

## MINUTES

**Wallingford  
Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting  
October 26, 2021  
9:00 A.M./Central Fire Headquarters**

The LEPC meeting was called to order by Fire Chief Joseph Czentnar, EMD, 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. He stated that we each have a role to play and used the analogy that a person on watch in the military is extremely important. If you fall asleep on duty severe consequences may happen. When you are on watch all night long at sea, on land, where ever, you have to be the eyes and ears that protect others. That's in part what this committee does--we are the watchers for safety and a significant part of that safety is the presence of chemicals and how they all benefit us but can also be a catastrophe when out of control. We need to know where they are and how they are stored. We need to be conscious of the well-being of the community at all times so there is a chance that the problem will be intercepted before it becomes something that is life threatening or results in damage to property or people. Our first responders and other facilities keep our citizens as safe as possible and each has a role to play. We are the watchers of safety and presence of chemicals and how they are used and stored determines the well-being of our community.

Fire Chief Joseph Czentnar gave a brief background of the LEPC which is primarily a forum to address chemicals and companies that manufacture hazardous materials in town and if there is any type of emergency we know what is on their inventory and we know how to respond. Over time we have put together the All Hazards Plan and melded it all together to form the LEOP, the Local Emergency Operations Plan, a byproduct of the LEPC which is a 278 page document which covers a lot of different areas whether they are hazardous chemical releases, weather events, or natural disasters of all sorts. It was guided by what we call the National Response Framework which is standardized throughout the country and how we respond to a natural disaster or hazmat release. We would respond the same way other states respond. We try to standardize all the responses along with natural disasters or other types of things that may happen.

This is how this group formed, we meet, and share information so there is a plan in place if we do have a disaster. The Chief discussed the Emergency Planning and Preparedness Initiative (EPPI). There are 5 regions in the state, we are in Region 2. Annually we have local EPPI exercises where local town government and agencies get together and have a tabletop event. The last one in November 2019 being a Cyberattack on natural gas. Due to COVID we have not have any exercises recently. However, we have for the most part been responding to the corona virus emergency for the last 19 months collaborating with other departments providing PPE's, N95 masks, surgical mask gowns, etc. to all town agencies, people in the community and the general public effected by COVID. We have also coordinated with the

Health Department for vaccine clinics over the past 10 months. We recently updated point of contact information with our LEOP and it will be available soon through the State and on the Town's web site.

The town's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is located in the Wallingford Police Department headquarters and was recently activated due to Tropical Storm Henri. Through the EOC we have town departments ready and able to respond to any type of emergency, trees down, flooding, etc.

Deputy Fire marshal Brian Schock reviewed the statistics of the SARA Title III reporting. In 2019, 44 total facilities reported, 3 new facilities reported, and 2 previous facilities did not report due to the amounts of chemicals no longer at their facilities; 15 EHS facilities reported and 1 new facility reported. In 2020, 49 total facilities reported, 2 new facilities reported, 15 EHS facilities reported and 1 new EHS facility reported. In 2021, to date 31 facilities reported, 5 Tier II, and 3 EHS facilities reported. CT DEEP emergency incident reports for 2019 included 47 total, 13 emergency Tier II reports and 5 emergency incident reports at EHS facilities. In 2020 there was a total of 49 CT DEEP emergency incident reports, 6 emergency incident reports at Tier II facilities and 1 report at an EHS facility. For 2021 there are currently 32 total CT DEEP incident reports, 7 emergency incident reports at Tier II facilities and 4 emergency incident reports at EHS facilities. The Department looks at the incident reports when they come in to determine if there is need to respond to them and if so, work with the chief officers to evaluate each of them.

