
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Regular Committee Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2015
Fire Hall

A. CALL TO ORDER – Chief Miller called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

B. ROLL CALL – (Quorum established with one member present from four different categories.)
Present:

- Category 2: Fire Chief Dave Miller
- Category 3: Donna Callistini
- Category 4: Annabel Lund, Carol Berge
- Category 5: Charles Howlett, Scott Wagner
- Category 6: Mary Ann Hall, Don Jones
- Category 7: Al Stevens, LEPC Coordinator

Absent:

- Category 1: Mayor McConnell, Assembly Liaison.
- Category 2: Lt. Jeff Ankerfelt, Sitka PD, Valerie Herrera
- Category 3: Ken Fate, PIO, Gayle Hammons
- Category 5: Trish White
- Category 6: Bob Gorman

Others Present: Lance Ewers, SPD; Ellen Daly, Public Health Nurse, Todd Dokey, Joe Danon, SFD; USCG Sector Juneau: Latarsha McQueen, Joseph Reitmeyer, Scott Giard; 103rd WMD–CST: Richard Mohammidi, Melkart Hawi.

C. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA –

- USCG Sector Juneau and
- 103rd Civilian Support Team

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

LEPC Vice Chair Trish White arranged to have pizza delivered to thank LEPC members who served in vital roles and implemented emergency plans during recent local emergency events.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S – to approve the minutes of May 14, 2015 minutes.
Motion carried.

F. COMMUNICATIONS – Included under reports.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Pandemic Committee:
 - Flu season is approaching; all are encouraged to get the flu vaccine; a community flu clinic might be held
 - Impressed with the community following the landslide event.
2. HazMat Report: Joe Danon reported:
 - HazMat Calls: The successful oil spill drill proved to be timely, given the August oil spill. Clean up is still underway.
 - Danon will attend HazMat work group meeting in Anchorage Oct 14 & 15, 2015

3. Public Information Officer (PIO) Report:
 - Al Stevens reported that just prior to recent oil spill and landslide disaster events, the new City Clerk became a certified PIO.
 - Given the severity of the events, PIO assistance was provided to the City by Dept of Homeland Security. PIO functions are essential in times of disaster, and were a major assistance to Incident Command to answer press calls and prepare reports.
4. Red Cross:
 - Annabel Lund gave giant Thank You's to:
 - Alaska Red Cross which sent two volunteers (from Haines & Juneau) and on the last day sent two more in anticipation of a second heavy rain weather event.
 - Sheldon Jackson Campus provided lodging for transients and evacuated without shelter. Community Members & friends provided the majority of needed housing to those affected.
 - Grace Harbor provided their entire building as a sanctuary for family, friends & site workers.
 - SPD and SFD took time to provide brief informational updates to those at Grace Harbor, which was extremely helpful.
 - Emergency mental health providers were available when needed.
5. Food Committee: None.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. 103rd WMD-CST (Civil Support Team) Representatives outlined the assistance available to an Incident Commander. The 103rd is a 22 man unit from Air Guard and Army Guard
 - Fully hazmat qualified
 - When so requested by a Fire Chief or IC Commander, can be deployed anywhere in the State at no cost to any locality and work directly for the IC Commander
 - full communication suite in a van with a satellite dish
 - mobile laboratory
 - decon capability for unit itself
 - survey team
 - Provided a video and brochure of services available
 - Logistics of getting various services to a location were outlined, providing an example of services utilized by the Secret Service when the President visited AK
2. USCG Sector Juneau
 - provided information about CG services available for mass rescue operation plans
 - requested and received information from LEPC & community on how USCG can prepare a community to plan and respond to a mass rescue event
 - all present were invited to a 1:30pm meeting with USCG Sector Juneau
3. Great Alaska Shake Out – October 15:
 - Donna Callestini announced information packets are available.
4. Lance Ewers reported on the recent SE Alaska survival training provided to 60 from JBAR.

5. Chief Miller and Al Stevens reported on August disasters and emergencies in Sitka:
 - A timeline of events August 15 - 25, 2015 included the Eagle Beach oil spill, multiple events on August 18, and the F/V Pacific Venture oil spill.
 - Additional call statistics for the period: 46 EMS Calls; 1 SAR Bear Mt.; 1 Bridge fatality; 2 traffic accidents; 11 fire alarms (false).
 - In response to events triggered by heavy rains August 18, the Incident Command System was implemented. Al Stevens served as Incident Commander.
 - The Coast Guard presence in Sitka in response to the Eagle Beach oil spill turned out to be favorable a few days later to respond to the heavy rainfall related events, in that Coast Guard members, trained in ICS, were available to assist. Lt. Nunez went above and beyond.
 - Over 650 names of individuals have been identified as involved in one way or another. There were hundreds more involved. It was a true community response.
 - Todd Dokey photo documented events for Incident Commander, Al Stevens.
 - Chief Miller gave a concise and poignant description of the two weeks of events as they unfolded at the Kramer landslide, where there were three fatalities.
 - At the start of the operation it was unclear how many individuals may have been caught in the landslide.
 - Initially the slide could not be accessed and was impassable due to sinking mud and continuing rain; the rescue operation had to be shut down.
 - The one thing Chief Miller would recommend if ever a similar event occurs in the future: on the first day escort a limited number of family & friends ready to volunteer in the rescue to make an attempt at rescue. In this instance, if given that opportunity they'd have understood it was impossible to dig in the landslide.
 - A large number of friends and relatives of the missing men (locally and from all points of the world) gathered at Grace Harbor Church, and remained ready throughout the duration of the recovery process to assist in the rescue operation in any way possible. The community came through in an amazing way to support everyone.
 - EOC (Emergency Operations Center), located at the Fire Hall, ran efficiently with multiple agencies and incidents. Chief Miller acknowledged this was possible because Assistant Chief Al Stevens, Incident Commander of the EOC, began six years ago to ensure LEPC and Fire Hall incorporated the EOC/ICS system and updated all municipal Emergency Plans.
 - LEPC members applauded Assistant Chief Al Stevens and Fire Chief Miller.
 - Chief Miller reported after the rescue and recovery operation shifted to debris removal the area was secured for drainage and the operation ended.
 - Debris removal will be put out to bid.
 - Emergency preparedness to respond in the event of future landslides will continue.
 - The Governor declared a State of Emergency and the City is preparing applications to cover related expenses from funding available to the City by the declaration.

6. Carol Berge reported on Emergency Mental Health provided by multiple agencies mobilized by Sitka Counseling:
 - 40 hours of counseling services were reported during the first week
 - 18 hours of coordinated services were reported during the first week
 - Coordinated an additional 8 hours of counseling services through clinicians

- Put together crisis response counseling to be available in the future for individuals impacted by August events, and whose need for counseling may be triggered at some point in the future.

J. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

1. Chief Miller recognized Grace Harbor Church and the Salvation Army for all they did to support emergency services and the community response to the August events.
2. Police and Fire Commission has two vacancies to fill on that five member commission.
3. Al Stevens emphasized ICS can be used to plan anything, and when he teaches ICS, he uses the example of planning a wedding. Stevens reported a SFD engineer used ICS recently to prepare the site of his wedding ceremony; his bride was impressed. LEPC members extended congratulations to the groom.

K. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA/DATE(S)

Regular Meeting Date: monthly on the 2nd Thursday, noon at the Fire Hall.

The next regular meeting will be Thursday **October 8, 2015**, noon at the Fire Hall.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

M - Stevens/S - Jones to adjourn LEPC until October 8, 2015.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:57pm.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:
G. J. Peterson, Contract Secretary, City of Sitka