



Washington State Emergency Response Commission Meeting (SERC)

Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2022

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Virtual via Microsoft (MS) Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chief Mike Harris, SERC Vice-Chair
Melissa Gannie, Washington State Patrol, Primary
Bill Slosson, Washington State Patrol, Alternate
Laura Hayes, Department of Ecology, Primary
Eli Levitt, Department of Ecology, Alternate
Troy Newman, Military Department, Primary
Chandra Fox, Local Emergency Manager, Primary
Cindy Stanley, Local Emergency Manager, Alternate
John Geppert, Department of Labor and Industries, Primary
Darrin James, Department of Labor and Industries, Alternate
John Himmel, Department of Transportation, Primary
Sean Davis, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)-Eastside, Primary
J Havner, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)-Westside, Primary
Cherie Nevin, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)-Westside, Alternate

GUESTS PRESENT

Melissa Lantz, Department of Health	Hans Kahl, Skagit County LEPC
Gerry Bozarth, Spokane County LEPC	Adenea Thompson, Stevens County LEPC
Justine Chorley, Clallam County, LEPC	Amelia Stanger, Colville Tribes
Anne Chastain, Clallam County LEPC	Aaron Markham, City of Yakima LEPC
Ashley Strickland, Columbia County LEPC	Ashley Hillis, Department of Ecology
Ernie Schnabler, Cowlitz County LEPC	Andrew Rose, Department of Health
Brad Burnham, Department of Health	Brian Geer, Swinomish Tribe
Ross McDowell, Lewis County LEPC	Beau Renfro, Wahkiakum County LEPC
Erika Katt, Lewis County LEPC	Sierra Wardell, Military Department (EMD)
Daniel Cromwell, King County LEPC	Kenneth Bratten, Department of Corrections
Tom Sharp, King County LEPC	Erin Williams, EPA
JoAnn Boggs, Pend Oreille County LEPC	Chong Yim, Washington State Patrol
Tammy Wright, Mason County LEPC	Jason Clark, WNG-10 th HRF
Sean Thompson, Department of Ecology	Rick LaBlond, HF Sinclair-Puget Sound Refinery
Kathy Shea, State of Alaska	Eric Brooks, Island County LEPC
Liz Jessee, Walla Walla County LEPC	Eric Farmer, Lewis County Public Health
Pete Gardner-Cox, Department of Ecology	Wade Gough, DHS-CISA
Hannah Cleverly, Grays Harbor LEPC	Kelly Kiyohara, Squaxin Island Tribe
Nicklaus Falley, Grays Harbor LEPC	Patrick Purcell, Walla Walla County LEPC
Sally Merenz, Skagit County Farmers	Sandi Duffey, Adams County LEPC
Vickie Fontaine, Skagit County LEPC	



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SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT

Susan Forsythe, Military Department (EMD)
Kim Mask, Military Department (EMD)
Diane Fowler, Department of Ecology
Pete Hartmann, Military Department (EMD)
Patrick Wicklund, Military Department (EMD)
Chris Caprio, Military Department (EMD)

Scott Lancaster, Washington State Patrol (SFMO)
Damaris Deschner, Military Department (EMD)
Zoie Choate, Military Department (EMD)

CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS

Chief Mike Harris opened the meeting with welcoming members and guests. Kim Mask added the link to the LEPC-Tribal Conference and encouraged those who have not registered to do so.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the February meeting will be sent out by email for review and approval before the September meeting.

WORKGROUPS AND STANDING REPORTS

Training Coordination (HazMat Training) –Scott Lancaster

Since the beginning of the year (2022) we have trained over 154 responders in Awareness, Operations, Hazmat IQ, HM-On Scene Incident Command, and Hazmat Safety Officer.

For the Good of the organization:

I attended great training at the Seattle FD Station 10 on “Lithium Battery” hazards and electric vehicles. Capt. Greene provided case studies and actual lithium-ion battery examples to allow the responders present to see what the technology looks like and how it works. This training also illustrated the various hazards from Lithium-ion battery incidents including scooters, electric vehicles and Energy Storage Systems (ESS).

Battery Technology and Energy Storage Systems are becoming an emerging concern for emergency responders with the increase in battery operated vehicles and energy storage systems throughout the country. Lithium-Ion battery technology and its use in rechargeable electric scooters, bikes, cellphones, and other accessories. The batteries can short out and create what is known as a thermal runaway process of heat and fire reaction. Putting out these fires is difficult if not impossible and even when they appear out, they can reignite hours, days or weeks later. More information is needed to determine proper training and response protocols. Increasing awareness of inspecting and building codes will also need to be reviewed to understand the hazards before they happen.

Upcoming Training

- Risk-Based Response to Battery Emergencies-3 classes in April
 - April 19 East Pierce FD
 - April 21 Pasco FD
 - April 22 Spokane FD



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- Awareness/Operations S. Thurston FD Starting May 7
- Awareness/Operations Graham FD Starting April 28 (nights and weekends)
- Bio-Tech IQ-3 courses Everett FD May 17, 18, and 19
- Hazmat On-Scene Incident Command Vancouver FD June 7-9

Combination LEPC/Hazmat Conference Series:

We are planning the 2022 Hazmat Workshop along with the Annual LEPC/TERC Conference which will held virtual in April and May. Topics for the Hazmat Workshop will include, “Hazmat and Special Operations”, “Battery Emergencies, “New Trends in Hazmat and Terrorism” with Gary Sharp and Dr. Christina Baxter from Hazard 3, “Creating a Hazmat Response Team from the Ground Up”, and others

EPCRA Compliance and Outreach – Diane Fowler

Diane reported that Tier II reports were due March 1st. So far, Department of Ecology has received 4,800. This is comparable to the number of reports received last year. She will be sending spreadsheets out to LEPCs for comparison. Diane will be providing an update on the Tier II mobile application during the LEPC-Tribal Conference.