Tier II submissions are due March 1<sup>st</sup> for the previous calendar year on line. Go to the Town's web site "find it fast", then to the "LEPC quick link" which goes directly to the Fire Department web site. On that web site is all the information and resources of listings needed to complete your report. Submit the report to the Mayor in hard copy, 45 South Main St., and to the Wallingford Fire Department at [lepc@wallingfordfd.com](mailto:lepc@wallingfordfd.com). In your email subject please put down your facility and Tier II. With that we request that two files be submitted, one being your TIS file so we can apply it to our cameo software to evaluate Tier II's and the other is a pdf file which goes on to our apparatus and is available during responses. With regards to site plans, if they have been submitted and it hasn't changed, you need not submit it to us. If there have been changes, or if you haven't submitted it, please submit it with your Tier II. There is no fee associated for the Tier II submittal.

Deputy Fire Chief Samuel Wilson stated that there have not had a lot of exercises other than the largest one we have been dealing with which is COVID. Yesterday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, we did have a state wide disaster drill with Masonicare directly focused on long term care facilities and it provided a good idea of what we can offer and provide as a town and fire department in terms of assistance and with our incident command system. When there is an emergency the department responds with many resources and capabilities. Facilities should activate a call early so we can help to mitigate what is happening immediately. We have increased our suppression capabilities within the last year and have added a career engine company at Station 7. All engine companies have paramedic capabilities for emergency medical services. We also maintain two ambulances for our transport capabilities for the Town. We have the capability to handle large scale mass care incidents for a variety of rescues. We are part of NASH, the New Haven Area Special Hazards Team and we are able to mitigate hazmat releases at the technical level which allows us to bring in regional help. We work with the Health Department and help to take care of the town wide POD at a secure town location. It is kept secure and ready for use at a moment's notice.

Health Director Stephen Civitelli stated that with everyone's help they have been able to provide 51 COVID vaccination clinics in town, including partnering with the Fire Department for homebound individuals and the Wallingford Housing Authority residents. They have a PPE stock pile available for the future. Booster clinics are scheduled for first responders in the next few weeks. All clinics are walk in. Past experience has shown it is very difficult to schedule appointments. They will continue the booster campaign over the next few months. 84% of Wallingford residents have had a first dose of the vaccine, our rates are low and we are in good condition at this point as compared to other Towns.

Deputy Emergency Management Director Leonard Guercia, reported that the Wallingford CERT team currently has 12 active members. Since the last LEPC meeting they have had four state activations, two due to storm support and sheltering and two due to support for the region. They have partnered with the Wallingford Amateur Radio Network for support during disasters and they work very closely with the Wallingford Health Department. There will be CERT training in February 2022, to bring in new members, part of it will be virtual.

Mayor Dickinson and Fire Chief Czentnar thanked everyone for attending. David Rodriguez, Roehm, made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Deputy Fire Marshal Brian Schock. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

10/28/21

LEPC MEETING – October 26, 2021

ATTENDEES LIST:

Leonard Guercia, Deputy EMD  
David Bryant, Wallingford Public Schools  
John Fiore, Regency House  
Rob Baltramaitis, Public Works Director  
Matt Cherubini, BYK  
David Rodriguez, Roehm America  
Roger DeBaise, Gaylord Hospital  
Adelheid Koepfer, Public  
Larry Jakiela, Thurston Foods  
Jeff Dural, Ferti Technologies  
Bob Thurston, Thurston Foods  
Chris Pisani, Wallingford Housing Authority  
Nathan Chubet, Wallingford Energy  
Brian Schock, Deputy Fire Marshal  
Neil Amwake, Water and Sewer Division  
Kevin Ferrarotti, Hunter's Ambulance  
Adam Danielson, Ametek  
Steve Civitelli, Director, Wallingford Health Dept.  
John Ventura, Police Chief  
Steve Biggar, A.L. Pierce Generating Station  
Tony Buccheri, Wallingford Electric Division  
Debra DeFelice, Ulbrich Steel  
David Gainer, Nucor Steel  
Kaylianna Bryant, Wallingford Health Dept.  
Randy Chamberland, Rowland APF  
Raina Brouiller, Masonicare  
Keith Schafer, Wallingford Fire Dept.  
Joseph Czentnar, Fire Chief/EMD  
Samuel Wilson, Deputy Fire Chief  
William W. Dickinson, Mayor  
Joan M. Stave, Mayor's Aide