

LEPC Meeting, Dec. 12, 2024

Attendance:

Alyia Gaskins - Absent
Anthony Kelly - Present
Karl Bach - Absent
Kirk McPike - Absent
Lucas Dushac - Absent
Michael Pope - Present
Ruseell Furr - Present
Christine Macey - Absent
Vernon Miles - Present
Robert Dube - Absent
Curice Paulus - Present

Russell Furr - Chief Deputy Fire Marshal
Vernon Miles - LEPC
Michael Pope
Curice Paulus
Anthony Kelly

Pope initiated meeting with a request that city agencies submit reports ahead of the meeting. Heard back from Transportation and Environmental Services and Health Department.

Health Department Report on accreditation: Project Public Health Ready was completed this past Monday and was turned in. Will find out in January if the City is accredited for preparedness purposes for the next five years. Otherwise "business as usual."

Fire Marshall report: No significant environmental investigations. There was one car fire about a month ago that involved a lithium ion battery – it was not the car, it was a separate battery in the vehicle that was the source. These have become more prevalent and they're going to continue as more are introduced into production.

Furr said if charging, do not leave it charging while not in attendance because "when they fail, they fail quickly." From a safety standpoint, one of the industry practices is to be in attendance, check the battery for swelling/cracks, and not leave it subject to extreme hot or cold temperatures.

Pope noted the issue of battery fires has come up in three of the last meetings, indicating there's an ongoing trend.

Furr said the rise in electric vehicles plays a role as well. Unlike normal fires, very difficult to suppress the fire. "A normal car fire can be extinguished with one tank of water. An EV takes

somewhere between 30,000-40,000 gallons of water and there's a higher chance of reignition of a lithium ion battery."

The fire department is playing catch-up for the technology because fires continue to burn even in the presence of water.

Chair: Pope said the EMS Council is a defunct committee that does not currently meet. Yon Lambert is considering having those members join the LEPC and merge the two groups.

LEPC has a couple vacancies including groups that are regulated. Asked the room for recruits from regulated agencies. Furr said there was representation from Covanta, AlexRenew, Virginia Paving, Pepco and others in the past, but over the years those attendees have fallen off. "Those are the stakeholders we need to be here."

Paulus suggested bringing Norfolk Southern/RSI to the table.

Paulus said merger of commissions should be followed up on at a future meeting, but state and federal regulations need to be checked first.

Furr said fulfilling the EMS Council mission with the LEPC could be a conflict of interest.

HazMat Report: Continuing to do mandatory annual training. Recently had training with Arlington County partner agency. Haven't run into any significant calls of note.

T&ES: Nothing significant to report.

Office of Emergency Management report: Introduction of Marc Barbieri, new emergency management coordinator, started one month ago. Getting the operations plan finalized for Council approval this spring. Recruiting for deputy coordinator post.

Preparations for inauguration: huge regional event and partnerships supporting the District, including providing support where necessary. In Alexandria: role is monitoring and making sure events are done safely, ensuring there's safe ingress and egress, getting ready for all potential events.

Secret Service is the lead for inauguration planning, our role is to support them.

Emergency operations plan is mandated by city and state code: plan that describes how city agencies respond to, coordinate or deal with emergencies. Developed with input from all of the city's agencies and that goes through a multi-month planning process to get ready every four years. It must, by law, be approved by the Council. Due for approval in March. Document is public from 2021.

Biggest transition at the city level is the transition of coordination for mass care and sheltering services. Former lead was RPCA but transitioned to DCHS.

Staff: Bylaws draft presented with minor adjustments requested for Article II about reception of Hazardous Chemical Inventory reports. LEPC unanimously approved new Bylaws.