

**Kent County
LEPC Meeting Minutes**

September 12, 2006

Attendees

Nicole Vautard	<i>KC DPS</i>	Allen Metheny	<i>KC DPS</i>
David Mick	<i>KC DPS</i>	Scott Bundek	<i>KC DPS</i>
Colin Faulkner	<i>KC DPS</i>	Janet Chomiszak	<i>DEMA</i>
Natalie Ruelle	<i>DEMA</i>	Cheryl Russell	<i>Delmarva Power</i>
Craig Flanagan	<i>Playtex</i>	Micahel Kernan	<i>Fire School</i>
Robert Hawkins	<i>DE State Police</i>	Paul Bernat	<i>Dover Police</i>
Quincy Robinson	<i>Walmart Distribution</i>	Reinhold Betschel	<i>KC PW</i>
Vincent Lynch	<i>Perdue</i>	Dorothy Lehmann	<i>Tilcon</i>
Jay Brabson	<i>DNREC</i>	Jeff Vadakin	<i>Magnum Electronics</i>
Bob Barrish	<i>Citizen</i>	David Freeman	<i>BayHealth</i>
Christian Plack	<i>Milford PD</i>	Janice Hilliard	<i>Discover Card</i>

Allen Metheny called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

The minutes of the July 11th meeting were approved.

Welcome from Allen and introduction of all the attendees.

Dow Reichhold Incident

Dave Mick – DNREC saw the incident from the roadway and realized it was a problem. Cheswold Fire Company responded. Then the DECON Group was activated. It was pronounced a SERT Level 3 which caused about 6 or 7 other companies and agencies to respond. There was a visible plume around the plant with light winds. DECON was initially set up in the parking lot. Then we relocated due to safety issues. People were saying they smelled the fumes as far away as Rodney Village. We called New Castle DECON down for their help. Two live entries were done but then realized the rail car was too unstable so then we started using the robot. Sheltering-in-place and evacuations were done. DECON operations wrapped up by 7 am the next morning. 21 responders from Little Creek assisted us. I think one good lesson learned is getting accurate information and constantly updating this information and confirming it.

Scott Bundek – Initially the command post was set up about 3,000 feet from Reichhold. It was later moved to Cheswold Fire Company and then moved again to Delaware State Fire School where unified command was established. The incident was so far in advance when the fire service arrived that we were spending a lot of time playing catch up. Everyone was in response mode verses sitting back and trying to see what we really had so it took us several hours to get all the players together and get some guidance on what to do. There were a lot of lessons to be learned.

Allen Metheny – DENS had a few issues. Choosing the Fire School was a good decision. Having the various rooms where we could put decision makers in one room and those who wanted to talk in another worked very well. The key players were kept in a room where if a

request was made and whoever was in the room did not have the answer they could go out of the room and get the answer. It took a little while but once the unified command system was put in place, it worked well. Having the training exercises that we have had helped everyone get to know all the key players and understand how unified command works. The plant people were in a sense “strangers” and we had to educate them on unified command and how it worked. Overall I was pleased on how the incident and unified command went. State agency PIOs were there and chose the State Police PIO as their main contact. All others helped him get information so that he could get it out to the public in news releases.

DENS system sent out 5 messages within 5 mile radius.

1. At 8:54 Friday night the first call was sent out. 13,000 calls delivered.
2. At 10:31 Friday night the second call went out. 12,631 calls delivered. This was within the 5 mile radius of the plant.
3. At 9:40 Saturday morning the third call went out. 37 residents within 1 mile radius needed to be evacuated (before that it was just sheltering-in-place).
4. At 12:16 on Saturday the fourth call went out. 17,500 were notified that they no longer need to shelter-in-place (5 mile radius route).
5. At 9:10 Saturday night the fifth call went out declaring the emergency was over and it was safe to return home (1,500 foot radius that was evacuated).

Some of the problems were that people in the area did not get notified and people out of the area were notified. Art Paul is working on this along with Verizon. Within the area 12,000 to 13,000 people were notified however 28,000 calls should have been made.

David Freeman – We need to be informed of the chemical better next time.

Capt. Robert Hawkins – We were in a support role. Having all the key players together was a great benefit and made things easier. We had to evacuate 44 homes within the 1,500 feet radius. When we started considering doing a mile radius evacuation that would have been around 8,000 people which would have been difficult to have to deal with. We started thinking about where we would put them and how we would deal with it. Regarding DENS, people thought the calls were telemarketers then when they realized there was an emergency then 911 was flooded with calls.

Lt. Paul Bernat – I agree with the problems with DENS. Citizens are concerned about the information given out. They feel there wasn’t enough information given to the public. They have concerns about the chemicals being stored. Also the question arose as to why the Emergency Broadcast System was not used. Overall the Emergency was handled well and everyone worked good together.

Mike Kernan – Information in the early stages was fragmented and is incomplete or sometimes just wrong. Unfortunately in emergency situations it is tough to get good and accurate information. PIOs need to organize together and have good communication. Having one voice is really important for emergency situation which is what was done in this situation. Fire school was a difficult signal area for cell phones. Verizon came in on an emergency basis and installed boosters. So here is a situation to consider for the future. Unfortunately it was very easy for people to come in and out. We need to consider having state police man the door to the unified command and only allow the appropriate personnel to enter. The more training we do the better prepared we will become.

Jay Brabson – DNREC followed up later to make sure everything was cleaned up and safe. An investigation is on going regarding violations. We visited with them and made some suggestions. They have several chemicals that could cause a problem so we are investigating all rail cars and how Reichhold tracks them. There is also the community right to know issues so Wednesday night at 7 pm there will be a meeting at Legislative Hall to discuss issues surrounding the chemical release.

Bob Barrish – What role did Reichhold play in Response? Just summing it up on a citizens standpoint. I feel very comfortable with the response system and the way it was handled. I even feel good about the DENS system just a few things need to be ironed out.

The first few hours, Reichhold didn't know a lot. It was very difficult to get good information from them. The plant Manager arrived at Cheswold and he organized his people and tried to get information but could not get accurate information. The statement was made that Reichhold has good processing but not good tracking. The plant really did not have a lot of information to offer to us.

Colin Faulkner – I feel the event went very well and we were able to manage it. DENS is a good system but it just has some issues. All responding agencies did an excellent job. No injuries so EMS was not affected.

Craig Flanagan – We never got the DENS notification at Playtex. Is there a number to call to get information for the future?

Allen Metheny – We are going to institute information through

1. DENS – the contractor has a list of numbers to use, the problem is going to be getting correct and good information.
2. Websites – DEMA, State Police, etc.

A suggestion to help industries is for Kent County industries to form an industrial group and have one main contact that can pass on the emergency information.

Current Issues

Dave Mick – DECON – The Reichhold Chemical Release was the only response since the last meeting. I would like to take this time to bring to everyone's attention the support that we get from Little Creek Fire Company. I have just been informed that all firefighters at Little Creek will have Hazmat training through their new policy. HMEP funds are sending 6 paramedics to go to hazmat class. We have received new response capabilities. If you would like to see them, I will give you a tour after the meeting.

Allen Metheny - Tier II Manager – Sarah King is no longer with us. She has become a school teacher. Bob Pritchett has someone to replace her however that person is in training today. The only thing to report is they have received a list of comments to improve the system. They have sent this to the vendor to see what the price to make those changes would be.

Janet Chomiszak – SERC Meeting – The next meeting is September 20th at the Air Base. If you plan on attending, contact Art.

Janet Chomiszak – DENS – Art has made some changes to the system regarding Sussex receiving some of the notifications during the chemical release. He believes they have solved that problem.

Salem Hope Creek will be testing their new sirens on September 27th and 29th. It will be advertised on the radio.

Allen Metheny - EOC Enhancement – I will be giving a demonstration as part of the program.

Old Business

Allen Metheny – FY07 Budget– Everything is good with that and we are now starting on our FY08 budget process. We will no longer be getting support for sending people to the EPA class through HMEP funds. We are ok for this year. The EPA conference is November 3rd – 6th at Valley Forge and we fund for one representative from LEPC to attend. If interested let me know.

Allen Metheny – Exercise Committee – The Fair Mayhem final meeting is next week. It is going to be a full scale exercise held on Saturday, October 28th. DEMA is looking for volunteers to participate as victims. Let us know today if you are interested.

DETF is conducting a Peninsula wide tabletop exercise on October 11th. We plan to go beyond the unified command and try to establish an area command which will bring Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia together to make decisions for the Peninsula for Hurricane evacuations. We have invited FEMA region 3 to participate. Let us know if you would like to observe.

Bob Barrish – Facility Inspection – Nothing to report.

Nicole Vautard - Planning Committee – LEPC brochures are printed and here. We are working on getting mouse pads. Ken is getting the prices together. We are coming in under budget. Hopefully we will have everything wrapped up by the end of the month.

Allen Metheny – Please get yourself some LEPC brochures to take with you to handout. Each LEPC has been provided \$4,000 in funds for the outreach project.

New Business

Allen Metheny – National Incident Management System – DEMA has the opportunity to put on a NIMS training for LEPC members. It will be a two hour class with a light brush of what National Incident Management System is and how it should be handled by top executives both in Government and Facilities. If everyone is interested we could have the training as part of our LEPC meeting. We could have a short meeting starting at 9:00 am then go into the two hour training program.

Natalie Ruelle – CD Rom “Fire Pal” – It is an interactive fire hazardous material orientation for children. It is a very education piece. It is very interactive for kids and will be sent to elementary schools.

Cheryl Russel – During the storm, Kent County made out fairly well. Most of our problems occurred elsewhere (Dorchester, Sussex, Queen Anne, and Caroline County) but everyone recovered within a 3 day period.

Allen Metheny – Delmarva has a website where they update it every 30 minutes indicating where the power is out and where they are currently working. In Kent County we had about 6,000 residents without power for a short period of time (3-4 hours).

Program

Update/Tour of Enhanced EOC and 911 Center.

Meeting adjourned by Allen Metheny.

Next LEPC meeting tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, November 14th at 9:00 a.m. with NIMS training to follow the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Vautard

Nicole Vautard
Kent County Dept. of Public Safety
LEPC Secretary