

FINAL MINUTES
JUNEAU LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
Wednesday, April 8th, 2015 - 12:00 P.M.
Downtown CCFR Hall
(Questions Call – 586-0371)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dan Garcia called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M.

Roll Call: By Secretary Paul Nowlin

Members Present:

Ed Mercer, Ed Quinto, Bill Legere, Mikko Wilson, Roger Rettig, Dan Garcia, Alison Natcher, Matt Musselwhite, Ed Williams, Paul Nowlin, Pam Watts

Members Absent:

Tom Mattice, Michelle Brown, Maria Gladzisewski, David Campbell, Chad Cameron, Alston Brehmer, Destiny Sargeant, Mike Lopez, Cheri Moyer, Scott Novak, Joel Curtis, Jason Burke

Others Present:

Pamela Mueller-Guy, Lawrence Walter, Robin Brenner, Lt. Lance Walters, Rivera Carlos

II. AGENDA CHANGES

None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Non-Agenda Items – 10 minutes

None

V. REPORTS

A. Elected Official's Report

None

B. Red Cross Report

Roger Rettig brought in printed material for the group. Rettig reported on the upcoming training on April 18th at the UAS Student Center. He also reported that his recent visit to Ketchikan went well; a presentation to the USFS on POW Island is coming up soon; and that will be followed by a return to Ketchikan for training with the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and the CERT. Rettig also reported that there was a multiple family complex fire in Lemon Creek near the Subway restaurant; to which Ed Quinto added that 3 families were displaced.

C. Media Report

Mikko reported that the tsunami test on March 25th worked well; that they received positive feedback from the community; and that there were small bugs in the system, as expected. Bill Legere spoke briefly about budget cuts to public radio.

D. Other LEPC Reports

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. None

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. 1. None
- B. Mikko Wilson gave a presentation on the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Wilson started off the presentation with a brief history of the EAS; it was originally created due to the threat of nuclear attacks; it was known as CONELRAD (Control of Electromagnetic Radiation); in 1963 CONELRAD was replaced by the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS); in 1997 EBS was replaced by the Emergency Alert System (EAS), which is still used today. The EAS is automated and linked to the National Weather Service (NWS); it allows the President of the U.S. to take control of the airwaves (Emergency Action Notification/EAN) and speak to the nation as a whole (but has yet to be used in this fashion); can be activated by emergency managers, CBJ, and AEL&P locally. The tones heard at the beginning and end of messages are to trigger and cease the automation; each media station must “listen” to at least 2 other sources for triggers so that their EAS can be activated by each other; and each station has filters that decide whether or not to activate the message on their system based on geographical location. The EAS can be activated for any type of emergency, including tsunami, Amber Alerts, silver alerts, avalanches, and high winds. Improvements are being made constantly; and even though the system was created in 1997, the technology is not from that time period. The Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) is an umbrella of emergency systems including EAS. The NWS can trigger EAS coding; however, EAS emergencies such as Amber Alerts do not trigger NWS systems. The EAS broadcasts have a time limit of 2 minutes of audio; however, when the EAN option is activated for a Presidential address to the Nation, there are no audio time limits. There are mandated weekly tests, in which, they are used to check the connectivity and functionality of the local systems; and monthly tests for statewide relays. Wilson advised that one should listen to ensure that the EAS alert is a test and not become complacent and assume they all are; responders should heed the EAS alerts as well; prepare for action accordingly; alert others via text or social media, but avoid inundating the phone lines; and after hearing an EAS alert, check with local media to get more specific information. On the latter, the EAS is only an alert; it is not designed to provide all pertinent information relating to the emergency. The Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are not part of the EAS, but are part of the IPAWS network; it sends text to phones based on the cell towers one is near; however, it can give false warnings, due to cell tower coverage expanding across the affected area and non-affected area alike; and it is generally accepted that some false alerts are worth the information getting to the people who need it.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

- A. None

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. BRH Mass Casualty Exercise – Apr 9th, 2015 – Volunteers to act as victims are needed. Please email Mike Lopez for additional information. mlopez@bartlettshospital.org
- B. CERT CERTIFICATION Month – Throughout the month of April – Information at <http://www.juneau.org/> under Hot Topics
- C. CERT Regular Monthly Meeting – Tuesday, Apr 10th, 2015, 6-8:30 pm at the Hagevig Fire Training Center.

D. 2015 Juneau Preparedness Expo – Fri/Sat, Sep 11th & 12th, Centennial Hall.

E. 2015 DHS&EM Spring Preparedness Conference, Apr 7th-10th, Anchorage.

X. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 13th, 2015 – 12:00 pm

ATTENTION! The LEPC TEMPORARY NEW MEETING LOCATION until July 2015 will be at the DOWNTOWN CCFR TRAINING ROOM

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm