



Sheila Dixon
Mayor

CITY OF BALTIMORE

LEPC

**LOCAL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE**



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**Thursday, May 21, 2009
9:00 AM – 11:50 AM**

**Max and Rosalie Baum Medical Conference Center
Harbor Hospital (3001 S. Hanover St., Baltimore, MD 21230)**

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 AM.

Announcements

Mr. Adam Stolz, LEPC Chair / Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management (MOEM), welcomed attendees and thanked our host Mr. Brian Gray, the Director of Clinical Engineering and Safety Management for Harbor Hospital.

Adam reported that a new Baltimore City emergency text alert system is now up and running. Currently, alerts will go out only for major emergencies. Tests to evaluate the system are planned for the near future. All were encouraged to register to receive the text alerts by logging onto Baltimorecity.gov/emergency.

The LEPC website is up and running. All meeting documents and presentations are available for download by visiting: www.baltimorecityLEPC.org on the LEPC main page, click on Presentations and Resources.

Mr. Greg Hamm, the On-Scene Coordinator for the US EPA gave an update on the US EPA Region III Emergency Preparedness and Prevention & Hazmat Spills Conference which will be held in Baltimore, November 15 – 18, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency & Sheraton Inner Harbor. This year's keynote speaker will be Jeffrey Skiles, the co-pilot of the US Airways Airbus A320 that crash-landed safely in the Hudson River last January.

PROGRAM/SECTOR REPORTS

Government

Incidents & Events

Chief Mark Wagner, BCFD:

• **Hazmat Incident – Dundalk Marine Terminal, March 5, 2009**

Four large casks containing Uranium Hexafluoride (an acid based radio active nuclear fuel) were dropped on top of four similar containers. Multiple city agencies responded. After many hours of very proactive, preventative, and coordinated efforts, the situation was abated with no injuries.

Captain Richard Williams, MOEM:

• **Water Main Break – Lombard Street, April 28, 2009**

A massive water main break was discovered on a main artery in downtown Baltimore City just prior to the start of the morning rush hour, completely blocking off Lombard Street at Gay Street. A short while later, a Unified Command structure was established which involved many city agencies, as well as representatives from the utilities, private sector/business community, and the

State. Initially, BCFD took command of the incident, but it was then turned over to Ms. Kisha Powell, Bureau Head of Water/Waste Water (DPW). Command was shifted back to BCFD for a short period of time through out the night when safety concerns became apparent. Eventually DOT took charge until repairs were made and the street was again open for traffic several days later. The City's EOC was activated in the morning as the emergency escalated; recognizing that there was a need to monitor the citywide impact. It was noted that many things were done well, and many lessons were learned. The Downtown Partnership will host an Incident After-Action Meeting on June 3, 2009.

Mr. Kurt Kocher, PIO for the Department of Public Works addressed questions regarding the aging water main infrastructure in Baltimore City, and the likelihood that there will be more types of these situations in the future. He noted that Baltimore City did receive a \$12M grant from the President's Stimulus Package.

****ICS Classes**

ICS is a single management system comprised of a set of management practices which establishes an integration of services between all agencies that have a stake in the outcome of an event or an incident. Basic ICS courses, which are available online, are very beneficial to any supervisory position that may interface with government agencies during an emergency.

- **134th Annual Preakness – May 16, 2009**

Unified Command was established onsite in addition to an Area Command at the Police Watch Center. Probably due to the new beverage policy, crowds were smaller than usual and the day was basically uneventful management wise.

Jennifer Martin Deputy Director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response H1N1 (Swine Flu) Update

- As of May 20, 2009 at 11:00 am there have been 5,710 confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus nationwide with 39 confirmed cases in Maryland. This flu is a new virus which is spread person to person similarly to seasonal flu viruses. Though it is being worked on, there is no vaccine available at this time, and it may be several months before one is available. Some of BCHD's response actions include: conducting bio-surveillance; meeting with schools and 1st responders regarding infection control measures and daily conference calls with DHMH other local Health Departments and MD hospitals. They have compiled and have available flu prevention and healthy habits outreach materials and have a created a designated website for H1N1 information. They continue to promote city wide preparedness by developing and updating Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP), and personal preparedness by promoting the practice of good health habits. (Power Point Presentation is available at the LEPC website.)

Training & Exercises – MOEM

- BCHD – POD Call Down Drill (Jessica George) The exercise scenario was a simulated health emergency and the objective was to time the set up of a Point of Dispensing of medication from the time of notification to the receipt of the assets. The exercise was successful but there were lessons learned.
 - BCFD/Rhodia Hazmat Exercise (Chief Wagner) – This was a functional exercise simulating the off loading of ammonia from a leaking tanker. 20 fire fighters participated and they accomplished 6 level A team entries in 2 hours – much better than the previous drill.
 - Upcoming Exercises
 - EOC Activation for Hurricane - June
 - META Leadership Summit – July
 - Oriole TTX - July
 - DHMH Free State – October
 - CSX in conjunction with the EPA Conference – November
- Also noted: Harford County – Free Incident Management Training – late July

Citizens

Adam noted that this will be his last LEPC Meeting as he prepares to depart from City Government to pursue his educational goals. He noted that Bob Maloney, Baltimore City Director of Emergency Management will chair this committee and that Scott Brillman will assist in coordinating and facilitating the meetings and the website.

MOEM Community Preparedness Manager Scott Brillman

CERT –

- The number of teams continues to grow and is now up to 16 (only two years ago there were only 6). OEM has partnered with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods to recruit team members as well as providing informational hand-outs and lectures on emergency preparedness at community meetings. Those interested in signing up for the CERT alerting system should contact Scott scott.brillman@baltimorecity.gov.
- A new pilot program has recently begun in partnership with the American Red Cross, who is providing response training for CERT members to assist in their communities when citizens are displaced from their homes during disasters such as fires.
- 40 CERT members participated in Fire Rescue Training at the Baltimore City Fire & Rescue Training Academy on April 25th and 26th.
- The Morrell Park Team led by Mike Schley and Carol McCoy activated recently during a water main break in their community and distributed bottled water to those in need. This is the first time a City CERT team activated on an emergency. Congratulations.
- OEM is now on facebook and is a venue to send messages, exchange information, and learn about update preparedness information.

Chief Jeffrey Segal reported that BCFD has initiated a public outreach to citizens with fire company's partnering with community organizations by attending the Association's meeting and providing fire safety and emergency preparedness lectures and brochures.

Business

MOEM Chair Adam Stolz

- LEPC/SBIMAP – There was brief background and overview which noted that all Tier II chemical storage facilities are required to submit a report to their local LEPC or fire department by March 1st of each year. This mandate is based upon the EPCRA requirements of the community's right to know so as to prepare and to plan in case of an emergency. Pat Williams, MDE EPCRA Coordinator noted that the process of data collection is being streamlined and improved.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Baltimore City Hazmat Team – Chief Wagner**
The Hazmat Operations Branch of the BCFD is comprised of 150 fully trained hazmat technicians who provide protection to the public from all hazardous material involved incidents.
- **SBIMAP – Craig Owen**
A brief overview of the chemical industry in Baltimore and recent trends which shows a decrease in the number of local companies by approximately one-third (4 plants have closed within the past year).
- **New Generation Bio-fuels – Phil Wallis, Chief Marketing Officer**
Introduction to a which opened in Baltimore this past February that produces a non fossil fuel made from an emulsion blending process that creates no emissions or bi-products.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

The next meeting is scheduled for sometime in September – information will be forwarded.