



**Sheila Dixon**  
Mayor

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**LEPC**  
**LOCAL EMERGENCY**  
**PLANNING COMMITTEE**



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**Friday, November 7, 2008**  
**9:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

**War Memorial Building**  
**101 N. Gay Street**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting of March 25, 2008, were approved as distributed.

**Announcements**

Mr. Adam Stolz, Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management (MOEM), welcomed attendees.

**PROGRAM/SECTOR REPORTS**

**Government**

• **Incidents & Events**

○ **Tropical Storm Hanna Preparation – Richard Williams, MOEM**

MOEM began monitoring National Weather Service (NWS) tracking of this weather system when it was upgraded to a Tropical Storm on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Though the storm did not materialize into the threat that was predicted for this area, there was an EOC - Level I activation on September 6<sup>th</sup> with 10 participating agencies providing timely and reliable information to city leaders and to the citizens. The reverse 911 system was utilized to alert senior citizens. 4 fueling locations for city vehicles were identified and some shelters were opened. Fortunately there were only about 5000 households that temporarily lost power.

○ **Severe Storms/Flooding – Adam Stolz, MOEM**

This was a localized situation that occurred with little warning on September 27<sup>th</sup> when a torrential rain downpour caused the Jones Falls to rise 11 ft. in a very brief period of time resulting in major flooding conditions in the Mt. Washington area. There was a multi-agency response with BCFD taking the lead. There was a positive coordination of efforts between agencies to manage this incident using the NIMS command system.

○ **Underground Electrical Fires – Adam Stolz, MOEM**

There were several recent underground fires in the downtown area which caused logistical challenges for the BCFD and local businesses. In one incident, Charles Street was shut down and businesses evacuated. There was a strong coordinated effort of many factions, private and public, who worked together on this incident (BCFD, BPD, MTA, Verizon, DPW, DOT, BGE and the Downtown Partnership). In another incident, on Redwood Street, MOEM and DOT worked with the contractor to ensure that work was halted until it was deemed completely safe for work to resume.

- **Edmondson Village Fire – Kevin Burr, ARC**  
This fire was monitored closely due to the potential to escalate, and it too was a coordinated effort of many agencies both public and private.

NOTE: These multiple agency incidents provided a valuable opportunity to practice NIMS, (Incident Management, Incident Command and Unified Command) and lessons learned in smaller incidents will be used to improve the command structure in preparedness efforts for the bigger incidents.

- **Training & Exercises**
  - **Ravens Stadium Exercise/"Operation Purple Haze" – Wayne Brown, Exercise & Training Manager, MOEM**  
A regional evacuation/mass casualty/mass decontamination exercise held on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The exercise included many players and volunteer victims (MIEMSS provided moulage), and tested the ability and resources for citizen evacuation of the stadium, shelter in place, hazmat response and decontamination efforts, triage and communications. Participating observers and evaluators provided feedback highlighting the strengths of the responders as well identifying areas in need of improvement and recommendation for same.
  - **MTA Exercise "Operation Swift Strike" – Earl Lewis, MTA**  
A simulated attack on the metro during rush hour to test emergency response notification procedures, interagency communication, equipment and training needs, effectiveness of current response plans and procedures, interagency coordination, and triage, transport and treatment of casualties with participants from Federal, State and Local levels of government and two area hospitals.
  - **Courthouse COOP Planning – Jessica Pitts, Admin Office of the Courts**  
The exercise scenario included anthrax tainted letters mailed to the judges. This drill provided an opportunity to test COOP planning of Federal agencies located in Baltimore City. Baltimore City provided technical assistance and resources.

## Citizens

- **CERT – Richard Williams for Scott Brillman, MOEM**
  - Team training continues and includes the following teams: Waverly, Mt. Winans, Westport, Cherry Hill, Aegon (downtown) and The Park Rangers.
  - The CERT website is now fully operational and includes preparedness information, a calendar of upcoming events, training opportunities and useful contact information ([baltimorecitycert.com](http://baltimorecitycert.com)). The hands-on training calendar is updated weekly.
  - Carol McCoy (Morrell Park) and Bob Brinkman (Charles Village) provided updates on CERT team activities.
- **RACES – Richard Williams, MOEM**  
Efforts are underway to find new leadership for this group of Ham Radio Volunteers as they move forward to expand and reorganize. Anyone interested is asked to contact Rich Williams at 410-396-6175 or via email [Richard.williams@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Richard.williams@baltimorecity.gov)

