



# COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON

## Local Emergency Planning Committee

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER  
 100 GRACEDALE AVENUE  
 NAZARETH, PENNSYLVANIA 18064-8430  
**Telephone: (610) 746-3194**  
**Fax: (610) 746-3199**

**Thomas E. Guth Jr.**  
 Secretary

Date: March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Location: *(hybrid)*    in person:    Northampton County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
 100 Gracedale Avenue Nazareth, PA 18064

Virtually:    via GoToMeeting application

### Meeting Minutes

#### I. Call to Order

- MR called the meeting to order at 1001 hours.

#### II. Attendance

AW	Anna Warner*	Air Liquide	MCR	Michael C. Reich	Bethlehem City Fire Dept.
DK	Daniel Kier	EWMI / Rapid Response	MR	Mike Rinker	NCEM
DM	Dave Malloy**	Dept. Environmental Protection	RH	Ron Hulsizer	NCEM
DV	Dominic Ventura**	EPA	RW	Rick Weaver	Northampton Cty. Fire School
JA	Jonathan Al-Khal	Lehigh Cty. Special Operations	SP	Stephanie Pinho	BioSpectra
JB	John Bast**	Public / Member-at-Large	TG	Thomas E. Guth, Jr.	NCEM
JPS	Jeff Steiert	NCEM	TV	Ted Veresink**	Health Officer
KT	Kevin Thomas	Bethlehem City Fire Dept.	TW	Todd Weaver	NCEM
MAR	Michael Rampulla	NCEM	WA	Warren Achey	Bethlehem City Fire Dept.

\* - Not on LEPC Membership list.

\*\* - Attended virtually

#### III. Election of Chairperson

- JB nominated Mr. Mike Rinker as Northampton County LEPC Chairperson:  
 2<sup>nd</sup> by RW, all in favor.
  - Mike Rinker accepted position of Chairperson.
    - Chairperson selected the following members for the listed positions, they are as follows;
      - ❖ Secretary: Mr. Thomas E. Guth, Jr.
      - ❖ Fiscal Officer: Mr. Michael A. Rampulla
      - ❖ Public Information Officer: vacant

#### IV. Election of Vice-Chairperson

- JB nominated Mr. Jeff P. Steiert as Northampton County LEPC Co-Chairperson:  
 2<sup>nd</sup> by TV, all in favor.
  - Jeff P. Steiert accepted position of Co-Chairperson

V. **Public Comment**

- MR polled the room, none heard.

VI. **Approval of the January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

- MR requested a Motion to Approve the January 2021 Meeting Minutes: 1<sup>st</sup> by JB, 2<sup>nd</sup> by JPS, all in favor.

VII. **Presentation / Guest Speaker**

- Mr. Dominic Ventura (DV) with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented information pertaining to the National Fund Center and how to go about obtaining reimbursement(s) for hazardous materials responses. Mr. Ventura ended the presentation with a short question and answer session. Questions proposed were;
  - WA inquired if any claim is too small to be sent in for reimbursement such as claims with totals of \$500 or \$1,000.
    - Per DV – he does not believe there is a minimum cost requirement to apply for reimbursement.
  - WA inquired if EPA had to be requested to the scene of the incident or made aware of the incident to qualify for reimbursement.
    - Per DV – No, not necessarily however, agencies should document and obtain photos of the incidents just in case. In addition, agencies must use certified, licensed clean-up contractors if site work or cleanup is performed.
  - JA inquired if costs associated with a hazmat team response to a suspicious white powder call (at a private residence) was eligible.
    - Per DV – Yes, believes it does qualify as long as the team members were not actively working an assigned or scheduled shift at time of the incident.
  - DM inquired if a spill response / cleanup that had impacted a public drinking water is eligible for reimbursement via the authority that oversees this site.
    - Per DV – Yes, the authority would be a local government entity.
  - *Note: Post-meeting Mr. Ventura provided our agency with a copy of the presentation as well as other useful links which were shared via email with the membership and attendees to this meeting.*

VIII. **Financial Report** *(presented by MAR)*

- Beginning balance: \$ 92,146.00  
Revenue: + \$ 7,150.00  
**\$ 99,296.00**  
Expenditures: - \$ 5,404.11  
Encumbrance: - \$ 31,175.00  
**Ending balance: \$ 62,716.89**

*(Figures presented as of date of meeting)*

- MR made a Motion to Approve the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 Financial Report: 2<sup>nd</sup> by WA, all in favor.

Sara Title III Collections – As of February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (presented by MR)

- Tier II billing & payments – Total facilities billed: **158**
  - Billed / Assessed: **\$ 44,550.00**
  - Fees Collected: **- \$ 4,800.00**
  - Fees Outstanding: **\$ 39,750.00**

**IX. Plans (presented by MR)**

- Emergency Operations Plans
  - Updated
    - US Cold Storage, 4000 Miller Circle, Bethlehem, PA 18020
  - New
    - None
- Preparedness, Prevention, Contingency Plans
  - Updated
    - None
  - New
    - None

**X. Northampton County Response Report (presented by MAR)**

- Three (3) responses since the January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting.
  - Response was for removal of explosive device / material.
  - Hydraulic spill – Nazareth Borough – private contractor cleaned up the material.
  - Tanker truck (hauling home heating oil) incident – 84 Old Pen Argyl Road, Washington Township.
    - MAR completed a presentation and discussion of this response during the meeting.

**XI. Site Visits (presented by MR)**

- None – due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**XII. Training Reports**

- Northampton County (presented by MAR)
  - March: CMERRTT
  - April: ICS-300 at Bethlehem
  - May 20<sup>th</sup>: Hazmat Operations Skills
  - N/A : Hazmat IQ course – depending on TAG Grant funding
- Northampton County Fire School (presented by RW)
  - March 8<sup>th</sup>: Hazmat Operations Refresher at Allen Township Fire Company
  - March 13<sup>th</sup>: Hazmat Operations at NCFS
  - April 19<sup>th</sup>: Hazmat Awareness at Lehigh Township Fire Company
  - August 8<sup>th</sup>: Hazmat Awareness at NCFS
  - October 10<sup>th</sup>: Hazmat Operations at NCFS
    - Per RW – Pro-Board testing is still not available at the school. Submitted their COVID-19 mitigation plan, awaiting a response from the Commonwealth.

**XIII. Lehigh County Special Operations & Training** *(presented by JA)*

- Responses
  - North Catasauqua Borough – unknown white substance response
    - Per JA – incident involved a resident receiving mail with an unknown white, powder type substance on the packaging. JA states to the attendees that some shipping companies are switching their packaging to a double-layered type product that has some white residue inside the packaging due to manufacturing. Agencies across the country are experiencing an uptick in calls such as this due to the packaging breaking apart or opening.
  - Over turned Fuel Oil Tanker
- Training
  - Fifteen (15) new members to the team recently.
    - These members completed their inaugural Rescue Academy.
  - Looking to hold their Hazmat Academy in fall of 2021.
    - Course will allow for fifteen (15) to twenty (20) participants.
      - ❖ Their new members will be participating in the course for their needed certifications.
    - Course will be tailored to the specific needs of Lehigh County Special Operations.
  - Heinz 5 Step kit and training coming up in March.
  - Hazmat Chemistry Course (hopefully hold in late fall / early winter of 2021)
  - JA advised the group that his team is currently in the progress of recertification due to a new director being in place. Per JA they are looking for recertification as a Type 2 hazmat team for two reasons. 1.) The Commonwealth almost never certifies a team as Type 1 and, 2.) His team lacks one meter / device that is needed for Type 1 classification / certification. Hope to have the missing assets purchased in the next few years.

**XIV. City of Bethlehem Hazmat Report & Training** *(presented by KT)*

- Responses
  - Small-scale home heating oil spill in a basement. Upon dispatching of the call, it sounded like a larger incident however, once on scene it was determined to be roughly ten (10) gallons of heating oil spilled out of an old, disconnected oil tank. Property owner hired private contractor to come to the scene and cleanup the spillage.
- Training
  - Nothing reported.

**XV. Old Business**

- CO Meter Project – Per TW, working on polling agencies for their needs / wishes.
- Bullex Issues – Per TW, new purchase order was created to get this fixed.
- TAG Grant – TG explained the grant; our agencies planned submission and offered explanations for any questions proposed.
  - JA did question the operability of a Draeger meter as they have considered purchase one / some for their agency.

**XVI. New Business (presented by MR)**

- 2020 – 2022 HMEP Grant Year 1 – Mid-Year & Annual reports submitted for reimbursement. (\$8,420.00 expected for NCFS classes)
- 2020 – 2021 HMRF was submitted on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for \$25,830.00.
- LEPC membership list has been updated and certified.

**XVII. Upcoming meetings**

- June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 10:00am (*location to be determined*)
- September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 10:00am (*location to be determined*)
- December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 10:00am (*location to be determined*)

**XVIII. Good of the Order**

- KT advised the attendees that the annual International Hazmat Conference was recently cancelled for 2021. Typically held in June of each year they decided to cancel it for a second year due to COVID concerns. KT stated that they might be offering free online courses again this year as they did last year.

**XIX. Adjournment**

- MR requested a Motion to Adjourn the meeting:  
1<sup>st</sup> by JA, 2<sup>nd</sup> by TW, all in favor
- Meeting adjourned at 11:08am