



MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2016 @ 1:30 p.m.

Good Shepherd Medical Center
Conference Center 2
610 NW 11th St
Hermiston, OR 97838

Introductions

- Terry Wolfe, Oregon State Fire Marshal’s Office
- Ben Weinke, City of Hermiston, Recycled Water Plant
- Matt Drumheller, US Corps of Engineers
- Craig Williams, Hermiston Foods
- Brad Knight, Hermiston Generating
- Tom Roberts, Umatilla County Emergency Management
- Jodi Florence, Umatilla County Emergency Management
- Gary Betts, KBLU radio
- Virginia Blakelock, KBLU Radio
- Vincent Papol, National Weather Service
- Glenn Phillips, Hermiston Fire and Emergency Services
- Klaus Hoehna, City of Pendleton
- Brian Bagley, Smith Frozen Foods
- Jake Devine, Smith Frozen Foods

Introduction of new Emergency Manager, Tom Roberts
 Contact Information: Thomas.Roberts@umatillacounty.net
 541-966-3706 Office
 541-969-0270 Cell

Approval of Minutes: April 19, 2016
 Ben Weinke made a motion to accept the minutes, Craig Williams seconded the motion.
 Approved Minutes

Additions to Agenda
 none

State Fire Marshal’s Office
 Terry Wolfe –The State Fire Marshal’s Office has moved to a new building with State Police.
 There have been two incidents; the train derailment in Mosier and the Akawana Fire near

Sisters.

Josephine and Coos County are starting new LEPC's. Terry's goal is to have LEPC's all along the Interstate 5 and 84 corridors.

Terry reminded us that it is important to review our Emergency Response Plan (ERP) annually, and for each organization to be sure their information is updated and correct.

There was a question about Bakkan oil in Oregon and Washington. Terry stated that it has been here, just not well publicized. For years there has been more dangerous things transported over railways. We may want to develop a rail response plan as part of the ERP and hold an exercise to practice the plan. Grant funding may be available and we could plan an exercise with Morrow County LEPC.

Klaus Hoehna asked about the direction of our LEPC. He would like to see us focus on something small, that we can succeed at. We are a planning committee. We need to be working with Emergency Management and facilities on business plans and communicating what LEPC is doing through outreach.

Our group needs to lay out what our objectives are and start engaging communities to decide what's important and what our strengths and weaknesses are.

Discussion included members having the time to give to LEPC. Most agencies/facilities allow employees time to attend meetings, but not extra time for outreach and other LEPC activities.

Linn-Benton LEPC uses grant money to have volunteers attend safety fairs (set up and staff booths, etc.). Educating the public to protect themselves is part of LEPC. Tom Roberts is available to visit with facilities anytime. Citizen's preparedness won't matter if they are not ready to react.

Klaus will talk with Doug Paine, Tom Roberts and anyone else interested to discuss LEPC objectives/goals. Let Jodi know if you are available to join them.

Old Business

1. Communication Liaison Volunteer(s) – who will talk to people about LEPC, this is part of above information. Anyone interested contact Jodi. Virginia and Gary volunteer to help. Klaus is willing to speak to groups.
2. Umatilla County EM Vision of forming a Policy Group – An advisory group has been formed to assist Emergency Management. This item will come off the agenda for LEPC.
3. Readiness: Training Identification Preparedness Planning Course – Recap Klaus attended the course and stated that it was a great course on planning for emergencies. FEMA contracted with Louisiana State University for instructors and the training. One instructor was Incident Commander on the bridge collapse in Minnesota. Students in the class learned how to plan for emergency operations, resource ordering, logistics, exercises, and evaluating capabilities of those responding. The class is recommended and will be offered in The Dalles, December 12-13. Contact Justin Hoffman (Wasco County Emergency Manager) at justonh@co.wasco.or.us if you would like more information.

Exercises

1. Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) Earthquake Exercise – Recap
Umatilla County EM participated for two days at the EOC. NOAA, ARES, and the City of Pendleton participated also. During the exercise a real world tornado watch (conditions favorable)/warning (happening) was issued during the exercise. The City of Pendleton also issued a warning using Alert Sense.
2. Future Exercises – There are not a lot of exercises planned currently. EM will be developing an exercise plan.
3. Matt Drumheller, US Army Corps of Engineers will hold a Tabletop Exercise for a train derailment. BNSF will provide training and facilitate the exercise on September 20-23. It will take place at McNary Lock and Dam. Matt's contact information: 541-922-2219.

New Business

1. HAZMAT Spills/Reports – Glenn Phillips, Hermiston Fire and Emergency Services (HFES) – There were two hazmat activations in Morrow County, one in Umatilla (white powder call), and several diesel calls.
HFES has had several trainings: Improvised Explosives, Bakkan Oil w/ Chad Hawkins, and Rail w/ Jeff Dukes. Contact Glenn if you would like the contact info for any of the above. gphillips@hermiston.or.us

HFES does outreach for HazMat to get information to the public. EMI and National Fire Academy training may be available to LEPC members. He would be glad to do outreach and show HazMat's capabilities.

2. Train Derailment in Mosier (see attached) Terry forwarded this to the State Fire Marshal and they will be discussed it at briefing. We may want to invite Chad Hawkins to do a presentation at LEPC and invite stakeholders
3. Klaus – Pendleton has a mass notification system called Alert Sense. Umatilla County has expressed interest in piggybacking on the contract with Pendleton. It will be presented to Commissioners for approval to provide county-wide notifications of emergencies.

Next Meeting Dates: July 19th @ 1:30 - City of Pendleton
August 16th

Letter from Dan Turley (Morrow County LEPC)

EMAIL FROM DAN TURLEY – MORROW COUNTY LEPC

Hello All,

By now you are probably all aware of this incident, but I thought I would forward this information to the group for reference. This could have happened in our area and identifies why we are working to develop and implement a county wide Emergency Response Plan. See this link for an article with pictures -

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2016/06/08/3785382/mosier-oil-train-fossil-fuel-terminals-opposition/>

One issue that I would like the to present to the State Fire Marshalls Office and the Oregon Department of Transportation for review is as follows-

I had a friend on his way to Hermiston from Portland that got stopped a couple of miles from the derailment and was stuck in the ensuing east bound traffic back up for several hours. He noted that the during this period the west bound lane was essentially empty, but because of the concrete barriers between the lanes on this stretch of freeway the cars were not able to cross over to the west bound lane and go back towards Portland. He also noted that the backed up traffic significantly slowed the Fire crews from accessing the burning oil and there did not seem to be a plan in place to bring the fire crews down the west bound lanes. He noted that in many other states the freeways have removable sections in the freeway barriers and this may be something the Oregon Department of Transportation needs to look at to facilitate better traffic management in the event of an emergency that impact our freeways.

Thanks - Dan

Ore. oil train derailment revives safety concerns about crude-by-rail By Sarah Smith (SNL)

After a crude oil train derailment in Oregon, legislators and the governor called for increased scrutiny of the industry and the rail operator.

Sixteen Union Pacific Corp. tanker cars carrying Bakken Shale crude derailed June 3 in Mosier, Ore., spilling an estimated 42,000 gallons of oil, according to the state Department of Environmental Quality.

"A train full of toxic crude oil derailing, burning, and exploding near homes, schools, and businesses is a worst fear realized for people who live in Mosier and in other communities along the tracks throughout the gorge," Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, U.S. Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, and U.S. Reps. Earl Blumenauer and Suzanne Bonamici said in a June 6 statement.

Union Pacific said a bolt that fastens the rail to railroad ties may have caused the accident, although that assessment is based only on a preliminary analysis, according to the DEQ.

The governor and legislators called for a ban on oil train traffic in the vicinity of the accident until the derailment's causes are identified and fixed.

"We will also be pushing for the [U.S.] Department of Transportation to take a hard look at alternative routes for oil and hazardous material trains that would put fewer Oregonians at risk of a dangerous crash in their backyards," the officials said.

The 96-car train had been heading for Tacoma, Wash., before the derailment and fire. Brown declared the situation an emergency, authorizing the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal to support the firefighting efforts. As of June 7, 13 of the wrecked cars were still at the incident site.

"I ... expect federal authorities to conduct a full and thorough investigation of the cause of this accident, assess the response to see what improvements should be made, and evaluate ways to reduce risks to communities and the environment," Brown said in a June 6 statement. "I am calling for the strongest possible measures from federal policymakers and regulators to bolster rail safety. The safety of our communities depends on this work being completed as soon as possible."

The incident was hardly the first time legislators have pushed federal regulators to move more quickly to improve oversight of crude-by-rail traffic, and the DOT has written regulations to improve safety. However, the National Transportation and Safety Board has said "violent" crude-by-rail accidents would likely continue until the tanker cars transporting oil are upgraded — a process that would take years.

