet with representatives of FEMA and the State to gain a better understanding of what these governments can offer.

Question posed on mass morgue capacities. Understanding was that the Medical Examiner has capacity for eight bodies, while local mortuaries have collective capacity for about forty. A specific plan is being discussed in conjunction with the Pandemic preparedness planning process.

Agency Updates and Sharing

WTA

Bob Muzzy reported that WTA will be conducting a series of exercises to develop their in-house incident management capabilities.

Presentation – Olympic Pipeline Company

Mike Abendhoff, Chris Anderson, Pam Brady, Mike Condon, Jim Fraley, Dennis Johnston gave a “Community Awareness and Pipeline Preparedness” program including segments on Pipeline System Overview, Pipeline Right of Way, Damage Prevention, and Emergency Response. The presentation highlighted improvements BP, the new operator of the pipeline, has made since taking over operations following the 1999 incident.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m., but continued for another 40 minutes.

Next meeting (Annual Meeting): Tuesday, January 27, 1:30-3:30, at the Health Education Center.