



Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

July 23, 2019

Meeting Minutes

SCC – Continuing Education Center Room 302

301 S 68th St Place

Lincoln, Nebraska

1:00 PM CDT

- I. Call to Order, Introduction of Members and Guests
 - a. An open meeting Statute, available for review, is on the registration table.

Member		Affiliation	Present
Director: Jim	Macy	Department of Environmental Quality	
Designee: Jeff	Edwards		X
Director: Kyle	Schneweis	Department of Transportation	
Designee: Tom	Sands		
Superintendent: John	Bolduc	Nebraska State Patrol	
Designee: Frank	Peck		
Director: Christopher	Cantrell	State Fire Marshal	
Designee:			
Director: Daryl	Bohac	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	
Designee: Bryan	Tuma		X
CEO: Dannette	Smith	Department of Health and Human Services	
Designee: Sue	Dempsey		
Rick	Grauerholz	Municipal Government	X
	VACANT	Local Elected Official	
	VACANT	Firefighters	
Tim	Hofbauer	Vice Chair – Local Emergency Management	X
Tonya	Ngotel	Public Health	X
Kim	Plouzek	Environmental Protection	
Polly	Jordening	Labor	
	VACANT	School District	
Steven	Danon	Small Business	
Joe	Oswalt	Agricultural Business	
John	Grimes	Chair – Chemical Industry	X
Matthew	DiVito	Highway Transportation	
Kyle	Keeling	Rail Transportation	

Others in attendance: James Rashilla (SERC Coordinator), Aly Gottula (Johnson/Pawnee EMA), Terri Blunk (EPA Region 7), Sean Runge (NEMA), Tom Smith (Dodge County EMA), Michael Schmitt (FBI Omaha), Megan Allen (PPC)

II. Approval of the agenda for July 23, 2019

There was a motion made by Tonya Ngotel to approve the July 23, 2019 agenda as presented; Tim Hofbauer seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

III. Approval of the minutes from the April 9, 2019 meeting

There was a motion by Tim Hofbauer to approve the April 9, 2019 meeting minutes as presented with no modifications; Rick Grauerholz seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

IV. Training Subcommittee Update (Bryan, Sue, Joe)

The training subcommittee has been working on developing an LEPC workshop to host in the State. The goal is to get significant geographic coverage of the state. Tentatively, there are 5 locations to host the workshop. The workshop would be a one day track with emergency management/incident command for responders in the morning and the afternoon would be geared more towards facilities. The morning may include an ICS refresher session and Emergency management 10, which may include things like how to interact with Emergency Managers, what resources they can provide, and what you shouldn't call them for. The afternoon would involve site security, emergency response planning for facilities, and how to conduct a risk assessment. The committee has identified that some introductory ICS courses might be applicable and they are trying to gauge any other facility prerequisites that may be necessary. The timeframe for this is around January/February. The Training Subcommittee sent out a survey in the fall to gather information and develop the workshop. As fall approaches, the subcommittee will be figuring out venues and trainers and will develop the curriculum from there. Going into the fall, will be figuring out venues and trainers then develop a curriculum.

On another note, the Nebraska Pipeline Association is hosting fall workshops again sometime in September/October. Locations are to be determined, but James will send the updates out when he receives them.

V. SERC Member Reports – As applicable

Jeff Edwards (NDEQ) – Since the last meeting in April, there has been an additional round of flooding and train derailments which resulted in working with potential hazard related incidents. NDEQ is continuing to work with Emergency Managers on the March flooding and areas that are still being flooded. NDEQ is also working with NEMA as issues arise. NDEQ is continuing to meet with the debris management team. They are still working on demolishing houses in a few counties. NDEQ has merged with the Nebraska Energy Office and they are working on getting activities integrated. The land management division has been re-organized to meet compliance and is looking to hire a permanent supervisor. Construction on the new building is ongoing. NDEQ is also starting to use the new knowledge center and has trained 12 people on it so far.

Bryan Tuma (NEMA) – Knowledge Center Implementation: NEMA was able to piggyback onto a grant UNMC put in for called ASPR (Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response). The effort is to build out an integrated public health disaster response network. One of the things looked at is preparing for a mass casualty event that results in a large number of people displaced, major outbreaks, epidemics, or other catastrophic events. This grant builds out the network to respond to such scenarios that includes integrating NEMA, public health departments, and hospitals. One of the things looked at is communication and how public health officials and hospitals communicate with other stakeholders. The knowledge center provides a platform to integrate hospital instant management system with standard ICS NEMS format. NEMA was the recipient of the knowledge center and agreed to take that on. They have 1,000 licenses, so they are bringing on local agencies and other state agencies and that will be the platform used for the State Emergency Operation Center. Implementation is ongoing and users are at various stages of implementation, but the new platform has been adopted. With that comes the capability to implement some other tools such as securing a contract with GIS mapping which will be integrated with the knowledge center and will also be used in the watch center. As trends and events around the state and country emerge, NEMA will have some robust GIS mapping capabilities to be able to provide a dashboard of what's going on in an area. This will be a good tool for response. The knowledge center will also allow access to Survey 123, which provides survey making capabilities that can be pushed out using a phone or smart device. These devices can be taken out to collect survey information. The information gathered can be downloaded into a spreadsheet format. For damage assessments, Survey 123 will be a great tool because it can give a quick snapshot of the damage in an area. Emergency Managers could enlist the help of volunteers to go out and do damage assessment and send the info to NEMA in a timely manner.

A lot of orphan containers, such as large propane tanks and chemical containers used in agriculture were showing up everywhere. NEMA enlisted the help of EPA and some other contractors. They were able to go out and identify where the containers were at and retrieved them. The containers were re-purposed or disposed of accordingly. Containers were collected and brought to 1 of 3 sites where they were processed. Hazardous materials were found at several locations. Groups were hired to go retrieve these chemical compounds that were found.

The flood is ongoing. The original incident period for the March event ended on April 1. There was a bit of a lull in April, but resumed in May, June, and July. NEMA has reached out to FEMA and put out a request to open up the original incident period which could help streamline the process. If this is denied, NEMA has enlisted the help of a contractor to go out and do damage assessments. They started last week and will hit everything that occurred in May, June, and July. They will document that, which includes any public assistance and whether or not there was any individual assistance. The request is pending at FEMA headquarters. Region 7 supports this approach. FEMA approved a similar thing for Iowa.

The most recent event that occurred was Friday, July 19 with an irrigation canal structure that starts at Fort Laramie, Wyoming and provides water for Scottsbluff County. There were several places along this canal where instead of going over the hill, they built a tunnel through the hills. A sink hole formed in one of these tunnels directly

underneath the canal and caused it to collapse. It cut off water supply in the canal and also backed up and flooded many areas. The source of the water had to be shut off and as a result, the irrigation canal has run dry. It's a critical time of the year for producers in both Nebraska and Wyoming, so the question is how to get it fixed quickly and what the impact is for producers, which is not known at this time.

Tonya Ngotel (UNMC) – UNMC was the recipient of the grant that purchased half of the knowledge center. Hospitals are starting to use this so if you are a county emergency manager, try reaching out to your local hospitals to connect through them. There is an exercise coming up on August 21st in the Kearney/Buffalo County/Grand Island area dealing specifically with trying to tie in the public health and healthcare with the emergency managers to use the tool. Other things that come from that grant include another exercise in August that is more pertinent to LEPCs that will be a full scale exercise looking at DECON at hospitals. Also as a result of the grant was a closer look at laws pertaining to patients in public and health care. A legal reference guide was created and is available digitally and discusses briefly emergency management as it is related to patients and volunteers. It also mentions HIPPA and how patients are transferred confidentially and also across state lines.

