



Washington State Emergency Response Commission Meeting

Meeting Minutes
February 2nd, 2024
10:00AM – 12:00PM
MS Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chief Patrick Reid, Chair
Chief Mike Harris, Vice Chair
Laura Hayes, Department of Ecology, Primary
Eli Levitt, Department of Ecology, Alternate
Brad Burnham, Department of Health, Alternate
John T. Geppert, Department of Labor and Industries, Primary
Cindy Dickinson, Local Emergency Manager, Primary
Sandi Duffey, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Eastside Alternate
Casey Broom, Washington Military Department, Primary
Kevin Wickersham, Washington Military Department, Alternate

GUESTS PRESENT

Adenea Sellars, Stevens Co	Kim Mask, EMD
Alexander Roldan, DHS	Kimberly Moore, DOH
Angela Zeigenfuse, ECY	Lt. Col. Royster, 10 th CST
Anita Sandall	Matt Klein, Grant Co
Brett Dimanno, DHS	Melinda Wilde, Valley COM
Clinton Davis, Confederated Tribes of Chehalis	Michele Moen, Kitsap Co
Darren Higashiyama, Kittitas Co	Nick Bacon, Asotin Co
Eddie Murphy, PHMSA	Nikolas Miller, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Erica Bates, ECY	Sarah Peterson, Kitsap Co
Hans Khal, Skagit Co	Scott Doughty, Kalispel Tribe
Holly Woll-Salkeld, Whatcom Co	Scott Neves, Cowlitz Co
Jase Brooks, ECY	Taressa Marchand, Colville Tribes
Justin Piper, BNSF	Tina Bobbit, Columbia Co
Kate Fernald, COM	Tom Sharp, King Co
Kathy Shea, DEC	Valente Perry, EMD
Ken Choke, Nisqually	William Finn, WSP

SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT

Susan Forsythe, EMD	Danielle Plenge, EMD
Alex Straub, ATG	Christopher Burd, EMD
Scott Lancaster, WSP	David Kelley, EMD
Diane Fowler, ECY	Christopher Caprio, EMD
Michaela Morris, ECY	Stephanie Hakala, EMD

CALL TO ORDER

Chief Patrick Reid opened the meeting with welcoming members and guests at 10:00 AM

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING DATE MEETING MINUTES

Mike Harris motioned to approve the November 1st, 2023; meeting minutes as presented; Casey Broom seconded the motion. All attending members approved of the minutes as written.

WORKGROUPS AND STANDING REPORTS

Training Coordination

HazMat Training - Scott Lancaster, WSP

Since the last meeting in November, there have been 5 HazMat IC classes in Whatcom County, Marysville, and Bellevue. HazMat IQ and Incident Command classes are currently the most requested classes available, and several agencies are looking to add more classes in the fall. To accommodate the current requests, current funding might be exceeded, and alternative funding sources are currently being reviewed.

The Energy and Lithium-Ion Battery Symposium will be held in Lacey on February 22nd-24th. Currently we have 200 people registered to attend and attendees are a good cross section across the state. Stagnant props will be provided from the Department of Ecology, Pierce Transit, and PACCAR. The Eastside HazMat Workshop will be held in Wenatchee on May 3rd-5th. A few things on the agenda currently are Mike Callan who presented at Eastside HazMat last year, pipeline responses, electrical hazards, WSP Bomb Squad, 10th CST, FBI WMD hazmat, and other topics.

FEMA and National Domestic Preparedness Consortium Training – Susan Forsythe, EMD

The Standard Operational Awareness level and Personal Protective Measures for Biological Events hazardous materials classes have updated their curriculum. Reach out to emd.training@mil.wa.gov for more information on classes and free trainings for first responders.

EPCRA Compliance – Diane Fowler, ECY

Currently Tier Two reporting season with reports due March 1st, 2024. Tier Twos should be sent to their LEPCs and local fire departments. The Tribal designations for Tier Twos businesses are currently being reviewed as a map layer. There are currently 151 businesses and 14 counties identified as residing on tribal land, and a tribal designation has been added to the site name. Businesses can change their LEPC designation for their business; so, if a business is on tribal lands, the business can change their designation back to the county or city, but it will still be noted that the business is on tribal lands. EPCRA app currently showing 2022 data which will be updated after March 1st deadline. Tier Two data can be requested and/or access to the mobile app can be granted by contacting Diane Fowler at dfow461@ECY.WA.GOV.

HMEP – Christopher Burd, EMD

Year 1 ending in September 2023, and we are currently in Y2 of this grant. Funding currently allocated to fire protection bureaus, San Juan County, and Cowlitz County. Cowlitz County returned their funding due to logistical difficulties in coordination with contractors and their ESF 10 plan. Those funds will be added to the Y3 amounts. PSHMA opened Year 3 applications which will be due 4/30/24. Any questions should be sent to Christopher.burd@mil.wa.gov

Budget Report – Susan Forsythe, EMD

In November 2023's meeting, the SERC approved spending funds on a 4-hour class by the HazMat guys, and dates are still pending for April or May 2024 for that online class.

LEPC Planning Status – Susan Forsythe, EMD

Whatcom County's plan was reviewed and met all 9 federal requirements. Currently 80% of LEPC plans meet all 9 requirements or are in the process of doing so. Tracking of these plans is available via SharePoint for our SERC members to review. EMD is working to track all LEPC member lists, by laws, and meeting frequencies.

Tribal Outreach – Susan Forsythe, EMD

Several tribes joined in the LEPC 101 and 102 presentations. More discussion will be had at the April SERC meeting in Ellensburg with EMD's tribal liaison, Erik Riske.

HazMat Capabilities – Chief Mike Harris, Vice Chair

Discussion on statewide hazmat capabilities was had with Steve Wright at Washington Fire Chiefs and a work plan has been established. More work will be put into furthering the capability study to replace the 2016 study. Future legislation regarding statewide hazmat capabilities will most likely occur in 2025.

OLD BUSINESS

Local Emergency Planning Districts – Chief Patrick Reid, Chair

Cowlitz County and Wahkiakum County are finalizing the last items with their local governments and plan on petitioning the SERC to combine their planning districts at the April 2024 meeting. Skagit and Island Counties are currently exploring the option to combine their planning districts and will update the SERC on any confirmed plans to petition the SERC.

LEPC Records Retention Workgroup – Danielle Plenge, EMD

The workgroup is currently almost done with a draft retention schedule for LEPCs on maintaining Tier Two reports. The workgroup is also talking about adjusting and adding some retention schedules around Chemical Release and Spill Reports. We will have a completed draft to present before the SERC at the April 2024 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Election Center Security – Lt. Col. Royster, 10th CST

Currently a massive state effort including FBI, DOJ, Secretary of State's office, the Fusion Center, WSP, EOD, US Postal Inspection team, and 10th CST. This effort is to provide coverage evenly across all counties in Washington. The team is working to unify the efforts across polling centers to mitigate the hazard of the white powder threat. The goal is for each 911 center to have the same checklist, the same phone tree, and working knowledge of the local hazmat teams and law enforcement. 10th CST is working with WSP to establish where all the tabulation centers are in conjunction with the capabilities of local hazmat. The current deadline is March 12th so the team and plans are in place for the November presidential elections. 10th CST is working on creating small strike teams and pre-positioning them throughout the state, including the east side of Washington, to provide support.

Nomination/Election of SERC Vice Chair – Chief Reid, Chair

Chief Mike Harris accepted the nomination to Vice Chair by Chief Reid. All present SERC members voted to approve the nomination.

DISCUSSION

Review of current legislative session and SERC/LEPC implications – Casey Broom, EMD, Jase Brooks, ECY, & Kate Fernald, COM

State agency subject matter experts reviewed Substitute Senate Bill 6164 and the implications this would have on LEPCs and the SERC. This bill is regarding county emergency management plans, specifically regarding the communication plans including an expeditious notification to the public that might be at risk due to a hazardous material spill/release. These notifications should be made via the most appropriate technology available and will now require a public meeting about the hazmat incident. The practical implication is that any hazmat spill/release or requires the ICS command structure will now be required to have a public meeting that has a remote option and the participation of ECY, WDFW, and the party responsible for the incident. The ICS command structure is used immediately upon the first person arriving at the scene of a spill or release, and EMD's Alert and Warning Center received 2,613 reports of hazmat spill incidents in 2023 which would have required the ICS command structure. Department of Commerce (COM) is working on fiscal impacts of the bill on local jurisdictions.

Concerns noted by guests present were the cost of this bill on locals, the implementation, the broad definition of hazmat incident in the bill, requirement to have remote options conflicts with current RCW, does not account true nature of ICS structure and incident complexity, impacts not just LEPCs but local fire and local law enforcement that can be first and only on scene, notification implementation time and scope, LEPC services typically include costs of community coordinator, alert and notification are already components of any incident response, requirement to have responsible party present, overabundance of public alerts and desensitization, funding for local alert and warning centers, and governmental jurisdiction.

State agency subject matter experts reviewed SB 5812 and the deadline of 1/1/25 for the study report from WSP on EV fires. WSP will need to consult with ECY, local fire protection districts, towing/recovery, and other related entities to inform report. The goal is to combine current information and outline how to move forward to help agencies with response and protecting first and secondary responders in general, not just fire fighters.

ADJOURN

Chief Patrick Reid adjourned the meeting at 11:37 AM.

SCHEDULE MEETINGS

The next scheduled meeting will be April 23rd, 2024, at Central Washington University, Ellensburg