

# BELLINGHAM

## Local Emergency Planning Committee

Minutes of Annual Meeting: January 27, 2009

### **Roll Call**

Shannon O'Leary, American Red Cross; Lori Michaels, HInet-Shared Care Plan; Marcus Deyerin, WC Health; Rick DeFehr, citizen; Pam Kiesner, Bellingham Public Library; David Doll; Bellingham Police; Randy VanderHeiden, Whatcom Medic One; Jared Woods, WWU Emergency Management; Dawnette Chadwick, Medical Reserve Corps; Maureen McCarthy, Whatcom Transportation Authority; Sheila Hanlon, Bellingham Fire Department; Sue Ellen Heflin, Whatcom Volunteer Center; Neil Clement, Port of Bellingham; Frances Burkhart, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office-Division of Emergency Management; Doug Dahl, WCSO-DEM; Andy Day, City of Bellingham Office of Emergency Management; 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).

Minutes of 11/25/08 approved as presented.

### **LEPC Organization**

Discussions are underway between the County DEM and City OEM to functionally integrate activities. One of the items of mutual interest is to merge the two LEPCs into one. It is envisioned that the combined LEPC will continue to have an all-hazards approach. Proposed by-laws will be presented at the next meeting for consideration.

### **Planning**

#### Target Capabilities

The concept of identifying specific target capabilities to help focus preparedness efforts was discussed. A proposed list resulting from a process completed by the Training & Exercise workgroup was discussed and adopted by consensus. The list is:

- Core Incident Management Functions: resource management, communications, planning, etc
- Medical Surge
- Public Safety and Security
- Mass Care
- Recovery/Mitigation
- Critical Infrastructure Protection

#### Community Exercise Calendar

The draft 2009 Community Training & Exercise calendar was presented, discussed, and adopted by consensus. Highlights of the calendar include:

- Two deliveries of ICS 300, and one of ICS 400 (announcements will be distributed soon).
- Community-wide exercises focused to damage assessment and severe storms.
- Combined exercises for EMS/SJH, fire and haz mat, public health and hospital, law and public works.

## **Working Groups**

### Disaster Healthcare Coalition

Current focus of planning effort is to create a common operational structure to include various resource groups (auxiliary health care centers, hospital, ems) in times of disaster.

### Public Education

A planning process applying social marketing principles to individual disaster preparedness is nearing completion. Result should be an education campaign using messages pre-validated by the target audience.

### Community Training and Exercise

Group using the Department of Homeland Security's Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) as a model to plan and deliver upcoming exercises.

### Public Information Officers

Emergency Management Public Information Officers are moving toward organizing a cadre of PIOs to function during community-wide emergencies.

### 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.

## **After Action Reports**

Reviews of December's Carbon Monoxide related mass casualty event and January's flooding are underway. Related meetings will be announced and summary documents shared.

## **Agency Updates and Sharing**

### OEM

Financial constraints caused reassignment of Don Davis from OEM back into fire operations to help maintain staffing on fire companies. Don was instrumental in spooling up the Map Your Neighborhood program in the community.

### Whatcom Health Information Network

Lori Nichols reported the Hinet is implementing grants received by the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation from the Microsoft Be Well fund and the Washington State Healthcare Authority to promote and facilitate adoption of the Shared Care Plan Personal Health Record ([www.sharedcareplan.org](http://www.sharedcareplan.org)). Hinet is looking to include other agencies and businesses in utilizing the Shared Care plan as a tool for emergency preparedness. A presentation on the plan is slated for the next LEPC meeting.

### WTA

Maureen McCarthy reported that WTA had two table top drills with multi-agency involvement including Randy Scott of St. Joseph, Dave Doll of BPD, Randy VanderHeiden from Medic One, and Marcus Deyerin of the Health Dept.

### Medic One

Randy VanderHeiden shared that Whatcom Medic One will soon deploy three Mass Casualty Incident trailers to three locations: Bellingham, Nugent's Corner Fire Station #82, and in the Birch Bay/Blaine area.

### St. Joseph Hospital

Randy Scott stated that the hospital will receive \$300,000 to improve its back-up power system. Funding is also being sought to improve capabilities for managing radiological emergencies. The recent merger of Madrona medical and Peace Health will provide added facilities for surge capacity.

### Medical Reserve Corps

Dawnette Chadwick reported that Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties' MRCs are creating a Region 1 coalition.

### Port of Bellingham

Port recently held a drill on facilities preservation of essential records. PoB surprised employees when they arrived at work with an emailed scenario that described total destruction of their office building. The scenario ended with the question: "What did you lose in last night's fire?"

### Whatcom Volunteer Center

Sue Ellen Heflin relayed that the Volunteer Center received many calls during flood from citizens offering to volunteer. WVC took names and notified DEM; also received referrals of volunteers from the Red Cross.

### Discussion

Question asked about how different organizations communicate during emergencies. Group discussion ensued addressing the various systems available (VHF, UHF, 800 MHz, Ham) and their role in the system.

### Upcoming Events

A couple of upcoming conferences of interest to LEPC members:

- Partners in Preparedness. Outstanding annual conference for all stakeholders in Tacoma, April 14 and 15. Rides maybe available with Chief Day. For conference info visit: <http://capps.wsu.edu/conferences/emergencyprep/>
- State Local Emergency Management Committee Conference in Chelan, April 20-22. State will pick up lodging costs at Campbell's Lodge and lunches. Chief Day maybe able to provide rides. If interested, please contact Chief Day to discuss.

### Calendar

Date	Time	Place	Event
1/28	9-11	HEC	Hazardous Chemical Reporting Workshop
2/3	1:30-3	B'ham Fire	CO Event After Action Review
2/4	1:30-3:30	OEM	Public Education Working Group
2/19	11-12:30	HEC	Disaster Health Care Coalition
2/24	1:30-3:30	B'ham Fire	Mass Care Working Group
2/25	3-4:40	B'ham Fire	Community Organizations Active in Disaster
2/26	1:30-4:30	OEM	Training & Exercise Working Group
4/14-15	8-5	Tacoma	Partners in Preparedness Conference
4/20-22	Varies	Chelan	State LEPC Conference
4/22	9:45	Bellingham	Damage Assessment Exercise
4/28	1:30-3:30	HEC	LEPC Meeting