

LEPC Minutes

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Public Safety Training Facility – Lockport, NY

Call to Order

Tim Balunis began the meeting by leading the pledge to the flag at 9:01 am, followed with reading of the mission statement. A motion was made from Mike Serach to accept the April 13, 2022 meeting minutes and second by Dave Mack. All present approved.

Updates and Reports

Tim Balunis – Tim began meeting by asking the group to share any updates within their organizations since we last met.

Mark Kryer – Homeland Security/Cyber Security. Office offer tools and training for the Public and Private sector. Ryan Sinatra from NYPA offering local training. Active shooter virtual training is also being offered. Jonathan Schultz can request training for county if interested.

Tracy Fricano Chalmers – Niagara County Dept of Health. Still operating Covid clinics with focus on ages 5-11 for boosters. Still waiting on guidance for ages 0-4. Also offering support to local pediatricians with boosters. Dept of Health looking to get back to Community Events and regular public health awareness. No update for Monkeypox, monitoring Niagara County for any cases.

Walt Garrow – Topic for future meeting. Solar waste disposal/recycling

Mike Serach – Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. Base is at normal operations with monthly training. Emergency Management Plan has been revised. Currently reviewing Mutual Aid Plans.

Jason Tolsmo – Regional Coordinator Homeland Security. Provide tabletop exercises and training.

Katie Godlove – Olin. EPA RMP audit June 15, 16 and 17th. If anyone interested in being involved, contact Katie.

Dan Skelly – Riverside Chem. Facility has inventory of Soda Ash and Lime for acid spills if needed. Office open Monday-Friday

Michael Emery – DEC. Marathon exercise held last month. 50 – 60 people involved in tabletop exercise of simulated 80,000 gallon spill into river. Exercise went very well.

Miranda Hayes – Niagara County Emergency Management. Office is now fully staffed with the hiring of Lara MacFarlane. She will be handling Social Media, some finances, working with the

HazMat and Tech Rescue teams as well as other tasks. She has been a great asset to the office. Plenty of Covid test kits available, contact office if want/need kits. Prepare Niagara app is up and running, offers notifications, damage report form, ect.

Chris Banach – VanDeMark. Held their Community Advisory panel in May. Working on training with community and will be doing a drill on September 8th. There are new treatments for Phosgene exposure that may aid in recovery of exposure.

Jonathan Schultz – Niagara County Emergency Management.

- Niagara County obtained accreditation in Emergency Management in May. Office has been working many months to obtain this accreditation and recognized the hard work of his staff during this process.
- Thursday, June 9th, there will be a Hazardous Mitigation Plan Community Meeting by Webex. Municipalities must have plans in to State and FEMA by September.
- Lake levels are OK, had 2 homes in Olcott that needed sandbags on shoreline to protect against erosion.
- EMS nationwide not seen as a professional service. Volunteer numbers continue to decline for multiple reasons. Average response time for ambulance is 25-30 minutes in Niagara County. That is unacceptable. Plan is for early 2023, Niagara County having 2 ambulances available during day, 1 overnight to supplement fire company EMS. 31 of 33 fire companies as well as police departments support plan.
- 3 Solar Safety classes in county on June 7 and 8 to educate first responders. Current recommendation is to contain and let fire burn. There will be some large solar sites coming online in Niagara County. In 20-25 years, there will be a need for how to recycle and/or dispose of used batteries.
- Active Shooter – started training with law enforcement and fire companies just before Covid. Want to ramp up training ASAP.
- Test kits – still have plenty available. Contact office if anyone needs kits.

John Kelly – Coast Guard. Currently working on Port Security Grant. If interested in applying, please use FEMA app. Once applications are received and reviewed, they are sent to FEMA for approval. Cyber related applications are big right now. In past Great Lakes have received funding. Coast Guard is also hiring cyber security specialists. Coast Guard also would like to plan an active shooter drill, has been tabled at this time. There will be a MARSEC test on June 15th to evaluate response to notification of raised MARSEC level.

Marc Kasprzak – 2 new communications sites in operation (Fashion Outlets and Lewiston Highway). 3 additional sites will be brought online (South Wilson and Shawnee Fire Co in fall, Barker no ETA).

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 am. Next meeting will be on August 10, 2022.

Attendance:

Balunis, Tim	Mack, Dave
Banach, Chris	Maybee, Peter
Dimmick, Clayton	Perry, William
Fricano Chalmers, Tracy	Serach, Mike
Emery, Michael	Seibel, Michael
Garrow, Walt	Skelly, Dan
Hayes, Miranda	Tolsma, Jason
Hodgson, Kevin	Klever, Jeremy
Kelly, Thomas	Godlove, Katie
Kreyer, Mark	Jonathan Schultz
Kasprzak, Marc	MacFarlane, Lara
Mihalko, Jim - Excused	Moguel, Kathy - Excused
Sikora, Joseph - Excused	