



**Sheila Dixon**  
Mayor

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**

**LEPC**

**LOCAL EMERGENCY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE**



**Robert Maloney**  
Acting Director

LEPC@baltimorecity.gov ♦ 1201 East Cold Spring Lane, Baltimore, MD 21239 ♦ 410-396-6188 (Phone) ♦ 410-377-6782 (Fax)

**Tuesday, March 25, 2008  
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

**Central Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross  
4800 Mt. Hope Drive**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting of December 12, 2007, were approved as distributed.

**Announcements**

Deputy Director Adam Stolz, Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management (OEM), welcomed attendees and recognized the diverse group of representatives from local and state government, businesses and community organizations. Note was made for future planning efforts to emphasize an outreach to the private sector to increase the attendance and involvement of citizens from all areas of the city. The OEM staff was introduced and appreciation was extended to Kevin Burr, the Director of Disaster Services of the Central Maryland Chapter of the American Red Cross, the host of today's meeting. Lieutenant Robert Maloney, OEM Director, also provided greetings.

**PROGRAM/SECTOR REPORTS**

**Government**

• **Incidents & Events –**

○ **Ammonia Leak - Chief Joseph Brocato, BCFD**

On the evening of March 6, 2008 at approximately 8:30 pm there was a report of an odor coming from the Ice House on Franklin Street. This had been a problematic location for BCFD in the past, and upon arrival a heavy concentration of leaked gas was detected. Because winds were blowing from west to east, there was a limited evacuation of some residences located to the east of the incident and other area residents were instructed to shelter in place (close windows and doors and turn off heating and air conditioning). Unified Command was established and the decision was made to off-gas (siphoning into large water filled drums). Two area schools were closed as a precaution the following day and a report of an odor of gas at another school proved to be unfounded. The situation cleared at approximately 7:00 am on the morning of March 7, 2008.

○ **Homeless Shelter Activation - Lieutenant Robert Maloney**

Mayor Dixon has introduced a 10 year plan to reduce the numbers of homeless. Several different locations have been set up to accommodate the homeless who are seeking shelter. Just last week, with assistance from ARC, the Salvation Army and several city agencies, we had an emergency activation of a shelter at Edmondson High School to accommodate the overflow of those seeking shelter. It is the city's commitment to get people safely into authorized shelters which will reduce the negative impact to 1<sup>st</sup>

responders because of unsafe heating/lighting practices used in vacant buildings and other unauthorized shelter sites.

- **Training & Exercises – Wayne Brown, Exercise & Training Coordinator, OEM**
  - Radiation Seminar for City Employees – Friday, March 28, 2008
  - Baltimore City Health Department - Coop Plan
  - National Level Hurricane Exercise (advance 48 hours of a Category 4 Hurricane)
  - Statewide Pandemic Flu – To test the response and resources of Health and Medical facilities
  - Raven Stadium Exercise – (Regional) evacuation/mass casualty/mass decontamination  
Anyone seeking assistance in the planning of an internal exercise for their business or organization may contact Wayne Brown, Exercise & Training Manager, OEM ([wayne.brown@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:wayne.brown@baltimorecity.gov)) 410-396-6188.
- **Hazmat – Chief Brocato, BCFD**
  - There is an ongoing coordination of efforts with our regional partners (The City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties) which includes information sharing, training and equipment purchases utilizing funds from various available homeland security grants.
- **Public Health Preparedness – Meghan Butasek, BCHD**
  - Planning is ongoing for the BCHD internal COOP exercise and Joel Palmer is coordinating the BCHD's efforts for the Statewide Pandemic Flu exercise. The CDC recently completed an audit of the Strategic National Stockpile. Progress continues on the Animal Preparedness planning initiative.
- **Law Enforcement – Deputy Major David Engel, BPD**
  - The first call to report any unusual or suspicious activity in Baltimore City should be directly to the Baltimore Police Department at 1-888-228-0033 as all calls will receive an immediate police response. As always though, for any type of emergency – the first number to call is “911”.

