

**Multnomah County
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
Orientation and Development Meeting
July 8, 2010**

Question: Please discuss the benefits and drawbacks to a larger; possibly even a county-wide district versus two or three smaller districts inside the county.

Answer: A single, county-wide Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) works well in less densely populated areas where there is a limited emergency response infrastructure, as well as limited number of Extremely Hazardous Substance (EHS) facilities. In Multnomah County, a single, county-wide LEPC would be logistically challenging at best.

It will make no difference to the Emergency Planning Sub-Committees (EHS facilities and first responders) how many LEPC's there are in the county. The Emergency Planning Sub-Committees will report to, and make requests from, a single Executive Sub-Committee in the LEPC to which they are attached.

However, the Executive Sub-Committee will need to be responsive to the needs of all their sub-committees. Limiting the number of sub-committees that the Executive Sub-Committee will need to assist can ensure more timely assistance, and minimize the coordination overhead (employee hours) involved in providing that support.

There could, also be multiple jurisdictional issues that would need to be addressed; if a single county-wide LEPC was established.

As I had stated in the meeting, I don't believe a single county-wide LEPC would be in everyone's best interest, particularly for the Executive Sub-Committees.

Question: You have maps with EHS and other facilities identified. Since the first responders are the Fire Departments and they are organized by Fire Stations, with specific coverage areas, it would be helpful to outline those coverage areas as a means to establishing EHS sub-committee and LEPC boundaries. No sense reinventing the wheel.

This could be presented prior to the next meeting by email.

Answer: Good point, this is what is already occurring. Our office is working with the fire departments to outline the coverage areas as potential Emergency Planning Sub-Committees.

Question: Is the map available on the web so people can think about locations of things to determine a logical planning area?

Answer: No, because of the size of the maps, they are not available on the internet at this time. If there is a particular area that someone, or group would like to look at, contact Krista Fischer to see about getting what you need. Her contact information is located on the last page of this document.

Question: Is the Community Capability Assessment Process (CCAP) questionnaire on the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) website?

Answer: Yes, the LEPC website is located at: http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Local_Emergency_Planning_Committees.shtml

The CCAP is the first menu item.

Question: Are the Community Awareness Emergency Response (CAER) group contacts on the OSFM website?

Answer: Not at this time. We will be making an area for their contact information on the LEPC website in the near future.

Question: Two emergency planning groups are active in Multnomah County –CAER Help in Gresham and ECHO in NW Portland. Can this information be passed on in the next OSFM LEPC invitation?

Answer: Yes, we can make this information public at the next LEPC Developmental meeting in addition to mailings.

Question: Why don't first responders communicate their plans with us now to help with our development?

Answer: If you are meaning development of your facility emergency plan, facilities with more than ten (10) employees, should already have a written plan in place. Facilities with less than ten (10) employees must also have an emergency plan, except that it does not have to be in writing.

The Community Capability Assessment Process will be used to review how the emergency responders

plan matches up with the facility plan once the LEPC is developed.

An important aspect to remember is that there are no compliance actions taking place for plans that are not complete, or not compatible with the emergency responder plan. The discrepancies are simply identified as action items to be addressed and corrected so both plans work together cohesively. Everything is done in a positive atmosphere of cooperation between the two parties.

Question: Has there been any consideration of having the first responders train with facilities?

Answer: This is one of the goals of the LEPC. Having an LEPC in your area will help to ensure this occurs.

Question: To get the LEPC moving can we have monthly meetings?

Answer:

While we appreciate your eagerness, please be patient. During this development process, there are many different players OSFM needs to work with to ensure this is done to the benefit of everyone, but there are only three of us. We need the time between the development meetings to collect the information and meet with everyone, while still supporting seven other LEPC's that are already up and running.

Once the LEPC boundaries are identified and everyone attached to one of the LEPCs, we would prefer you had monthly meetings until such time as your LEPC has the foundation work done and is up and running smoothly.

Question: “ERR” – secondary release, reactive to “fire” – how to report
DSCA – for “all hazard”
CST –

Answer: Sorry, I don’t understand what you are asking...next question please!!!

Question: Who can I call to help with emergency plan?

Answer: Your best bet for technical assistance, would be to call OR-OSHA and request a consultation to assist in review of your plan. When OSHA does a consultation, there are no penalties for non-compliance, but you may have to wait for several months for them to get to you.

We here in Planning & Training Assistance (PATA) can also provide you with some consultative advise and provide several references to resources that will help you evaluate your plan. You can view the Community Capability Assessment Process (CCAP) Questionnaire for facilities on our website. Look at the questions being asked, that will help you identify what may be missing from your plan. There are also several private entities that can help, for a price.

A recommended option is to review the Code of Federal Regulations 29 CFR §1910 Occupational Safety and Health Regulations. They are the final word on what should be in your plan, compliance, and applicability.

Question: Can we get a list of LEPC facilities and contacts?

Answer: Krista Fischer sent a list by email to all attendees of the July 8, 2010 meeting. The spreadsheet included: contact name, company name, phone number and contact email address. If you did not get this email, or you need additional information, please contact her directly. Her contact information is located on the last page of this document.

Question: To help establish planning districts, can we have localized meetings? This will help with committee and sub-committees.

Answer: Krista Fischer is setting up some local meetings now. Be looking for an email from her advising you of when and where. If you would like to have meetings among yourselves, please feel free to do so, if you would like someone from the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to attend, just send us an invite.

Question: Is there any documentation provided to us stating we are LEPC member?

Answer:

Once we have gone through the development process and you are attached to an LEPC and have filled out a membership application, you will receive a certificate to stating you are an LEPC member.

Question: Also, fire districts might be a helpful way to consider “local” areas.

Answer: This is being looked at, also.

Question: What grants are available?

Answer: The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Planning and Training grants are made available annually, for LEPCs to use in performing their duties. Details about the HMEP grant can be found on the LEPC website.

Question: Can we get sample emergency plans?

Answer: Generally, facility emergency plans are not publicized for obvious reasons. The plans are going to vary greatly in applicability based on the facilities operations.

Your best bet is to review the Code of Federal Regulations 29 CFR §1910 Occupational Safety and Health Regulations. They are the final word on what should be in your plan, compliance and applicability.

Question: Where can we get promotional items? Are there any safety promotional items?

Answer: There are a variety of promotional items available from pens and pencils, to instructional and safety materials for local promotion, such as Shelter-in-Place brochures, refrigeration magnets, LEPC brochures, etc. These items are made available to the LEPC's for local distribution and promotion.

Question: Can we set up meetings with emergency planners and responders to help us meet requirements? Who are the contacts?

Answer: As a member of the LEPC, you will have regular contact with your emergency responders and planners. Krista Fischer sent out an email to everyone with contact information. Let us know if you did not get that email.

Question: Communications is the key, how will communications be handled?

Answer: Once your LEPC has been set up and is running and internal communications system developed, that will be your communications link. Until that time, we will be the main point of contact for communications. And of course, any of you can contact our office at any time for any reason, now and in the future.

Question: Since the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) took effect, the nation has become concerned with the threat of terrorism and intentional criminal acts. How does State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)/LEPC implementation fit with chemical security regulations administered by the Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) (as opposed to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)?)

Answer: These are two different topics. EPCRA is in tact as it was originally written and DHS does not influence what is required by EPCRA. However, you may see DHS representatives at your meetings, as they use LEPCs to help them contact those facilities that fall within the auspices of their regulations.

Question: Are we putting the cart ahead of the horse by establishing LEPC's then determining LEPC boundaries?

Answer: Actually, no. We are not developing any LEPCs at this point. We are only trying to work with local participants to get their input as to what the boundaries should look like, before we attach anyone to any LEPC. If you have filled out a membership application, it is on hold in our office, until such time as we establish an LEPC in your area that you will be a member of. At that point, your membership application will be forwarded to that LEPC.

Contact Information

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