## Businesses

- **Corporate Emergency Access System (CEAS) Update – Adam Stolz, MOEM**  
CEAS, as previously reported, is a pre-event credentialing program that allows critical business employees to gain access to restricted areas following a disaster or serious emergency. By using a secure identification card recognized by the police, the employees is granted entry into a secure area to assess damages, and to begin the recovery process. The project plan is nearing finalization and is currently waiting for the Police Department to generate a general order on this subject.
- **SBIMAP – Gene Reynolds**

This group which used to meet in conjunction with the LEPC was used as a national model for the Chemical Sector. LEPC branched off when it took on an all hazards approach to emergency planning. Though participation in SBIMAP dropped off after a number of the chemical plants moved out of the area efforts are being made to reinvigorate involvement and participation of the public and private sector.

## **Non- Profits**

- **American Red Cross – Kevin Burr, ARC**  
40 local ARC workers were dispatched to assist with sheltering and evacuation efforts in the gulf region during Hurricane Gustav. While there, they were able to obtain valuable training and practical experience. The ARC has had 60 disaster responses so far this year. All were reminded of the importance of supporting the efforts of the United Way Campaign which is currently underway.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Region III EPA Conference – Adam Stolz, MOEM**
  - Along with Lieutenant Maloney, Adam attended the 2008 EPA Conference which was held recently in Richmond, VA. At the conference the Baltimore City LEPC was recognized and presented the Partnership Award plaque for significant efforts towards emergency preparedness, planning and response, the only LEPC in the region to be so recognized. All members were commended for their contribution to this success.
  - The 2009 Region III EPA Conference is scheduled to be held in Baltimore City (November 14 – 19, 2008) at the new Hyatt Hotel. There will be an outreach for assistance in planning efforts and plans include conducting a drill during the conference.
- MOEM has been formally assigned a seat on the Mayor's Commission for Disabilities Committee along with the Law Department and BCFD.
- Preparedness Materials have been purchased out of the Homeland Security CRTK grant funds and are available upon request to MOEM (410-396-6182).
- MOEM proudly participated in Operational Helping Hand which was a coordinated effort of agencies to shelter about 300 homeless citizens each night for approximately 3 months, and connect them to pertinent available resources. The Salvation Army was commended for providing sustenance to these clients. (Noted was the non-traditional incorporation of Incident Management principals to coordinate and manage these efforts).
- Adam Stolz made mention of power inverters, which are available for purchase from local electronics outlets. They can be plugged into your automobile's power source and provide access to a standard electrical outlet for use during a power outage.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Emergency Generators – Brent Hooper, Baltimore City DOT**

The presentation included information on different types of generators and their intended uses. Portable generators can be easily transported and their uses include providing temporary power for special events, to run select appliances and apparatus during power outages or on construction sites. Tag along generators can provide temporary power to a building site but must be transported by a vehicle attached to a trailer upon which the generator is mounted. Backup generators are permanently mounted at a fixed location and wired to a transfer switch and usually used by businesses, hospitals, and public safety facilities.

**BGE: Restoration Service & Operation Support – Frank Tiburzi, BGE**

Mr. Tiburzi noted that anyone using a generator should take the proper precautions when connecting the hookup to the transfer switch to prevent a back-feed into the BGE system, which poses a very dire threat to BGE emergency responders. He noted that business continuity planning began during the preparation for Y2K which actually caused no major problems. After potential problems were identified during severe ice storms and TS Floyd, they improved their storm preparation and emergency response plans to focus on public safety particularly in the first 24 – 48 hours. He noted that each spring and fall training and drills are conducted for their employees and after-action critiques are conducted for participant feedback on lessons learned. Though currently these events are for BGE employees, they would consider including other groups in the future.

**Code Red Heat Alert 2008 Recap – Katie Hartman, BCHD**

This proactive outreach is a multi-agency effort to reduce the lethal effects of extreme heat. It includes alerting the media to disseminate public health information regarding services available during severe hot weather. Services include the activation of cooling centers, automated calls seniors, assisting persons with special needs and under a newly formed partnership with the MTA which will be implemented next summer, provide free public transportation on Code Red Heat Alert Days to those in need.

**The date and location of the next LEPC general meeting will be announced soon.  
Recommendations for location or interest in hosting the meeting should be forwarded to Adam Stolz.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.