



# 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: Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Location: Northampton County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

100 Gracedale Avenue Nazareth, PA 18064

## Meeting Minutes

### Attendance

ABO	Austin Boccardi	St. Lukes Health Network	LF	Luis Figueroa	Public / ESN46 & 40 - EMC
AM	Arturo Mendez	DHS/CISA	MB	Myles Bartos	EPA – On Scene Coordinator
JB	John Bast	Public – LEPC Vice-Chair	MR	Mike Rinker	NCEM – LEPC Chair
JE	Jose Echeverry	Air Liquide	MRa	Michael A. Rampulla	NCEM
JF	Joseph J. Fittos, III	EWMI / Rapid Response	NB	Nicole Burton	Lehigh County EM
KH	Kyle Horton	Lehigh Valley Health Network	TG	Thomas E. Guth, Jr.	NCEM – LEPC Secretary
KK	Kevin Krotzer	Lehigh County Spec. Ops.	TV	Ted Veresink	Public
KT	Kevin Thomas	Bethlehem City Fire Dept.			

### I. Call to Order

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

### II. Public Comment

- None.

### III. Approval of the June 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- MR requested a Motion to Approve the June 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes:  
 1<sup>st</sup> by JB, 2<sup>nd</sup> by TV, all in favor.

### IV. Introduction: U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security – Mr. Arturo Mendez, CPP

**V. Financial Report** (presented by MRa) *As of September 11, 2023*

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 115,937.00</b>
Revenue:	<b>68,100.58</b>
	<b>\$ 184,037.58</b>
Expenditures:	<b>69,797.00</b>
Encumbrances:	<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 113,240.58</b>

**Revenues** (in dollars)

Emergency Planning Fees	<b>8,500.00</b>
Hazardous Chemical Fees	<b>52,150.00</b>
County Cost Reimbursement	<b>7,450.58</b>

**Expenditures** (in dollars)

<u>Misc. Employee Benefits</u>	<u>Serv. &amp; Other Operating Supplies</u>
• Education <b>0.00</b>	• Educational & Recreational: <b>0.00</b>
• Staff Training & Development <b>5,223.81</b>	• Refreshments / Food: <b>556.77</b>
• Convention Expenses <b>2,650.00</b>	• Operating Supplies: <b>74.10</b>
	• Personal Protective Equipment: <b>0.00</b>
<u>Communication</u>	<u>Program Operating Cost</u>
• Telephone: <b>7,919.30</b>	• Repair & Maintenance of Equipment: <b>2,195.46</b>
• Postage <b>132.40</b>	• Misc.: <b>0.00</b>
<u>Administrative Supplies &amp; Equipment</u>	<u>Safety &amp; Security Equipment</u>
• Minor Equipment: <b>6,731.89</b>	• Capital: <b>0.00</b>
• Security & Safety supplies: <b>1,823.77</b>	
<u>Professional Services</u>	
• Professional Services: <b>42,440.00</b>	

- MR requested & made a Motion to Approve the September 12, 2023 Financial Report: 1<sup>st</sup> by KT, 2<sup>nd</sup> by JB, all in favor.

- Sara Title III Collections – As of September 12, 2023 (presented by MR)

- Tier II billing & payments – Total facilities billed: **178**

Billed / Assessed:	<b>\$ 62,725.00</b>
Fees Collected:	<b>\$ 60,200.00</b>
Fees Outstanding:	<b>\$ 2,525.00</b>

## VI. Plans *(presented by MR)*

- Emergency Response Plans
  - Updated
    - Bethlehem Energy Center  
2254 Applebutter Road, Bethlehem, PA 18015 *(Bethlehem City)*
  - New
    - None
- Preparedness, Prevention, Contingency Plans
  - Updated
    - None
  - New
    - None

## VII. Site Visits *(presented by MR)*

- Completed
  - None
- Upcoming
  - New Enterprise Stone & Lime – Bath, PA Plant  
7901 Beth Bath Pike, Bath, PA 18014 *(East Allen Township)*
  - Thermo-Fisher Scientific  
6771 Silver Crest Road, Nazareth, PA 18064 *(East Allen Township)*

## VIII. Agency Response Reports

- