

Beginning with Brian

Brian Bailey welcomed back the group after the summer break with introductions and announcements.



Announcements

The first announcement is that Brian has completed his Associate in Risk Management degree, so he is formally Brian Bailey, ARM.

Congratulations, Brian!

Some new members introduced themselves and described their work.

Welcome Patrick Wolfe of Portland Public Schools and Andrew Amort of NWFF Environmental.

Also, a warm welcome to Patty Rueter from POEM and long time member Eric Trummel from Alpenrose.

September Meeting Spotlight



Today's meeting was devoted to a discussion the Future of ECHO in light of the development of the Local Emergency Planning Committee(s) (LEPC) for the Portland Metro Area, so no guest speaker was scheduled.

Updates:

Bob Happel of Portland Fire: he is going through the Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) from businesses and has an intern putting the information onto disks. Some of the ERPs are out of date, so Bob asked that businesses please provide him with an updated copy. Bob is looking forward to retiring in 10 months – the countdown begins!

NW Industrial Neighborhood Association (NINA)

The NW Industrial Area Neighborhood Association representative, **Greg Madden**, asked what NINA can do for LEPC development? They are working toward a HAM radio training course with HAM radio groups in town. The idea is to develop a two or three day course with an exam so people can get their licenses expeditiously.

John Ratliff went to the Yumei Wang talk about earthquake risks at the Portland Harbor meeting. He quoted her as saying "the woman is 9 months pregnant" regarding the likelihood of a large earthquake event (subduction zone quake?) in the near future.

Jan Secunda of Litton Community is also a Citizen's Advisory Group (CAG) member for the Portland Harbor. She attended the same meeting as John R. and brought bathometry maps of the Willamette and other materials relevant to earthquake preparedness.

On September 20th from 6 – 8 pm James Roddey of DOGAMI (Dept of Geology and Mineral Industries) will give an earthquake presentation at Chapman Grade School. Hope some of you can attend.



A discussion followed of crossing the Willamette River in emergencies (when bridges are down). Rich Grant of Portland Dept of Transportation indicated that this is predicted to be a La Nina winter which may impact the amount of flooding we need to prepare for.

Further discussion of earthquake preparedness: Earthquake denial is a huge problem. Difficult to predict and no early telltale signs. People have a hard time focusing in on preparations for something that is do unpredictable.

A discussion of the Staging area being proposed by Portland Office of Emergency Management - POEM is looking at uses of the site: possibly a parking lot for people to bicycle to the NW area, or a place to put equipment for emergency response. Redundancy in capability of services is needed. Need a sustainable platform through liquefaction. Need to address multiple hazards, for the community at hand, or beyond, that is "user-friendly on a daily basis". The police warehouse is apparently next door to the site and raises the question of how to make the best use of resources.



Krista Fischer of Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) described the recent LEPC development meetings. The area includes Gresham and Fairview in the east county.

There will be a meeting on the 20th or 21st of September of all emergency managers in the Portland area to describe what their design looks like and how it will be integrated into one or multiple LEPCs. ECHO has suggested being a planning group for a LEPC. Others please share input with OSFM – Krista Fischer or Terry Wolfe.

OSFM as set a tentative date of October 26th for a meeting to present proposals for the structure of the LEPC(s); the plan is to move forward from there – the group will decide on the direction at the October meeting.

LEPC(s) are not intended to replace ECHO or the CAER groups. Columbia (County) Emergency Planning Association has chosen to function as both a CAER group and a LEPC.



Bob Happel asked how businesses are being contacted – some have said they have never received a letter about organizing the LEPC. Bob is trying to put a list together. Krista indicated that some EHS facilities have not been identified.

Portland Office of Emergency Management (POEM) stated that the city is researching the regulations with the City attorney to determine what its responsibilities are and what is expected of the City by all parties.

Jan Secunda of Litton pointed out that the private sector emergency preparedness group, EPIC, has provided training on business continuity. The next EPIC meeting is September 22nd from 9 – 12 in the first floor conference room at the Multnomah Building at the corner of SE MLK Blvd and SE Hawthorne.



As a way to return the discussion to the future of ECHO, Brian Bailey asked the members to tell us what they value in ECHO and why they attend the meetings.

- Regulators show up to the meetings to be available for technical assistance.
- CAER group name, Community Awareness Emergency Response describes the nature of the group – a community sharing information.

POEM asked about the LEPC: the federal requirement requires regular meetings, meeting minutes, by-laws, record keeping - what are the requirements? How will it get done?

- Volunteers do it now and do it well. The city needs to be aware of the capability of the CAER groups.
- City going to lawyers looks like limiting liability, not concern about responding in an emergency.
- Government needs to know what it has the authority to do, but also can inform people about what they can do.

ECHO does not need to be a LEPC – can be different components – ECHO can keep its own entity and take on some sort of function within a LEPC, such as a planning group.

We need a list of EHS (Extremely Hazardous Substance) companies in the NW Portland area. We need to know what is here. How far can we go as a planning group – the boundaries and scope of work?

ECHO plans for now and the near future – what exists now.

An LEPC plans for the future. We do not want ECHO to become an LEPC, but we need a connection with it. There is a difference in purposes.

As an example, a company should have two plans: 1) emergency preparedness and response (day to day), and 2) disaster planning.

ECHO has many volunteers, familiar with regulations and with emergency planning. All have some technical expertise that will apply in an emergency; this expertise is available to the group.

The OSFM acts as a resource to meet the Federal mandate. Minimum requirement is a relationship between EHS facilities and fire departments. OSFM helps with finding grants, building partnerships. For example, the Mid-Valley LEPC has scheduled 6 reviews this year. It was a CAER group and has combined resources from Linn and Benton Counties.

ECHO functions as a community, helping neighbors. NINA can participate in the non-chemical industrial concerns for preparedness.

A question was asked whether hospitals have plans for receiving contaminated patients from nearby industries. Does anyone know any hospital administrators? Is there any plan by ambulance companies to reroute patients to hospitals with the capability to deal with chemical exposures. The question arose because of HF (hydrofluoric acid) use at member facilities and the potential for employee exposure. Some companies have immediate protocols to rinse the HF exposed employee immediately and some apply calcium gluconate to the HF site immediately to reduce the destructive effects of HF penetrating the skin and reaching the bones. The example was given that a contractor was taken to a local hospital but the doctors do not know how to treat HF.

Some suggested developing a handout to take with the affected employee to the hospital. St Vincent' Occupational Medical Center is the only local hospital that knows about chemical contamination, and can provide medical consults to local doctors.

It is a good idea for companies to update protocols on where to send people for what injury. We need to consider/include hospitals in a LEPC.

ECHO should continue as a CAER group and will be some help to the LEPC that forms.



The next ECHO meeting is

**Who: Kristen Steigler
Office of Environmental
Public Health**

**When: October 7, 2010
10:00 a.m.**

**Where: GALVANIZERS Inc.
2406 N.W. 30th
Portland, OR**

**Questions, contact Brian Bailey at:
503-219-7801**

Please join us next month for a presentation by Kristen Steigler of the Office of Environmental Public Health and a continued discussion of LEPC and ECHO.

Thank you Galvanizers for the wonderful treats and meeting space.

And a big thank you to Theodora for the great minutes.

See you all next month, October 7th at 10 a.m.

Brian



c/o Siltronic Corp.
7200 NW Front Ave.
Portland, OR 97210

ECHO

Emergency Communications for Hazardous Operations

UPCOMING MEETING

Date: October 7, 2019

Time: 10 am – 11:30 am

Topic: Kristen Steigler
Office of Environmental Public Health

Location: Galvanizers Co.
2406 NW 30th
Portland, Oregon