



Grays Harbor County
Local Emergency Planning Committee
May 14, 2008

Chair: Ken Walkington Co-Chair: Paul Dean Secretary: Joy Carossino

Present

Sandy Parsons	Ocean Shores CERT	Charles Walker	SCCC
Tim Simon	GHCH	Verna MacDonald	Westport Senior House
Sylvia Markham	Weyerhaeuser	Joy Carossino	GHC Emergency Mgt
Anne Sullivan	GHC Emergency Mgt	Glennis Stamon	911
Sandra Mullvain	WFD/SBA	Dennis Benn	WFD
Ken Walkington	MFD	Stephanie Allestad	GHFD #8
Nora LeBlanc	GHPHSS		

Minutes

April's minutes were approved as written.

HazMat:

Follow-up reports:

April 10: Fuel coming from vessel caught fire in Westport. Ken talked to the Coast Guard; they used absorbent pads to clean up the fuel.

April 16: Fully engulfed vessel fire, no spillage into the basin.

April 22: 14 Nitrogen Cylinders were being loaded aboard the tanker, Champion Adriatic, at the Port of GH, when the sling broke and caused a release into Grays Harbor. All cylinders were recovered.

All jurisdictions need to report hazmat incidents to the DEM.

Sales Tax Initiative

Ken discussed the Sales Tax Initiative proposal. 1/10 of 1% will be put on the ballot. This tax would provide additional funding for Emergency Management to help fund projects to become more prepared. According to law, 1/3 of the dollars collected would need to be allocated to law enforcement. A committee has been formed composed of Mike Whelan, Dennis Benn, Bob Torgerson, Dave Porter, Ken Walkington, Jeff Myers, and Anne Sullivan. Sheriff Whelan will be the main contact. Funds may be used to upgrade the EOC, purchase generators and supplies and to update communications. Ken asked for the support of the LEPC.

Drills and Exercises

All jurisdictions and Grays Harbor EOC tested AHABS on Monday, May 5th. Aberdeen: everything checked out, but the siren did not activate. They did get the PA to work. Everything was programmed correctly. Westport: no one available to activate, Hoquiam-OK, Ocean Shores-OK, EOC-OK. In the event of a Tsunami Warning the AHABS will be activated by the WA State Department of Emergency Management. AHAB testing will continue to be the first Monday of every month. There was discussion on the protocol for requesting 911 to activate the AHABS. The draft 911 policy will be discussed with the Fire Chiefs.

Nora has scheduled a Mass Distribution Drill at Harbor High School on Wednesday, June 11th from 8:30-noon. The scenario is that 30,000 people in Grays Harbor County need medication within 48 hours because of an outbreak or threat. Participants will be Law, EMTs, the Press, and Radio. Nora needs evaluators. The group voted to cancel LEPC in June so that members can participate in the drill if interested. Please register with Nora.

Community Hospital had a hazmat drill. The scenario was a hazmat spill with contamination, no injuries. The hospital would go into lockdown so the facility wouldn't become contaminated. Decon tents were set up. This was accomplished in 15 minutes and went very well.

Monica Simpson and Ken Walkington reported on the LEPC Conference in Lake Chelan that they attended. Monica was proud of the work that the GH LEPC does. She felt that the group accomplishes more than most. Ken felt that there is a trend that LEPCs should be all hazard, risk planning. Some of the other topics discussed at the conference were: insurance for the LEPC, Map Your Neighborhood presentation was good, LEPC partnering with industry, raising community awareness about hazmat, Shelter in Place workshops (Ken brought back a video), and Telephonic Warning System. Ken felt that GHC was ahead of the majority of other LEPCs. There was a suggestion that the Media sit in on the LEPC meetings. Ken thanked and congratulated the group for all the good work done.

By-Laws

There was a motion and a second to approve the By-Laws as written. A request will be sent to the Board of County Commissioners on appointing the LEPC members. Members will receive a copy of the appointment once it is signed.

Discussion

Anne spoke on HSEES (Hazardous Substance s Emergency Events Surveillance)-this program collects info on releases. There were three releases in 2007 for GHC which met the criteria for this program. The number of reportable releases per county ranged from 89 to 0.

Charles from Stafford Creek reported things went well determining who the key players are during a disaster. They are working on drills to help the community.

The LEPC is charged with carrying out EPCRA. The BOCC delegated the review of the All Hazard Mitigation Plan to the LEPC. The members discussed whether Emergency Response Plans of non-Tier II agencies should be reviewed by the LEPC. This would be in addition to the Tier 2 plans. After discussion, the group decided to maintain its primary purpose to review Tier II Emergency Action Plans and include the All Hazard Mitigation Plan review. Under the current scheduled, there is insufficient time to review other plans.

ESF#10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response Plan is updated every five years. It will be due for review and update in 2011.

Next Meeting: Wednesday July 9th, 2008 at 10:15am