

Local Emergency Planning Committee
Mailing address; 1121 W. Gardner. Spokane, WA 99201

Minutes

Quarterly Meeting Wednesday – March 16, 2022 Time 9:00 – 10:30

LOCATION:

Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
4601 N. Monroe St.
Spokane, WA 99205

Attendees: Amy Black, Jessica Carlson, Sharon Colby, Joe Fields, Pete Hartmann, Chris Jaklitsch, Greg Riddell, Summer Rose, Brent McDaniel, Jason Clark, Erin Harada, Craig Buckman, Kyle Schmidt, Sean Thompson.

Welcome: Chair Tim Archer

Current Issues:

1. Discussion on upcoming Horizontal Directional Drilling set to accelerate in Spokane Co. in 2022. Avista has serious concerns regarding the Sub-Contractors who may take shortcuts and not do the proper work to ensure they are being as safe as possible while avoiding gas lines. How can the LEPC weigh-in on this issue to insure the contractors realize the importance and liability that comes with supervising Sub-Contractors.

Avista: Subcontractors have been working for Ziplly, TDS, Quanta, CenturyLink, Xfinity, have been running fiber underground and using this drilling method. These crews have some disregard for digging laws. How can the LEPC assist Avista to impress that this is a life/safety issue?

The home in Rathdrum exploded due to this type of drilling and fortunately didn't injury or kill anyone. Up to 80crews are expected to do this work this year and Avista can't track and inspect all of them.

LEPC: L&I have enforcement jurisdiction. Avista can attempt to stop work if it's unsafe although it can be a challenge. Language barriers are a concern with crews. They also don't seem to care if large expenditures are incurred with damage to gas lines. AG's office, Curt Warring? This could become criminal act/negligence if there is a blatant disregard for the digging laws. Gerry will represent LEPC and interface with a committee that Avista has formed.

Updates:

Elected Officials – Sharon Colby - Discussion on lack of fertilizer due to costs with fuel. FD 3 call volume increasing. Amazon was a large factor. A levy is being proposed to hire more Firefighter. DNR gearing up for wildfire season with hiring and training.

State Officials – Pete Hartmann, Sean Thompson, John Geppert, Moody Harmon

LEPC conference: Send email to Spokane LEPC. All courses are free please register. ECY is fully staffed in the region. LEPC will take advantage of the offer to utilize their building for meetings. Grant programs ongoing and see Sean for more info. All are welcome to attend the virtual LEPC conference: [2022 LEPC-Tribal Conference and Hazardous Materials Workshop](#) Register here: [please click here.](#)

Regarding the FY 2022 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant:

Pete: SERC is responsible for State-Wide CFS. He will be presenting this idea at the next meeting of the SERC. Relevant questions: What will the data be used for? FAFB wants to know quantities and products. County would likely need to know large quantiles producers and what's flowing through the community? WSP could use a mapping program to enhance what they use to respond to incidents. Ecology might have some use for a CFS for Spokane Co. Most important to understand what is traveling in and through the county on major roadways. The LEPC needs to determine what would be the benefit of a CFS for the county.

Emergency Management – See Current Issues

Water Resources - Shane Sheppard, Kelly Williquette, Todd Henry
City water main

Fire Services – Mitch Metzger

Hospital – Amy Black/SRHD-PHER program, Uptick in COVID in Europe, Cyber security issues due to war. IIR program, to look at what can be improved at SRHD.

VA: Electronic med. Program still problematic.

HERF, April will see the decontamination exercise (every 3 years) at the Fire Training Center.

Media – Vacant

Health – Mike LaScuola

1st Aid/EMS – Vacant

Transportation – Vacant

Law Enforcement – Greg Riddell, lost 13 troopers in this district due to COVID and retirement issues. Hiring laterals, 18 weeks for the academy but lowering it to 15. Always looking for new Troopers and those who hire on will have an opportunity to work within Eastern WA after training.

Community Groups – Jessica with Red Cross: Sound the Alarm campaign. May7th, to begin with 60-70 homes to install smoke alarms.

Facilities & Pipelines – Chris Church, Ron Dowers, Amy Smith

Next Meeting
April 20, 2022
Location Dept. of Ecology