VI. Old Business
None reported

VII. New Business

a. LEPC Annual Reports

Highlights from the 2018 report: Adams County is continuing to do quarterly drills. They've had a lot of community involvement and have been nominated for an outstanding LEPC award at the upcoming EPA conference. Custer County did a joint exercise with the entire county EMS system and hospital system. They coordinated the full exercise for an active shooter incident. Greeley - Wheeler has been doing a lot of mailbox outreach which included sending out brochures to get emergency information out to the community. Lincoln County brought out a mock fire stimulator for an airplane crash for a whole week and trained 80 first responders on how to address an air crash. They will conduct a full scale exercise on that in August. Sarpy County has been doing a lot of outreach efforts such as trying to improve membership by going out to the county fair to get people interested in the LEPC.

b. Tier II System Complaints from LEPCs

There have been a few LEPCs having issues with the Tier 2 reporting system. Some are concerned about availability of data and security. There is some concern that the information could be accessed and the chemical facility and hazardous waste material information used in some kind of terrorist activity. There may be a need for implementation of a request process or credentials for the information.

c. Formation of Southeast Region LEPC

Aly Gottula (Johnson/Pawnee EMA) – Johnson/Pawnee Emergency Management Agency is looking to form a collaborative LEPC and would like the SERC's

bleasing. The goals of this would be more involvement. Otoe County has a pseudo-active LEPC, but this would close out the Southeast region of the state. The collaboration would include Richardson, Johnson, Pawnee, Otoe, and Nemaha counties meeting up with the Homestead LEPC. This has been tabled until the next meeting due to quorum not being met for a vote.

d. LEPC Membership Applications Approval

There are 90 applications in need of approval many of which are renewals. This has been tabled until the next meeting due to quorum not being met for a vote.

e. Other

No other new business items.

VIII. Stakeholder Reports (EPA, FBI, etc.)

Terri Blunk (EPA) - From March-May 888 orphan containers have been collected that came from 546 river miles of recovery is which is about 68% of the state. Flooding is expected to go on for months. The chemical safety security work group is planning to redo their inspector coordination workshop. Any state agency group that does on site chemical storage visits and anyone who interacts with facilities involved in chemical safety can come to the workshop and share what they do and what they would want to be referred their way. There have been discussions to possibly webcast it or at least record it so people who can't go can view it. The last done in 2014 or 2015.

EPA has almost finished updating the spills fact sheet. It will be ready at the conference and will be shared later on.

The LEPC conference is coming up in 2 weeks. There are 175 people registered. The social event is at the zoo so attendees and families can get into zoo for free and there will be some appetizers and a chance for socializing and networking. For those who can't commit time or money for the entire 3 day conference, they can register for Thursday only free of charge. There will be hazmat awareness in morning and a unified response exercise in the afternoon. The main focus of the exercise is communicating across jurisdictions and a lot of the tribes will come participate.

Union pacific will do a TRANSCARE training that is part in classroom and part on the trains which will occur both Thursday and Saturday. There will be time for the state breakout session which will be a time for networking and discussion of state related issues. SERC members who are interested in attending should go ahead and sign up and can be reimbursed.

The reporting amendments for air emissions from animal waste from farms is done. This has been years in the process. For further information go to the website.

DOT is hosting a workshop at their regional office about preventing and reducing the risks of fire explosion from improper packaging and shipping of lithium batteries.

EPA has a list of lists that talks about what chemicals are regulated under what thresholds. It has been updated and there is now some description on how to report ammonia releases which has been confusing for some facilities.

Michael Schmitt (FBI Omaha) – There will be a first responder training in Norfolk on August 8th that is free. More information is posted on the NEMA website. There is room for 150. One of the goals of this training is to cover people who don't get a lot of training. The FBI has been pushing drones and drone reporting particularly over facilities. Companies are seeing drones flying over and are not reporting it then later see it on the internet. Most of the time it is not a big deal, but could potentially be. FBI is encouraging everybody to report these drone instances.

IX. Public Comments
No public comments

X. Adjournment
a. Next Meeting will be Wednesday, October 9th, 2019 at 1:00 PM, same location.
Audio conferencing will be available.

Motion to adjourn by Tim Hofbauer, seconded by Tonya Ngotel. Meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM