

LEPC Meeting, June 11, 2024

Attendance:

Alyia Gaskins, Council  
Russell Furr, chief deputy fire marshal  
Robert Dube  
Elizabeth Chimento  
Lucas Dushac - plant manager at Covanta, now Reworld  
Michael Lee Pope, Chair  
Vernon Miles

Bart Routh, Fairfax LEPC Vice Chair  
Marjory Windelberg, Community Emergency Response Team CERT  
Jasmine Johnson, public health emergency management coordinator for Alexandria Health Department  
Deputy Chief Paul Ruwe  
Lorenzo Reed, Inova Health System

Minutes: One edit – Jasmine Johnson delivered report but was not included into attendance for June 2024 meeting.

Five in favor, one abstention, one against.

Adopted. Dube abstained. Chimento voted in opposition. Said minutes are incomplete and should include more detail.

Welcome New Member: Introduction to Robert Dube, a new member, former Fire Chief and North Old Town resident.

City Agencies Reports:

- Fire, Environmental Investigations Unit: On the environmental investigation side, been an unusually quiet spring season. Normally when the city gets paint contractors spilling things, but it's been quiet. Other than a few gas line hits, that's really been about it. No notable hazardous incidents.
- Fairfax LEPC: reported tank tipped over and spilled oil at Fort Belvoir, had private contractor clean it up.
- Health Department: Not much to report. A few whooping cough outbreaks, but they've been handled. Working on an accreditation project – Project Public Health Ready – halfway done, hopefully completed in September. E-Coli is something Health Department is closely monitoring. Lake Anna area was epicenter of e-coli outbreak over Memorial Day weekend – spread to Richmond and surrounding area, more widespread than expected. Nothing notable in Alexandria, but being monitored.
- Office of Emergency Management: Preparing for active hurricane and election season with training exercises. Finally received a storm readiness certificate from NWS. Will be having open house to show off city storm readiness and EOC preparation for peak of

hurricane season. Showing different tools in EOC and how we function as a city in an emergency. First time doing an open house – still in the planning stage, but will be sometime in August or September.

Partner Agencies Reports:

- Alexandria Hospital: Three new hospitals being implemented, next one is Oakville this October, then main Alexandria Hospital opening at old Landmark Mall in 2027. Oakville will be an emergency complex. Preparing for upcoming election season from security standpoint, preparing for protests, mass gatherings, etc. Mentioned ongoing blood drives at Inova.
- Reworld: Only change was rebranding, industry is seeing record-breaking fires from lithium batteries. At 200+ fires this year to date already, more than last year. Doing more internal reporting around that. Trying to promote proper battery recycling, contributing to Montgomery County MD, Arlington and Alexandria to set up recycling. Chimento enquired about regional collaboration. Dube asked about flyers and information about ebike safety. Furr said he's giving a presentation on EVs. Dube said he's heard people are charging ebike batteries in their units, which is not advised. Said infrared can be used to detect batteries to be thrown into incinerators. Dube advised that lithium batteries should be charged outside, noted New York City had a bad rash of ebike and scooter battery fires. Furr said other locations are seeing problems with e-scooters being charged – Arlington restricted the number of batteries that can be charge in a residential multi-family unit for commercial purposes. Could be a problem down the road as these things continue to grow. Gaskins asked for information about what Arlington added to code.

Adjournment: unanimously voted to adjourn.