

FINAL MINUTES
JUNEAU LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
Wednesday, January 11, 2012 - 12:00 P.M.
Bartlett Regional Hospital
Administrative Building – Classroom 204 A/B
(Questions Call – 796-6077)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order: By Chairman Dan Garcia

Role Call: By Secretary Chava Lee

Quorum Established: Yes, 9 voting members present.

Members Present:

Tom Mattice, Michelle Brown, Ruth Danner, Ed Mercer, Joel Curtis, Ernie Mueller, Dan Garcia, Brad Kiefer

Members Absent:

Johan Dybdahl, Nathan Young, Rich Etheridge, Bob Herman, Mike Lopez, Rose Lawhorne, Kathy Miller, Chava Lee, Ed Williams
Craig Wilson

Others Present: Scott Erickson-JPD, Craig Smith, Darren Snyder-UA Extension, Matt Musselwhite-Humane Society, Marc Cheatham, USCG- Daniel Brady

II. AGENDA CHANGES

Michelle Brown requested an item be added to New Business to discuss open seats on the LEPC Committee.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 9, 2011, Minutes were approved.

December 14, 2011, Minutes were tabled to future meeting.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - Non-Agenda Items (10 Minutes)

None

V. REPORTS

A. Manager's Designee Report by Tom Mattice, Emergency Programs Manager

Tom Mattice advised the Committee about current Avalanche conditions being high and with the expected Taku wind and snow events over the next few days it would get worse.

He said that he was currently working on the final proof of the Swiss Avalanche Study done in 2011. This study proved out the validity of very old findings and includes potential mitigation options. This adds credibility to the importance of mitigation for mass wasting such as the need for a second crossing to Douglas. Tom said he was currently working with the State of Alaska to develop an intelligent way to bring recommendations and potential projects to the assembly. Once the report is finalized the CBJ Hazard Mitigation Plans would be updated and brought before the Assembly for adoption.

Tom has been active throughout the community providing presentations on Avalanche safety, response, and awareness. He has done training events with DOT and offered Ed

Mercer a class for JPD if they were interested. The next event is Free on February 11th at Eaglecrest on Avalanche Awareness and Companion Rescue.

Joel Curtis, NOAA said that a lot of attention was being directed to the emergency levels of snow in Valdez. He advised the Committee that Juneau has had enough rain and warm temps at low levels to manage snow around town but reminded them that at higher elevations snow levels were quickly approaching record levels. He said this could be a problem if combined with another weather event such as the expected shift to colder temperatures and Taku wind event. He noted that at the moment things looked relatively stable but that weather was likely to change and that could cause mass wasting events to begin happening.

Darren Snyder participated in Tom's last Avalanche Workshop and said it was great. He asked if there were a place where all the different type of communication devices were listed and their capabilities explained so the general public could learn the difference between an Avalanche beacon and the other types of devices out there. Joel said that one day while he was searching around on the internet he found an electro magnetic spectrum chart of the various radio frequencies.

Michelle Brown thought this could be a good topic for a public outreach event.

Tom noted that any information about this would not give specifics of what different entities used to protect security and privacy.

Ruth Danner asked Tom for some clarification to an article she had read that morning. It was about a radio band width change communities would be required to implement and some new grant funding that was being made available to help communities with the costs of the transition.

Tom answered that he believed she was referring to dedicated narrow banding on communication devices due to the implementation nationally of ALMAR. Currently CCFR has a \$30,000 black hole that is not budgeted but needed to complete their transition to narrow banding. He and the State have been working with CCFR to locate funding and have found most past funding opportunities have been exhausted. Being new to the position as an oversight Rich Etheridge did not add it to the CCFR budget and because this changeover was announced a couple of years ago in order for communities to include the costs in future budget projections Tom is concerned that it could now be viewed as supplanting the CBJ budget with grant funds. The State Grant folks are looking into that at this time and continue to look for new funding to assist.

Craig Smith asked Tom if there was a local contact who managed ALMAR issues.

Tom replied that there was a State level ALMAR Steering Committee and that Cindee Mills-Brown of JPD was on that Committee and represented our interests well.

Tom said the LEPC Grant for June 2011 to June 2012 had provided funding for a LEPC Coordinator. To date he had not had time to get this position in place but would soon and that would be of great help with LEPC projects, minutes, and events.

Tom mentioned a MMRS Grant project that was moving forward for JPD, CCFR, and Bartlett Regional Hospital to obtain compatible Access/Scanner/Camera Systems.

Tom announced that Jason Wilson, CCTHITA, VPSO Coordinator has agreed to take the Law Enforcement Seat on the Southeast Alaska MMRS Steering Committee. This seat represents all communities in SE AK and the VPSO has a close working relationship with many communities so it is a great fit.

Tom told the group that DOT was working on a project to put in place a camera system to monitor Avalanche related activity in Thane.

The Committee recommended that Tom make the Juneau Empire aware of this project to increase public awareness of positive activities that were taking place to help mitigate the Avalanche danger.

B. Red Cross – Ernie Mueller

Ernie told the Committee that for the last 4 days Alaska Red Cross had been running a shelter in Cordova to assist with the snow emergency there. To date the only persons living at the shelter were the shelter workers. But he noted it was an excellent opportunity to exercise their response preparedness.

He said that RC was sending a representative to Kodiak to evaluate the shelter exercise there.

Ernie recently completed a site visit to do a shelter evaluation of Centennial Hall and noted that if anyone were in doubt of the need for a new roof he could attest to the immediate need of its replacement.

Tom said this need had been a CIP submitted and approved locally and vetoed by the Governor. It had been developed as a huge project incorporating roof, generator, parking lot paving, and much more. At this time he has State by-in to find funding to begin biting this off as emergency preparedness in small increments beginning with a generator.

Ernie also did a shelter evaluation for Mt Jumbo School and noted that because of its age and condition it would have limited value as a shelter, but it is now listed as a shelter with limited potential use.

Ernie told the group that the new ARC training schedule was on their website and that he would send it to Michelle Brown to forward to the group.

He recently prepared and end of the year summary report of all disaster responses in SE AK. ½ of all responses were in locations other than Juneau, like POW, Kake, Ketchikan and included a variety of events such as fire and sinking boats.

Ernie told the Committee that since Centennial Hall was in need of an emergency generator, he knew that there existed a large non-mobile generator that was not being used at the Public Works Water Utility Building.

Tom noted that BRH originally had a backup generator for the Administrative Building and that during the remodel they tied the main generator for the hospital into the Admin Building so now the generator is an unnecessary redundancy.

C. Food Security Subcommittee

Darren Snyder reported that the new evening meeting time was being well attended and said that for the month of January the meeting would remain on the last Wednesday of the month (January 25, 2012) at 6 pm. The schedule would need to be revisited for future months as it was going to conflict with several commitments he had. He told the committee that the groups focus was on personal preparedness through education and awareness. A tool was being developed for self assessment of individual/family preparedness based on calories and time supplies would last. Some ideas that are being considered are Block Parties, encouraging working together to increase food storage, sharing and coops; perhaps working with and utilizing JPD's block party template.

Darren recently participated in a webinar by IBM on Smarter Cities. It talked to many ways to improve preparedness through inventorying supplies, tying that inventory into how long it is anticipated to last, training on what is the emergency plan and have store personnel trained on emergency distribution.

Tom recommended we reach out to AEL&P and to gain by in for a positive article about their excellent level of emergency preparedness through planning and preparing ahead to

support employees and their families to assure the best ability to smoothly respond to the emergency and recover from it.

Darren mentioned the idea of a Gold Star type program awarding a business for their emergency preparedness efforts through award plaque, door stickers, newspaper articles, and radio announcements, providing good public PR for the company.

Darren said he is investigating the proposal by the Governor for \$4.9 million for MRE's in the State of Alaska.

Tom noted that during a meeting in which he participated the DHS&EM talked about this proposal and they do not agree with the Governor on this item. The thought being that it is a waste of assets and managing their rotation when if the need arise those assets would quickly be provided to the State on a priority basis.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Kensington Mine Avalanche Forecaster – January 11, 2011

12:30 pm at the UAS Fish House

B. Alaska Shield 2012 Exercise – February 10, 2012

C. Cross Borders Exercise 2013

D. Emergency Food Preparedness meeting – January 25, 2012

6:00 pm at the BRH Administrative Bldg. Classroom B

E. ICS 300 – February 7 – 8, 2012

The University of Alaska has agreed to host and provide the trainer for an additional ICS 300. This course is one of the few that must be taken in a classroom setting rather than online. ICS 100, 200, and 700 are prerequisites to ICS 300. ICS 100, 200, and 700 are available online at FEMA.gov.

F. Free Avalanche Awareness and Companion Rescue Training – February 11, 2012

Eaglecrest Ski Area from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

X. NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, February 8, 2012 – 12:00 pm

**Regular Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month*

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm