

MINUTES

Wallingford
Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting
October 24, 2023
9:30 A.M./Central Fire Headquarters

The LEPC Meeting was called to order by Fire Chief Joseph Czentnar, EMD, at 9:30 a.m. See the attached list of attendees.

Mayor Dickinson welcomed the Committee members and thanked everyone for attending. He explained the importance of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meetings. He stated that the Town just participated in a statewide emergency preparedness exercise involving rail cars and chemical spills. The chemical spills created a plume and evacuation questions were dealt with along with other issues. He went on to state that spill events could have a widespread impact on the community. We all need to work together to make the community a safe place.

Fire Chief Joseph Czentnar gave a brief background of the LEPC which is a forum to address chemicals and companies that manufacture hazardous materials in town. The town can train and know how to respond emergencies as they occur. Over time we have put together an All Hazards Plan for responding to all types of emergencies. This includes weather events, natural disasters and hazardous materials. It's guided by National Response Framework which is standardized throughout the country and how we respond to any type of emergency. Essentially it ensures that everyone responds in the same way to these emergencies.

We also put together the Local Emergency Operation Plan (LEOP). It's a roughly 300-page document that covers different areas such as weather events, natural disasters and hazmat events. We train for the different events, review the plan and update it. We work with different departments; Health, Police, Public Works, Water/Sewer, Electric Division and the Mayor's Office. This document is updated every year.

The Chief then discussed the annual Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative (EPPI). DEMHS Region 2, which the town is a part of, throws a scenario at us every year. We open up our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and have all the necessary agencies participate. DEMHS throws scenarios at us in real time that we respond to, assess that response and do an after-action report. Last year they simulated a category 2 hurricane that had a direct hit on the state and we covered various different aspects of it. This included planning, how we responded, recovery and mitigation efforts. This year the exercise was based on the East Palestine train derailment in Ohio. It involved hazardous materials and fire. Our EOC is currently located at 135 North Main Street in Wallingford; this is the Police Department Headquarters. When we need the EOC to open for an event, I consult with the Mayor then contact the Police Chief, who would open the EOC. We gather the various agencies that are impacted. From the EOC we plan our

response and mitigation. The secondary location is at Fire Headquarters. Once the new Police Headquarters is complete, the EOC will be located there at 100 Barnes Road.

Acting Fire Marshall Brian Schock reviewed the statistics of the SARA Title III reporting. Each year we review the Connecticut DEEP spill reports that come in. We look for trends at locations and the types of incidents that occur in hopes for future prevention.

In 2021 we had 37 DEEP spill reports with 15 Fire Department responses of various different types. These range from motor vehicle accidents, to container failures, equipment failures and hose failures. There were 10 spill reports that occurred of those 37 at our tier II facilities, 5 specifically at our EHS (Extremely Hazardous Facilities) facilities. There were no responses to those EHS facilities. In 2022 we had 53 total spill reports with 15 Fire Department responses. 20 of those were at our tier II facilities and 5 were to EHS facilities. In 2023 currently, we're at 23 total spill reports as of 10/23/23 with 7 Fire Department responses, 10 at tier II and 5 at EHS facilities.

In 2022 38 tier II facilities reported, in the past a total of 46 facilities have reported. 1 new tier II facility reported. We have a total of 16 EHS facilities, only 14 of those reported, meaning that 2 did not report. There were no new EHS facilities reporting. In 2023 1 of our tier II facilities closed.

The tier II reporting has changed to Haz Connect. We're working to implement this for the LEPC. There is information on the Fire Department's website; we will follow up with how that reporting may change. We still track the tier II reporting through Cameo. The PDFs that we ask for go into our software systems which provide information used to respond to calls. An email will be sent to everyone regarding the new reporting. Information about spill reporting can be found on Connecticut SERC and Connecticut DEEP.

Deputy Sam Wilson gave an overview of emergency response exercises and New Haven Area Special Hazard Team (NASH) membership. The fire department continues to expand its capability to respond to various types of hazards. The department is expanding heavy rescue capabilities along with maintaining confined space entrance capabilities at the technician level. NASH is hazmat focused; we utilize that resource for technical rescue capabilities. Recently, we worked with Meriden Fire Department on a technical rescue and sent our team to train with them on various types of equipment. We then were able to complete cross training in house. We were called to Meriden to assist with a hazmat issue. We also work with Hamden Fire Department to train in hazmat response at the technician level.

Emergency medical services are being expanded work with Police Department for acts of violence responses where the Police Department is the primary responder. Training drills are being done with mass casualties to ensure we have a ready response.

Health Director Vanessa Bautista outlined some changes as part of the LEOP plan. She is working with Deputy Emergency Management Director, Leonard Guercia, to update the plan. An infectious disease outbreak protocol and environment emergency response plan will be added as addendums to the ESF 8 plan. We are also updating our communication protocol annex. The ESF 6 is a sheltering plan and we're integrating mental health and updating regional officer contact information. These changes will be added to the LEOP once they've been reviewed by Chief Czentnar and approved.

Deputy Emergency Management Director Leonard Guercia was not present. Chief Czentnar updated the attendees in his absence. We currently have 14 CERT members and will run additional classes in February to train new members.

Wallingford amateur radio network partners with CERT. They assist with backup communications.

Mayor Dickinson and Fire Chief Czentnar thanked everyone for attending. Debra DeFelice, Ulbrich Steel, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dave Rodriguez, Roehm. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

10/24/23

LEPC Meeting – October 24, 2023

Attendees List:

Joseph Czentnar, Fire Chief/EMD
Dave Devito, GEM
Sam Wilson, Deputy Fire Chief
Mike Shaw, Deputy Fire Chief
Debra DeFelice, Ulbrich Steel
Sylar Nagy, Ulbrich Steel
Schott Thibodeau, Ferti Technologies
Randy Chamberland, ORAFOL Americas
Matt Cherubini, BYK USA
Tony Mortali, ORAFOL Americas
Roger DeBaise, Gaylord Hospital
Scott Shipman, Wallingford Water & Sewer Department
Dave Rodriguez, Roehm America
Ginny Ryan, Allnex
Michael Colavolpe, Captain, Wallingford Police Department
J.M. D'Addio, Officer, Wallingford Police Department
Lawrence Jakiela, Thurston Foods
Mike Schuster, Thurston Foods
Rob Baltramaitis, Director, Wallingford Department of Public Works
Greg Super, BYK USA
Jeff Flynn, BYK USA
William Viola, Director, Wallingford Senior Center
Erik Larson, Hunter's Ambulance
Vanessa Bautista, Director, Wallingford Health Department
Brain Shock, Acting Fire Marshall
Bethany Camputano, Masonicare
John Vance, Masonicare
Gary Gonzalez, Masonicare
William W. Dickinson, Mayor
Cori Hass, Mayor's Executive Secretary