

# Pierce County LEPC Meeting Minutes

## October 10, 2017

### Attendance:

Kelly Kiyohara, Pierce County DEM  
Donna Vitale, Pierce County DEM  
Susan Forsythe, WA State EMD  
Ron Holcomb, Dept. of Ecology  
Angela Harkins, Dept. of Ecology  
Shawn Zanjewski, Dept. of Ecology  
Alison Meyers, WA Dept. of Ecology  
Cindy Miron, TPC Health Department  
Marty Kapsh, Port of Tacoma  
Rictor Overlie, BNSF  
Ty Gaub, US Oil and Refining

Case Hinkins, US Oil and Refining  
John Gustafson, US Oil and Refining  
George Hills, US Oil and Refining  
Jim Jaques, East Pierce F&R  
Jay Sumerlin, West Pierce F&R  
Allen Estes, Tacoma Fire Dept.  
James Groh, JCI Jones Chemicals  
David Willey, WA Army N'tl Guard/10<sup>th</sup> CST  
Dione Mazzolini, FBI  
Dana Lockhart, DHS NPPD OIP  
Wade Gough, DHS Chemical Facility Security

### Meeting Information:

Start Time: 13:33 – Adjourn: 15:07

Location: 3600 Port of Tacoma Road, Tacoma, WA 98424

### Introductions and Review of Minutes:

Introductions were made of all members and guests present. Meeting notes from 7/11/2017 were reviewed and approved by vote with no changes.

### Old Business:

- *LEPC Tool:* at the last meeting, we were looking at an Access based tool to store Tier II information. Jay was checking if the district could host that program. Unfortunately, we found out that Microsoft is talking about sun-setting the Access Program. There are security concerns with putting something on a remote access portal. Let Kelly know if you think about how we can continue to store the info in a more useful, functional and accessible way.
- *Website Updates:* Kelly was able to take classes so she is able to update the LEPC Webpage. She has updated the meeting dates, added the agendas and meeting notes to the site. If there are additional information you want to see on the page, let Kelly know.
- *Human Waste Update:* At the last meeting, we had Multicare representatives attend to discuss human waste management during an incident. During a large-scale incident, we will all have these issues; however, it will be more compounded at hospitals. We found out that the Gates foundation is sponsoring something similar in India and China to improve sanitation in some of these third world countries when water and power are limited. There are a lot of really good projects that have been tested and a lot of really good options. They funded a couple hundred for each of the sites. The information was forwarded to the Multicare folks who are going to do some more research into this. If you would like more information, let Kelly know.

## US Gas Pipeline Rupture Debrief:

On 100<sup>th</sup> Street and A Street in Tacoma, there was a gas pipeline rupture on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was a pretty low-key incident and response was quick. Quite a few groups got involved that don't normally interact.

- A contractor for a cable company was out doing directional drilling. They called in for a one call but the site wasn't properly marked and they drilled into the pipeline. The contractor called quickly to report the incident.
- The pipeline was a 6-inch diameter pipe that transports Jet Fuel from the Tacoma Tide Flats to JBLM. It is 14.25 miles long that runs along surface streets buried underground.
- About 4700 gallons of fuel was spilled.
- Alarms went off at US Oil due to the drop in pressure. Within 5 minutes, the transfer was shut down and field supervisors were deployed to close the isolation valves.
- There is approximately 2100 gallons between the isolation valves. It is difficult to determine the magnitude of the spills since the pipelines go up and down following the terrain. The flow rate is about 40 PSI.
- First Responders did an excellent job. Both 100<sup>th</sup> Street and A Street were closed. The residents of the apartment complex directly adjacent to the rupture was evacuated due to fumes and were boarded at hotels (paid for by US Oil) until they could return.
- The hazmat team was deployed but most of the incident was handled at an operational level. They did use the absorbent pads from the rigs. It was also mentioned that they would like some type of formalized process to restock what is used off the rigs. The **State** said they are glad to restock what is used.
- The Department of Ecology checked the storm drains and saw very little. Things were already in motion when they got there. There was a strong smell of fuel but they didn't get anything from the monitors.
- **JBLM** was trying to push out messages to the public through the liaison officer and contacted Kelly at DEM who said that the 24 hour duty officer is a good place to go. They will make sure that information is built into the plan for the future.
- This type of incident always brings up health concerns. People can show symptoms even when they are not detecting any levels.
- The Health Department (HD) had some information gaps and it was very difficult for them to figure out where to get information. There are certain thresholds have to be hit before the HD is called; they are not on automatic call down. If Ecology gets any hits in their monitoring, then the HD is called. PC DEM received an NRC Report about this incident. Our local HD does get the NRC reports and the HD did receive the one from this incident.
- Kelly reminded folks that the DEM duty officer has resources and can help.
- The contractor was still on site when US Oil arrived. They were asking when they would be able to come back to complete their job. They were told that they needed to leave and come back later to get their equipment. They would be contacted later to settle the details. They also nicked a 10 inch water main prior to hitting the fuel pipe but they didn't break through the water main.
- Currently, they are at approximately 86% recovery rate for this spill. They are in the process of sampling and remediation.

## **Other Spill Information:**

In an empty field on Orchard Street across from Mt. Tahoma High School, there was unknown chemical being released into the air but they couldn't see where it was coming from since it was covered with debris. The school sheltered in place to keep the kids safe. The PC Hazmat team responded. It ended up being a carbon dioxide tank that was iced up and releasing pressure. DOE came out, identified it and did direct monitoring. The tank was turned over to DOE to dispose. The only issue that came up is that someone at the scene was doing twitter updates without the incident command. They have been told that it is freelancing and will not be tolerated. City of Tacoma Fire rep mentioned that when something happens around Tacoma that is not Tacoma Fire it would be beneficial to contact South Sound 9-1-1 to notify the jurisdiction so they are aware and miscommunications don't happen.

In the DOE Database, they have 117 incidents listed. Many of them are very small. They have been working really well with folks. There was a boat fire in the Hylebos Waterway. They are working with the Nisqually Tribe on that since it is on Nisqually Tribal land. There are frequent mystery oil sheens that they never know where they come from. Pierce County is a busy area.

## **Member Updates/New Business:**

Pierce County Emergency Management will be doing a review of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). It is used to work through coordination of larger responses. It will be broken down to the support functions like firefighting, law enforcement, hazmat, mass care, and more. This will be coming over the next year or so and all are welcome to engage in the process.

Every year we elect a chairperson at the January meeting. Rictor was gracious enough to take it over this last year. The responsibility for the chair is to show up and run the meeting. Emergency Management is engaged in the process as well. We will be looking for a new chair in January.

There are some ideas to think about and talk about at the January meeting. Instead of having one person in charge, perhaps we could think about having 4 groups each taking one of the quarterly meetings and plan some topic for that meeting that engages that group. For example, the health department and the bio-hazard issue. It would be a different approach than we have had before. It could be a training or a tour of the hazmat rig.

The next meeting is on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to share the invite to whoever you feel should attend. The topic will be the Geographic Response Plan that Ecology sent out. This is a tactical plan funded by oil train movement money because they wanted to make sure there was a plan for oil train derailment, especially around water. If you have other subjects you would like to hear more about at future meetings, let Kelly know.

We are still trying to identify key players for this group. We would like someone from Tacoma PD, Lakewood PD, PC Sheriff's Department, and others. If you think of a group or contact that would be a good addition to our group, send the invite or pass the information along to Kelly.

Richard Schroedel is retiring. The retirement gathering for him is on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Pierce County EOC. Everyone is welcome come to wish him well.