

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

Date: March 4, 2026

Time: 1000 Hours

Location: Northampton County Emergency Operation Center, 100 Gracedale Ave. Nazareth, PA 18064

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

AB	Austin Boccardi	St. Luke’s Health Network	ML	Michael Lenner	NCEM – Acting Director
AH	Adam Hamrick	OSHA	MR	Michael Rampulla	NCEM – LEPC Treasurer
CW	Christian William	Lehigh Valley Health Network	MRi	Mike Rinker	NCEM – LEPC Chairperson
DM	Dave Malloy	Public	PH	Patrick Hogan	Bethlehem City FD / HazMat
JB	John Bast	Public / LEPC Vice-Chair	SP	Stephanie Pinho	BioSpectra
JHu	Jeff Hunsicker	PEMA - EAO	TC	Tim Craven	PA DEP
JS	Joe Sipel	Wilson Borough Fire Dept.	TG	Thomas E. Guth, Jr.	NCEM / LEPC Secretary
JU	Jonathan Ulanoski	PA DEP	TH	Tanya Hook	Lehigh County EM – Director
KK	Kevin Krotzer	Lehigh County Spec. Ops.	TV	Ted Veresink	Public
MP	Luis Figueroa	Bath Boro & East Allen EMC			

I. Call to Order

- MRi called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

II. Election of Chairperson for 2026: Mr. Michael Rinker

- MRi announced the opening for nominations for position of LEPC Chairperson
 - JB nominated Michael Rinker (MRi), 2nd by ML – all in favor.

III. Election of Vice-Chairperson: Mr. John Bast

- MRi announced the opening for nominations for position of LEPC Vice-Chairperson
 - MRi nominated John Bast (JB), 2nd by TV – all in favor.

IV. Election of Secretary: Mr. Thomas E. Guth, Jr.

- MRi announced the opening for nominations for position of LEPC Secretary
 - JB nominated Thomas E. Guth, Jr. (TG), 2nd by JS – all in favor.

V. Public Comment

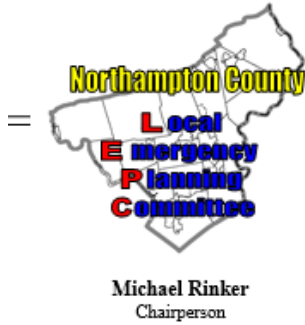
- None

VI. Approval of the December 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- MRi requested a Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes:
 - 1st by AB, 2nd by DM, all in favor

VII. Financial Report (presented by MR) As of February 28, 2026

- MR shared the following financial information with the Financial Statement.



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Financial Report For March 4, 2026 as of 2/28/26

Starting Balance 1/1/2026	\$78,900
Year to Date Total Revenue-	\$ 6,225
Total-	\$85,125.00
YTD Expenditures-	\$5,168.29
Ending Balance-	\$79,956.71

MISC Employee Benefit

- Education-\$0.00
- Staff Training & Development-
- Convention Expenses- \$0.00

Communication

- Telephone- \$1057.29
- Postage-

Admin Supplies & Equipment

- Minor Equipment- \$0.00 *Encumbrance- \$0.00*
- Security & Safety supplies-

Serv & Other Operating Supplies

- Educational & Recreational-\$0.00
- Food-\$0.00
- Operating Supplies- \$0.00 *Encumbrance- \$31,250*
- Personal Protective Equipment-\$0.00

Professional Services

- Professional Services-\$3,500.00

Program Operating Cost

- Repair & Maintenance of Equipment- \$617.00
- Misc-\$0.00

Safety & Security Equipment

- Capital-\$1,500.00 *Encumbrance- \$0.00*

Capital

- **Equipment** *Encumbrance- \$88,450*

- MRi requested & made a Motion to Approve the March 4, 2026 Financial Report:
 - 1st by JB, 2nd by MRi, all in favor.
- Sara Title III Collections – As of March 4, 2026 (presented by MRi)
 - Tier II billing & payments –

Invoiced / Outstanding:	\$ 57,375.00
Fees Collected:	\$ 10,325.00

VIII. **Plans** (presented by MRi)

- **Emergency Response Plans**
 - **Updated**
 - None
 - **New**
 - None
- **Preparedness, Prevention, Contingency Plans**
 - **Updated**
 - Victaulic, Commerce Park
 - Calpine Energy (Bethlehem)
 - Douglas Pipeline (Aria Energy East, Bethlehem landfill)
 - Walgreens
 - BioSpectra
 - **New**
 - None

IX. **Site Visits** (presented by MRi)

- **Completed**
 - None
- **Upcoming**
 - Nothing scheduled

X. **Agency Responses / Trainings / Reports – Quarterly**

Northampton County Emergency Management (provided by MR)

- 3 total hazmat related responses since last meeting;
 - 12/28/25 – Bomb/explosive removal
6000 block of Sullivan Trail, Plainfield Township
 - 1/15/26 – Bomb/explosive removal
3800 block of Lehigh Street, Bethlehem Township
 - 1/30/26 – Chemical spill, Oxonia Active, liquid sanitizer for food processing
5000 block of Township Line Road, Hanover Township
- **Trainings**
 - **Courses Completed:**
 - AWR-348: Bombing Prevention Awareness – 1/22
 - Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) – 2/2

- **Courses Scheduled:**
 - AWR-230 & 231: Response to/Prevention of Bombing Incidents – 3/19
 - G-402: ICS Overview for Executives / Senior Officials – 3/24
 - AWR-426: Tactical Response to Suicide Bombings – 4/16
 - ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents – 4/20 thru 4/22
 - ICS-400: Advanced ICS for Complex Incidents – 5/26 & 5/27
 - L-2300: Intermediate EOC Functions – 6/23 thru 6/25
 - L-0105: Public Information & Warning – 9/15 thru 9/17
 - G-393: Introduction to Hazard Mitigation – 10/26 thru 10/28
 - G-235: Emergency Planning – 11/17 & 11/18
- **Courses Planned:**
 - AWR-160: WMD/Terrorism Awareness for Emergency Responders
 - AWR-235: LE Response to Suicide Bombing Attacks
 - L-0146: Homeland Security Exercise Evaluator Program (HSEEP)
 - MGT-448: Hazards Planning for Animals, Agricultural. & Food Related Disasters
 - AWR-328: All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters
 - FLBU: Flammable Liquid Firefighting*
 - NFFB: Foam Firefighting Basic*
 - NFFT: Foam Firefighting Technician*
 - LDHO: Large Diameter Hose*
 - PUOP: Pump Operations I*
 - PUOA: Pump Operations II*
 - RFWM: Rural Fire Ground Water Movement*
 - TAWS: Tanker Water Supply*

** Denotes USDOT PERG grant funded course*
- **Report / News / Updates**
 - Nothing reported

Lehigh County Special Operations *(provided by KK)*

- Responses with/into Northampton County. All were command response only, no team call-outs for the incidents;
 - 2/17 – Structure Fire – Lithium Ion battery involvement, command call only
- **Trainings**
 - **Courses Completed:**
 - 7 members completed HazMat Incident Command course in January, 2026
 - **Courses Scheduled:**
 - None reported
 - **Courses Planned:**
 - None reported

- **Report / News / Updates**
 - Team is progressing through the team recertification process
 - Team Coordinator, Kevin Krotzer, is stepping down from his full-time role in the position with the county but will remain as a Team Leader.

Bethlehem City Hazmat Team *(provided by PH)*

- 1 response shared during meeting.
 - 2/22 – Hazmat investigation, no release
800 block of High Street
- **Trainings**
 - **Courses Completed:**
 - January – monthly training – Annual policy review, spill control, product transfer operations. 16 personnel participated.
 - February – monthly training – Toxic chemical review, research officer overview and research review, A & B kit review and practical. 21 personnel participated.
 - **Courses Scheduled:**
 - IAFF HazMat Technician course – 3/2 thru 3/13 (26 students total)
 - Hold (4) 4-hour Laser Methane Detection courses (HazMat Guys) from end of April through end of May, 2026.
 - 40-hour Tactical Chemistry course (HazMat Guys) – 5/11 thru 5/16
 - **Courses Planned:**
 - Nothing reported
- **Report / News / Updates**
 - PH shared the following 2025 year-end numbers for Bethlehem Fire Hazmat team
 - Petroleum incidents: 37
 - Total calls involving hazardous materials: 171
 - Hazmat team responses within Northampton County: 31 total calls; 11 standbys
 - Completed PEMA inspection on 2/24/2026 with no deficiencies found.
 - PEMA Evaluated Exercise planned for 4/16/2026 at Allentown Fire Academy.
 - Multi-agency drill being planned for July 9, 2026 with Norfolk Southern, Cities of Allentown & Bethlehem, Lehigh County Special Operations team as well as both EM offices from Lehigh & Northampton counties.

XI. Northampton County Fire School Training Report

- **Courses Completed:**
 - Intro to Fire Service – 1/5 thru 1/12 at NCEM EOC & NCFS
 - Exterior Firefighter – 2/9 thru 3/8 at NCEM EOC & NCFS
 - Fireground Support – 1/19 thru 2/1 at NCEM EOC & NCFS
 - HazMat Awareness – 1/18 at NCEM EOC
 - HazMat Awareness Refresher – 2/9 at Washington Twp. Fire Company

- HazMat Operations Refresher courses held:
 - 1/12 thru 1/19 at Bethlehem Twp. Fire company
 - 1/17 & 1/24 at Nancy Run Fire Company
 - 1/26 thru 2/2 at Washington Twp. Fire Company
 - 1/26 thru 2/9 at Northampton Borough Fire Company
- **Courses Scheduled:**
 - Firefighter I Advanced Skills – 5/6 thru 5/23 at NCFS
 - HazMat Awareness Refresher – 3/9 at Liberty Fire Company
 - HazMat Operations Refresher courses scheduled for:
 - 3/9 thru 3/16 at Lehigh Twp. Fire Company
 - 3/9 thru 3/23 at NCEM EOC & NCFS
 - 3/23 thru 3/30 at Liberty Fire Company
 - 3/23 thru 3/30 at Forks Twp. Fire Company
 - 3/28 at Lower Saucon Twp. Fire Company (Leithsville Station)
 - 4/6 thru 4/13 at Palmer Municipal Fire Company
 - Interior Firefighter – 3/29 thru 5/3 at NCEM EOC & NCFS
 - Incident Safety Officer – 9/16 thru 10/1 at NCEM EOC
 - Passenger Vehicle Rescue Awareness – 3/10 thru 3/15 at Bushkill Twp. Fire Company
 - Passenger Vehicle Rescue Operations – 3/19 thru 3/31 at Bushkill Twp. Fire Company
 - Passenger Vehicle Rescue Technician – 4/12 thru 4/19 at Bushkill Twp. Fire Company
 - Truck Company Operations I – 5/11 thru 5/30 at Liberty Fire Company
 - Truck Company Operations II – 6/14 thru 9/26 at Liberty Fire Company
- **Courses Planned:**
 - Nothing reported

XII. Old Business *(provided by MRi)*

- FY2025 PERG Grant
 - Bullex Vehicle Simulator & Trailer – TG advised those in attendance that this has arrived and is sitting in our EM garage till moved to NCFS. Also discussed the purchase of a drone and courses that are being funded with the remaining grant dollars. Total awarded was \$124,605.

XIII. New Business *(provided by MRi)*

- 2026 HMEP Grant – nothing to update at this time.
- 2026 IAFC Baltimore Hazmat Conference **Registration Deadline – May 1, 2026.**
 - Discussion about finding out how many representatives to the conference the Task Force will cover. Plan on offering conference to a total of 5 persons.
 - **MR made a motion asking for support to allow the LEPC funds to pay whatever costs the Task Force is not covering for UP TO 5 attendees to this year's conference. 1st by MR, 2nd by JB – all in favor.**

- Northampton County LEPC By-Laws Review
 - JB, TG and MRi discussed with those in the room about the need to review and update (whenever/wherever necessary) the LEPC by-laws. Polled the room to see if anyone was interested in maybe joining a “committee” to meet and discuss the by-laws, no one in attendance volunteered. Committee shall have an updated draft to review during next LEPC Meeting in June, 2026.
- MR requested a motion to ensure the LEPC funds will be utilized to purchases all lunches for students attending hazmat courses at NCFS during 2026.
 - 1st by MR, 2nd by JB – all in favors.

XIV. Upcoming meetings

- **June 3, 2026**
- **September 2, 2026**
- **December 2, 2026**
 - Unless stated otherwise ALL meetings start at 10:00am.
 - Unless stated otherwise ALL meetings are hosted at:
 - Northampton County EOC
 - 100 Gracedale Avenue, Nazareth, PA 18064
 - *If interested in hosting a meeting at your facility please let us know!*

XV. Good of the Order

- Nothing shared.

XVI. Adjournment

- MRi requested a Motion to Adjourn the meeting:
 - 1st by MRi, 2nd by MR, all in favor
 - Meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Visit our LEPC page: <http://ncem-pa.org/lepc/>
 For previous meeting agenda, minutes and more information.