



**Stephanie
Rawlings-Blake
Mayor**

CITY OF BALTIMORE

LEPC

**LOCAL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE**



**Robert Maloney
Deputy Chief**

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**LEPC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 26, 2012
9:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, Grand Ballroom V

Welcome and Remarks:

- The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair C.P. Hsia at 8:24 AM.
- A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2012 meeting.

Government Reports:

- **Incidents - Captain Richard Williams:**
 - May 30th, Accident involving hazmat/propane
 - May 31st, Mercury spill in a school, no injuries or exposures
 - June 4th, Heating oil tank leak in a school, no injuries or exposures
 - June 9th, Starscape music festival with multiple EMS transports for overdose and heat exhaustion
 - June 11th, 5 alarm building fire in Fells Point, 500 blk of S. Broadway
 - June 20th, Multiple exposures to a CO incident in a high rise
 - July 5th, Building fire
 - July 16th, Light Street water main break
 - July 20, House fire
 - July 25th, Monument St sinkhole with gas main compromised
 - July 30th, High pressure gas main stuck near Under Armor
 - July 31st, Building fire
 - August 1, Watermain break on Kirk St
 - August 6th, Multiple CO exposures at post office
 - August 6th, Chlorine leak with two exposed patients
 - August 14th, Watermain break on Frederick Ave
- **Events – Lt. Scott Brillman:**
 - Sailabration June 13-19, nearly 1 million visitors. Minor transportation issues only.
 - Grand Prix of Baltimore August 31-September 1. No major incidents
 - Upcoming:
 - Book festival this weekend
 - Fells Point Festival, Next weekend

- Baltimore Marathon, Oct. 13
 - Halloween in Patterson Park, Oct 27
 - Election Day, Nov 6
- **Training and Exercises - Connor Scott**
 - All upcoming City events and others are listed at: <http://mema.maryland.gov/Pages/ExercisesTrainingEvents.aspx>
 - IED Awareness Bomb and Threat Mgt. Workshop. November 7th at USCG Yard Sector Baltimore. Contact: ray.hanna@dhs.gov
 - IED Search Procedures Workshop. November 28th at USCG Yard Sector Baltimore. Contact: ray.hanna@dhs.gov
 - Johns Hopkins University - Advanced Instructor Development in Scenario-based Instruction, two options: October 16, 17, 18 or November 16, 17, 18.
 - 911 communications exercise – October 4th.
 - Full-scale high rise fire exercise in Legg Mason Tower in Harbor East – October 20th.
 - Volunteers needed to play victims, observers welcome but will need to be credentialed before the event.
 - Golden Triangle BID Tabletop Exercise – December 6th.
 - Contact connor.scott@baltimorecity.gov unless otherwise noted.

Non-Profit Reports:

- **Pascal Papouras - Maryland Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (MD VOAD):**
 - Mobilized for the Derecho
 - Many organization active in debris removal and assisting with family casework
 - Southern Baptists brought mobile shower unit for victims
- **Rich Foot - Foots Forecast**
 - Performed forecasting and decision support for Grand Prix
 - Work closely with student meteorologists to provide experience and utilize knowledge
 - Will be working with the Book Festival
 - Looking forward to working more with the City and other organizations to support events

Citizens and Communities Reports:

- **C.P. Hsia – CERT:**
 - Next class Sept 28-30 – may add another due to high demand
 - Offering CPR certification to CERT members
 - Assisted with Derecho response conducting outreach with other volunteers to distribute information and supplies to those in need
 - Holding monthly meetings starting with a tabletop exercise. Activities range from CPR certification to severe weather training by National Weather Service
 - Child Disaster Services will present at October meeting
 - Multiple events supported during National Preparedness Month (September)
 - MEMA CERT Rodeo will be Oct 6
 - Will be acting as community ambassadors for high-rise fire on Oct 20
 - Whole Community Workshop Nov 7th and 8th
<http://marylandwholecommunityworkshop.eventbrite.com>

- **Bob Brinkman - Citizens Corp Council:**
 - Assisting MOEM with policies and program advancement for CERT
 - Initiated preparedness training for community groups, neighborhood associations, and senior centers as part of National Preparedness Month
 - Assisting at free City flu clinics
 - Skywarn Weather Spotter class being held on Jan. 9th
- **C.P. Hsia - RACES**
 - RACES provides backup communication in a disaster with amateur radios
 - Installing radio at WBAL 1090 AM to coordinate messaging during emergencies

Active Shooter Presentation

- **Ray Hanna - Protective Security Advisor, Department of Homeland Security:**
 - Run, hide, fight.
 - Presentation available at <http://emergency.baltimorecity.gov/LEPC/PresentationsOtherResources.aspx>
 - Video available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0>

Panel Discussion - Derecho, Heat, and Power Outage June 29 to July 8, 2012:

- **Ken Widelski – National Weather Service**
 - New emergency forecaster, provides useful data to EOCs
 - Deployed to MEMA during Derecho
 - “Severe Thunderstorm” means wind > 59 mph, hail > 1”, or tornadoes
 - Derecho: Long-lived, rapidly-moving line of intense thunderstorms
 - Typically travel over 250 miles at over 60 mph
 - June 29 derecho travelled over 750 miles
 - Produces widespread damaging winds in a continuous swath
 - June 29 event clocked at 66 mph at BWI, 89 mph on Bay Bridge
 - Storms such as the June 29 derecho typically break up over the Appalachian Mountains, but this one did not, only weakened slightly but regained strength after hitting hot, moist air
 - Impact
 - Virginia’s largest non-tropical outage with almost 1,000,000 outages
 - Maryland reported 1,067,854 outages statewide
 - 68,000 outages in Washington, DC
 - 3 fatalities in Maryland from storm
 -
 - NWS issued Severe Thunderstorm Watch at 1835 on June 29th
 - Special Weather Statement issued at 1947, warning of damaging winds over 75 mph and advising people to continue monitoring and protect life and property.
 - At 2135, special weather statement issued for Baltimore advising “particularly dangerous situation,” “shelter in a sturdy building”.
 - NWS warnings are available in many formats through many services
 - Sign-up for alerts at www.weather.gov
- **Connor Scott – Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management**
 - MOEM began tracking storm at 1955 on June 29th, all MOEM personnel requested to respond to EOC2 at 0022 on June 30th.
 - Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake activates EOC at 0032 on June 30th, level 1 agency representatives requested

- 0035, BCFD had a queue of 50 calls pending dispatch, resolved by 0240.
- City-wide conference call held at 0530.
 - 98,048 customers without power, including 3 fire houses, 4 water pumping stations, multiple senior buildings, dialysis centers, etc.
 - 200 downed-trees reported
- Worked throughout day to get agency representatives present at EOC to coordinate recovery activity.
- 1700 Mayor declares state of emergency for the city
- 1800 Governor Martin O'Malley declares state of emergency for Maryland
- Restoration of services to critical facilities was priority, while protecting citizens from heat and other hazards.
- Tracking costs and equipment hours related to recovery was important
- Also had to coordinate procurement and contractors
- Conducted outreach with volunteers
- Had to also plan and manage the 4th of July and Africa-American Heritage Festival on July 7th.
- Almost all city agencies were involved in storm-related activities for one week
- **Reggie Scriber – Department of Housing and Community Development:**
 - Housing is responsible for housing displaced citizens, conducting public outreach, and to expedite recovery of public services and utilities in public housing.
 - Mobilize heavy-duty vehicles, hosing staff, human services staff, etc.
 - In Derecho, ice distribution was vital.
 - Need determined
 - Contracts in place before event
 - Determining when and where to best distribute ice based on outage information and other input
 - Flashlights distributed to prevent citizens from using candles
 - Worked closely with Red Cross to provide support
 - Working with BGE on priorities list to house vulnerable citizens or those with functional needs
 - Sometimes those with needs are able to act independently and do not initiate help, but this incident was protracted.
 - Housing staff remained on call at shelters even when no residents were present during the day
 - Also helped conduct building inspections as structural integrity was paramount following the storm damage.
- **Meghan Butasek – Baltimore City Health Department:**
 - Code Red is our plan to deal with heat, enacted when heat index is 105 or higher, but can be activated because of other criteria also.
 - Code Red declared 9 of 10 days following Derecho
 - Due to prolonged period and massive power outages, special actions were taken:
 - Additional cooling centers were opened.
 - Rec centers and senior centers were kept open during the weekends when they are normal closed.
 - Messages were sent via reverse 911
 - Active outreach
 - MD foodbank helped with response.
 - Giant Food donated water

- Close partnership with 311 to get citizens to check with 311 for most up to date information on what services were available via all agencies, including health
- Commission on Aging and Retirement Education (CARE) is now under the purview of the health department, so they provided coordination to reach the elderly and other citizens that may have needed care.
- Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) reported any facilities that were experiencing outages. Such facilities are required to have generators, but there are some facilities that have/have generators that won't run air conditioning, etc.
- Data is gleaned from many sources so health can convey this to emergency responders at the EOC.
- Health Department provides nurses at shelters and other spots with medical equipment.
- Messaging to public about food safety was done, especially given the spoilage risk when it comes to meat products, eggs, etc. Wanted to avoid a food-related health problem.
- Transport of patients who are Medicaid eligible – health works with transport agencies to make sure they get where they need to go.
- **Lisa Allen – Mayor's Office of Information Technology:**
 - 311 takes all questions and requests, except 411 calls
 - 311 takes pressure off of 911
 - During an event like the Derecho, 311 staffing is increased and hours are extended to deal with call volume
 - Employees had to be called in during the aftermath of the storm
 - Staff safety was a concern
 - Citizens call 311 to report power outages when BGE is overwhelmed
 - Exploring to put system in place to share outage information automatically
 - 311 provides information and status updates to reassure citizens
 - Present at EOC throughout incident to provide updates on call volume, service requests by category, and other information
- **John Dulina – Maryland Emergency Management Agency:**
 - Liaison for Central Region
 - Immediately reported to EOC2 to represent MEMA
 - State EOC still active in recovery mode for Derecho, working with FEMA for reimbursement.
 - Cost tracking is critical for all agencies and organizations involved.
 - Cost factors into disaster declaration
 - Declaring state of emergency loosens up resources such as National Guard. Helps decision makers with additional resources not usually available.
 - MEMA is working to streamline their communication process with local EOCs

12:30 Closing Remarks, Miscellaneous Items, and Adjournment