



Rockdale County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meeting Minutes

June 2nd, 2025 @ 1:00pm
C.E. Steele Community Center
1040 Oakland Ave
Conyers, Ga

Meeting called to order by John Bandzul @ 1:03pm

Attendees: Brandy Hunt, Sharon Webb, Hailey Brown, Allyson Born, John Bandzul, John Lynn, Brandon Marlow, Dexter Porter, Kimberly Lucas, Dwight Spencer, Anita Mathis, Ricard Pickens, Drake Kilpatrick, Curtis Brooks, Terrence Simpkins, Claudette Rancifer, Billy Burrell, Gerald Woodridge.

New Business

- Vice Chair, Kyle Atkins, has stepped down due to moving out of county and switching jobs.
 - o Need to propose a new VC
 - Chief Marlow is nominated w/ Rockdale County Fire Dept.
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1. Vote on proposed amendments for the LEPC By-Laws
 - When it comes to inventory of biohazard chemicals – do we have proper knowledge of these (what is proprietary and what are trade secrets)
 - Public does have access to E Plan – however its limited what they can see
 - Warning procedures and evacuation plans – are these things known to the public, or no?
 - o Warning procedures: public knowledge already
 - o Evacuation plans: We want to know HOW – how to institute shelter-in-place, but this won't be known till the predicament happens.
 - Citizens believe that this information is necessary to be accessible to the public.
 - Maybe bring citizens in on how the training book should be read – educating on how to use emergency response guide.

Hazmat specific LEPC, not all hazards.



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Emergency Warnings & ERT Emergency Funds

- Emergency warning procedures can be 100% controlled regarding how they occur, how people receive them, and how they are distributed.
- The ERT (Emergency Response Team) emergency funds capital will be published.
- Training sessions on how to read the ERT book may be beneficial.
- **Public Education**
- Educating the public on how to use the emergency response guide, where to find information online, and what to do in shelter-in-place or evacuation situations is important.
- During evacuations, the ERG (Emergency Response Guide) should be referenced, including shelter-in-place procedures.
- Clarification is needed on the differences between shelter-in-place procedures for bio/chemical events versus storms.
- Specific instructions should be provided for different types of shelter-in-place scenarios, such as chemical plumes or severe storms.
- Citizens need to know what supplies are needed during shelter-in-place situations.

Emergency Response Exercises

- Coordinating emergency response exercises may not be within the purview of the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee); it may be more appropriate for the emergency management department.
- Language could state having LEPC participate in exercises that pertain to hazardous materials.
- The LEPC is HAZMAT specific.

Proposed Article 2

- Proposed addition: "The LEPC shall be instrumental in fulfilling the purposes of the EPCR to increase community protection from exposure to chemical produced, used, stored or transported within the county."



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- Suggested changes to line 2: continue to add C, remove D, continue to add E but remove evacuation plans.

Review of Changes

- F should be changed to the wording "add during evacuations, shelter place review erg."
- Instead of G, "participate, have LAPC participate in exercises that pertain to HazMat."
- The changes reviewed today will be sent out for paper review, followed by a load on it next time.

Membership

- Add broadcast in print media personnel.
- No objections to adding media personnel as members, especially for LEP.
- Community groups: clarification needed.
- Add community groups within paragraph two: "additionally any person or firm engaged."
- Vacancies: Any vacancies occurring in the LAPC will be filled by the appointment of the chair for identification of qualified replacement and nominated by a vote of the membership.
- Executive board vacancies should always go to a vote, not be an appointment made by the chair.

Committees

- Article six committees under section two Standing committees Emergency response training and exercise works with the biohazard committee and existing emergency response organizations to review with help the local emergency management officials and test a hazard emergency response plan.
- Check with fire or EMA regarding this.
- Not enough people to form a whole training exercise committee with biohacker committee.



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- The way she wrote it up, it's almost as a description for each committee which I'm not against putting in the bylaws anyway so we know what each committee stands for.

Committees

- There are currently two committees:
- Emergency Response Training and Exercise Committee
- Plan Resources
- Originally there were six committees, but the number was reduced to two.
- The LEPC is expected to grow.
- "This is your show, you know as much as the LEPC and it's just the way I think."

Meetings

- Add that the LEPC will establish and notify the public about all meetings, including subcommittee meetings, that are open to the public.
- Meetings are already public in accordance with Georgia state law.
- Discussion on how to notify the public, specifically regarding the county website and social media pages.
- The speaker has seen reporters present at the meetings and has received inquiries from citizens.
- The speaker finds Facebook to be a useful tool for agencies to share public information.
- The speaker has no issue with making the agenda public early so people can see what will be discussed.
- There might be something on the agenda that is of particular interest to a specific group.

Proposed Changes

- The proposed changes discussed will be retyped in the minutes and put out for a vote next month.
- Normally, this would be handled at the subcommittee level, but there is only one person on that subcommittee currently.



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Subcommittee Reports

- Any subcommittee reports since the education person is gone?

Bylaws and Amendments

- Proposed amendments are being added, and changes will be highlighted and shared.

Emergency Response Plan

- An annex is being developed, incorporating sections to comply with Georgia state regulations, which will provide a response time procedure.
- The fire department, as the hazmat lead, will review the plan before it is shared with everyone else.
- A professional from the speaker's background should be consulted.
- **Flyers at Facilities**
- Chief Lynn confirms flyers are being distributed at facilities, explaining what the committee is.
- Feedback on the flyers has been minimal.
- Call volume has decreased, with only a couple of calls received.
- Efforts are underway to identify the current contact person at each facility.
- **Open Forum**
- The Sheriff expresses pride in the progress and changes being made, which are providing relief to citizens.
- The Sheriff inquires about the current landscape with new companies and how everyone feels about hazmat in Rockdale.
- There is confidence in the partnerships and relationships that will help in addressing incidents.
- New procedures, legal checklists, and a different approach to tier 2 reports are being implemented.
- Solidifying the bylaws and citizen participation in meetings are positive developments.

Continued Growth and Vision



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- The speaker emphasizes the importance of continuing to grow the organization.
- The speaker believes the organization can be "phenomenally beneficial to the citizens and visitors here in Rockdale County."

Appreciation for Leadership

- The speaker thanks John for "stepping up and taking on the role of the president and leading the committee."
- The speaker acknowledges the responsibility of the role and offers support.

Personal Involvement and LEPC Experience

- The speaker lives in the county Monday through Friday and sees this as a "huge aspect."
- The speaker was involved in the LEPC up north, which focused on nuclear issues due to a plant nearby.
- The speaker relies on the expertise of others due to their own lack of recent experience, stating, "it's just ignorance. You know, I haven't been on a fire truck since 2018."

Meeting Adjourned at 1:36pm by Chair John Bandzul