EPA Tier Two Enforcement – Erin Williams

The Western SERC meeting was held the prior week, which included EPA Regions 8, 9, and 10. A two-day virtual conference was held virtually with over 85 participants in attendance.

The SERC/TERC Handbook is complete and posted to the LEPC Toolbox. If there are any questions, reach out to Erin. EPA had one settlement with SGL in Moses Lake. There will be a press release on this settlement. If LEPCs are having issues with facilities not complying, they can reach out to Erin as they are still focusing on off-site compliance monitoring. EPA has created a monthly newsletter. [The link to sign up can be accessed here.](#)

SERC Budget Report – Kim Mask

Due to Covid-19 and travel restrictions, zero dollars from the Community Right to Know fund were applied to the SERC budget in 2020-2021. **However, the SERC did give WSEMA \$5,000 to support their fall conference.**

For the next budget cycle, beginning July 1, 2022, the SERC can submit requests to the EMD Budget Manager between now and March 31. Any requests will be reviewed and be allocated to the SERC by July 1, 2022. The maximum funding available will be \$7,000 and include the \$5,000 given to WSEMA to support their conference in September 2022. The additional \$2,000 will be available to the chair/vice-chair attend national conferences and other travel requests to attend in-person meetings.

HMEP Grant Update – Zoie Choate

Years 1, 2 and 3 are in progress. The financial update as of April 1:

- Allocated - \$865,620
- Expended - \$534,056
- Balance - \$331,564



These funds must be fully expended by 9/30/2022.

FY22 HMEP

Allocation Amounts			
	Year 1 - (2022-2023)	Estimated Year 2 Allocation- (2023-2024)	Estimated Year 3 Allocation - (2024-2025)
Federal Share	\$423,037	\$379,119	\$379,119
Non-Federal Share	\$105,759	\$94,780	\$94,780
Total Budget	\$528,797	\$473,899	\$473,899

Percentage breakout between recipient/subrecipients; current percentages:

- Year 1 Performance Period Dates: 9/30/2022 – 9/29/2023
- State M&A: 9% (up to an allowable 20%) **\$38,074**
- HazMat Workshop: 6% **\$25,382**
- LEPC/Tribal Conference: 6% **\$25,282**
- WSP-FPB: 70% **\$296,126**
- LEPCs/Tribes: 9% **\$38,073**

If you have any questions regarding the HMEP, Zoie Choate will be able to assist.

WA State Fire Chief's HazMat Committee Update

The WSFC HazMat Committee met at the beginning of the month. There was a lot of discussion on Lithium-Ion batteries and electric cars and how these will impact first responders.

There were requests for radiation trainings. The Department of Health offered to provide trainings in the past. This may be a good resource.

The next meeting will be in May.

LEPC Planning Update – Susan Forsythe

Since the last meeting, King County and Grays Harbor County have submitted draft HazMat plans for review with suggestions. Clallam County and Thurston County plans have been reviewed and returned. Both plans were excellent, and letters will be going out soon.

Susan reminded the LEPCs that Chris Caprio, Patrick Wicklund and Pete Hartmann are available to assist.

Strategic Planning Update – Chandra Fox

The draft SERC Strategic Plan was sent out to all SERC members for review following the last meeting. Five initiatives were identified to work on through this phase. There will be a Strategic Planning workshop following this meeting to focus on completing the worksheet and setting deadlines and timelines for the initiatives.



SERC Budget Requests – Susan Forsythe

There were no suggestions on spending funds for the SERC.

During the LEPC-Tribal Conference, Zoie Choate and Patrick Wicklund will be providing grant overviews.

NEW BUSINESS

Commodity Flow Study Data Request – Pete Hartmann

Pete is requesting to have a commodity flow study added to the Strategic Plan, under Initiative 2. Since 2022 is mostly approved, he would like to request that it be added when the plan is updated in 2023. For more information regarding Commodity Flow Studies, one will be provided during the LEPC-Tribal Conference. There was continued discussion around the scope and cost of doing the study. Pete will research and follow up with more information at the next SERC meeting in September.

Development of Records Retention Schedule Workshop – J Havner (Open Discussion)

OLD BUSINESS

FAST Act and HHFT Information Sharing – Susan Forsythe

The document that describes the High Hazard Flammable Train (HHFT) was sent out the SERC. The document has been added to EMD's website and can be [found here](#) if anyone is wanting more information. Susan will be doing a presentation for Thurston County during their LEPC meeting on July 28th.

CLOSING REMARKS

Good of the Order – Chief Patrick Reid, Chair

Damaris Deschner provided an update on the training calendar on EMD's website. She also reminded anyone hosting training to reach out to her to have them added to the calendar.

Kim Mask recognized two new members to the SERC. Cindy Stanley will be an alternate to Chandra Fox, representing Local Emergency Managers (WSEMA) and Cherie Nevin from Thurston County will be the alternate to J Havner, representing the westside LEPCs.

Cindy Stanley reminded everyone that the WSEMA Conference will be held September 20-22, 2022 in Pousbo at the Clearwater Resort. The September SERC meeting will be held the day before on September 19th.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2022 at 15:00. This meeting will be a hybrid meeting (in-person and virtual) It will be held in conjunction with the [WSEMA Conference](#) at Clearwater Resort. A TEAMS calendar invitation and agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting.

ADJOURN

Mike Harris made a motion to adjourn. Chandra fox seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:58 PM.