

Wallingford
Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting
November 26, 2019
9:00 A.M./Central Fire Headquarters

The LEPC meeting was called to order by Chief Heidgerd at 9:00 A.M.
See attached list of attendees.

Mayor Dickinson welcomed the Committee members and thanked everyone for attending. He explained the importance of the LEPC meetings with our first responders and other facilities to keep our citizens as safe as possible and the LEPC is a vital part of the process. The Mayor was pleased to see every one attending the meeting and their interest in this very serious matter.

Fire Chief Richard Heidgerd spoke regarding the LEPC which originally involved just the chemical industry. After a review several years ago of the Town's All Hazards Plan, it was melded into the LEPC which now includes participation of a number of other facilities including health care groups and other entities attending today's meeting because any disaster event we may have is handled in the same way and will include members of this group.

Each year there are EPPI exercises with the Town and at the state level which we participate in. The Chief discussed the most recent EPPI State and Local exercise held last week which regarded a cyberattack on gas infrastructure and a power close down. The exercise worked through the problem at the state and at the town level. We worked with the Electric Division to make sure Wallingford is protected and our system ready for natural disasters.

Chief Heidgerd then spoke of the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) which has been updated over the last two years. He distributed a sign-up list for individuals who do not have an updated plan and it will be distributed to them on a flash drive. He also spoke of the Operations Center. There are not a lot of changes; the EOC is held at the Police facility and the Police Chief will speak to our new radio system.

Police Chief William Wright stated that we are 90% through a 6 million dollar two way radio project and went from a 3 site to a 5 site constellation which includes Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works, Utilities and Board of Education. We are on our own system and can roam onto the State's if necessary and they onto ours. The system works very well with long distance calls. Police are already on the system, next will be Fire, then 64 portables for BOE and portables for Utilities and Public Works. He praised the Electric Division for the work they have done to facilitate the radio installations. The new system will allow for more efficiency with 11 different groups being able to talk at the same time and not overload the system. The Chief feels the Town is in a good position for the next 20 years. He stated that we now have a rock solid secure system; we own the equipment and do not need to rely on anyone else.

Deputy Fire Marshal Brian Schock spoke regarding the 2018 SARA III Reporting. 40 facilities reported, four did not report, and there were two new reports. A map from CT DEEP was shown highlighting where Tier I and Tier II facilities are located. The information is available to the

public on line. There were 41 emergency responses from DEEP, 7 from Tier II, 4 from DHS. The Fire Department responded to 3 of the 7 and they included hose failures, in ground tank failures, etc. An information sheet will be distributed to Tier I and Tier II facilities on how to report an incident to the Mayor and Fire Department. The Town has an obligation to report raw material and hazardous materials incidents to DEEP.

Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Czentnar spoke regarding Emergency Response Exercise/ Preparedness drills the Town holds under NHASH a division of the New Haven Area Region II. The drills include participation with Wallingford, Meriden, Hamden, North Haven, New Haven, Allnex, Evonik, and RHOM. A power point was provided highlighting recent drills the Town has participated in. Drills involve a variety of topics including decontamination, rescue, ambulance transport, life star, active violence drills, and Meriden airport solar field issues. The response team is always trying to think of what may go wrong, what can go wrong and come up with a plan.

A question arose regarding a recent incident in another community regarding the use of foam in fighting a fire and its contamination of the area. The Fire Chief indicated that after the incident, the Town immediately reviewed its procedures and has now switched to a foam that is adequate and appropriate.

Health Director Stephen Civitelli gave a Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) update and provided a power point. He spoke about the Town's Emergency Operations Plan, Emergency Support Functions (ESF) 6, Public Health Mass Care Plan and ESF 8 Public Health Response Plan. He is a Deputy Emergency Manager for the Town in the area of shelter, food and mass care. He is the Public Information Officer (PIO) for health issues and the Police Department is the PIO for the Town. The concern is to have enough volunteers to compliment the Town's assets. The MRC has 154 volunteers and if a shelter opens we call on a number of volunteers depending on the situation. Basic needs are provided such as shelter, food, and water. We have MOU's with Gaylord and Masonicare for sheltering individuals with medical needs. We currently utilize the Hope Hill Road site (former Yalesville VFD) as a small shelter which can accommodate 30 individuals and has self-generation. If schools are used it would only be in the large areas, not class rooms. A Police Officer would be at the shelter until it closed. Mr. Civitelli indicated we also have MOU's with Thurston Food, Shoprite and the CT Food Bank. Our main concern to open a shelter would be floods, hurricanes, blizzards.

ESF 8 includes Public Health preparedness involving infectious disease, emergency response and safety during a biological event. This involves many support partners and is a coordinated effort. There have been table top exercises regarding Points of Dispensing (POD) bringing either the medicine to citizens or bringing citizens to the POD. A tabletop exercise was held on June 19, 2019 regarding Pandemic Influenza. We also try to have everything preplanned to address the vulnerable individuals of our community.

Deputy Director Emergency Management Leonard Guercia gave an Emergency Management Department update. There are currently three Deputy Directors of Emergency Management: Mr. Guercia, Emergency Management, Mr. Civitelli, Health, Dep. Chief Czentnar, Fire. The former Yalesville VFD is now the EMD Office, shared with the Wallingford Amateur Ham Radio group, comprised of 66 volunteers, and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) with 16 volunteers. The radio communications group is exploring the use of ham radio operators in a variety of different ways including locating them in their own neighborhoods during an emergency. The EMD's goal is to foster volunteer and Medical Reserve Corp support for the Fire and Police Departments. Money is necessary to provide lodging and there are purchase orders for several area hotels. The plan is to put people in a safe place.

Mayor Dickinson spoke of having plans and the importance of providing the money for the plans. It is critical that money be in a budget so funds are available immediately for hotels.

Prior to the presentation by the Department of Homeland Security, there was a short roundtable discussion period.

The Mayor asked about the resolution of the EPPI cyberattack exercise. Chief Heidgerd responded that the result of the exercise included rolling blackouts. A small percentage of power was available for a short time. Then blackouts again for another 10 hours. There was not much power in CT and the estimated timeframe was up to a year without energy. How do you manage this – critical infrastructure that needed power at all times, do you restrict industrial use of power, shorten school days to three or four days – it became a very large conversation, there was no real resolution or final version.

Mayor Dickinson spoke to the reality of a foreign power owning the domestic power supply in CT - is that really what we want to have as reality? That's the case right now. We also allowed a primary electricity supply to join with another state. Now, that company covers at least two states. This type of circumstance, how do you assure that CT is getting its share of power and ultimately you get into a discussion on how do you manage the life blood of modern society - energy? Without energy within five days you're back into survival mode – your pumps don't work you can't get any fuel or services.

Paul Tassey, Chemical Security Inspector, Department of Homeland Security, stated he was pleased to see the number of people involved in the Wallingford LEPC. He explained that DHS has been a regulatory agency since 2007; their job is to regulate high risk chemical facilities. A Power Point presentation was provided. He explained that they regulate Tier I (highest) – Tier

IV (lowest) high risk chemical facilities. Facilities that have chemicals of interest may be considered at risk or high risk and Mr. Tassej explained the procedure for companies to submit a report to DHS. It is a short report and after submittal you will receive notice as to whether you are in the Tier program. If you are in the program, you must submit a site plan to DHS. The owner of the plant is expected to provide a viable protocol to protect the chemicals. It's important to know that at any point an entity can call a DHS inspector to assist in writing the site plan. It is required that the Site Security Plan be submitted to DHS for review and approval. A response from DHS should be received within several weeks determining if your facility has received authorization to use the site plan. If not, DHS will work with the facility to assist in providing an acceptable plan. DHS will do an authorization inspection to insure you are in compliance with the plan. If so, you receive a letter of approval. In 12-14 months DHS will do a compliance inspection to confirm the company is following their plan. These facilities are also encouraged to contact local LEPC's through the local fire departments.

Mr. Tassej gave examples of the variety of businesses, fisheries and hatcheries, colleges, universities, chemical plants, etc. that are regulated. There are over 3,600 facilities in the program right now, with 142 in Region I (New England). DHS staff is located in Boston and they are always available to provide assistance. They also have interest in cyber security, including elections, and the Department of the Army has a large cyber team. He is aware that the New Hampshire National Guard has a team. Cyber team information can be found on the FEMA website. The teams are available for deployment if necessary.

Fire Chief Heidgerd thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

LEPC MEETING – November 26, 2019
ATTENDEE LIST

Debra DeFelice, Ulbrich Steel
Kelly McDermott, Wallingford Housing Authority
Chris Pisani, Wallingford Housing Authority
Brittany Nappi, Health Department
Steve Civitelli, Health Director
Leonard Guercia, OEM
William Wright, Police Chief
Richard Homestead, Police Department
Tony Buccheri, General Manager, Electric Division
Rob Baltramaitis, Public Works Director
Neil Amwake, General Manager, Water Division
Rick Vanski, Water Division
David Rodriguez, Roehm America LLC
Jason Motta, Regency House
Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent of Schools
David Bryant, Board of Education
Randy Chamberland, Rowland Technologies
Jeff Flynn, BYK USA
Matt Cherubini, BYK USA
Craig Stegmaier, Midstate Hospital
Brian Schock, Deputy Fire Marshal
Shock Baitch, Deputy Fire Marshal
Joe Czentnar, Deputy Fire Chief
Richard Heidgerd, Fire Chief
Paul Tassej, DHS
Marc Mikulski, Hartford Healthcare
William Viola, Senior Center
Robert Thurston, Thurston Foods
Larry Jakiela, Thurston Foods
Patrick Thurston, Thurston Foods
Adelheid Koepfer
Rajan Doering
William W. Dickinson, Mayor
Joan Stave, Mayor's Office