## Citizens

- **CERT – Scott Brillman**
  - The required bi-annual CPR and First Aid Training is nearly complete for all established teams.
  - The Northern Park Heights and the Charles Village teams have added new members. Recruitment is ongoing for the 5 new teams: Mt. Washington, Federal Hill, Locust Point, Frederick Road and the Baltimore Country Club.
  - Due to an increased interest, Weekend Team Training sessions will be scheduled.
  - The CERT Website is expected to be operational in the next two weeks with each team having its own designated page.
  - A Team Communication/Notification System is being tested for communicating activations, alerts, training, etc.
  - The Citizens Corp Council (subcommittee of the LEPC) is in the process of being reorganized and is looking to recruit member representatives from all sectors (volunteer organizations, government agencies, corporate and local businesses, media and community organizations with a focus on the development and publication of a unified Citizen Preparedness message. For more information contact Scott Brillman ([scott.brillman@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:scott.brillman@baltimorecity.gov)) 410-396-6188.
- **RACES – Lou Linden**
  - A RACES work station has been completed at BCFD Fire Communications Dispatch center, and an antenna has been installed on the roof of the Wolman Building. Future

- plans include an access site at the Police Department Watch Center and on the Fire Department Command Unit. Member recruitment and training efforts are ongoing.
- Plans continue for the upcoming American Radio Relay League Field Day event on June 28 and 29, 2008. More information will be forthcoming.

### **Businesses**

- SBIMAP – Craig Owen, Delta Chemical Corporation: there were no events of note to report.
- BECON (Baltimore Emergency Communications Network) – planning is ongoing to expand the current basic system of in-time disaster communications to include many other sectors and disciplines.

### **Old Business – No Report**

### **New Business –**

- Adam Stolz reported that the LEPC Bylaws have been updated to conform to those of the Statewide SERC, and were accepted and approved as submitted to the LEPC Advisory Committee.
- The MOA for the FY08 CRTK Funds (received annually from MDE) is moving forward – These funds will be used for items including LEPC publicity, the costs of meetings and a website.

### **Panel Discussion**

#### **Rail Safety and Security: Understanding Hazards, Precautions, and Response**

- Michael Austin & Jason French, CSX Transportation
- William Oertly & Lorenzo Bellamy, Norfolk Southern Corporation
- Mark Lauer, Canton Railroad Company
- Major David Engel, Baltimore Police Department
- Chief Joseph Brocato, Baltimore City Fire Department

Each panelist gave a brief report with the Railroad representative's main topics being safety and security issues and initiatives. The Baltimore City public safety reps, who have recently begun robust discussions with the Railroads regarding real time data sharing/communications, discussed their concerns regarding rail transport of hazardous materials and specifically toxic inhalation hazards through densely populated areas of the city (especially during high volume crowd events) with no type of pre-notification process in place.

Mr. Austin (CSX) reported on their use of fixed camera technology (monitored 24/7), a fully certified Police Department, and a Rapid Response Team (who has trained with BPD). BPD noted that the Railroads have primary jurisdiction of criminal investigations on railroad property. CSX is currently testing a program of real time data sharing (NOW – Network Operating Workstation) with direct access provided to the State, but the City has continued to express their desire to have direct access to the real time data and to ultimately not have toxic inhalation hazards transported through the city during high volume crowd events.

Each railroad was asked to report the types and volumes of hazardous materials that they transport through the city. The City Public Safety Officials noted that there are many dynamics involved in mitigating rail incidents involving toxic inhalation hazards and that the sooner they know what they are dealing with the quicker they can make decisions such as public notifications, evacuation/shelter in place, setting up red zone, etc. The Railroad reps stated that each train crew carries a complete inventory of all cargo, but the city maintains that they want pre-incident real-time identification for proactive planning efforts. MEMA rep Carl Lee noted that during any simultaneous incidents that the railroads may be contracting with the same incident mitigation resources.

The Panel was commended for their participation at today's meeting. Several citizens commented that they would like the railroads to increase their public outreach efforts to inform and educate citizens who are affected by railways that run through their communities.

Adam Stolz introduced Mr. Cliff Sawyer from the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods. On behalf of Mayor Dixon, Mr. Sawyer thanked the attendees and panelists for their participation, and commended the LEPC for the proactive approach to engaging communities and community leaders and for providing a forum for vetting of these types of issues.

The next LEPC general meeting will be held in June 2008. Date and location will be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.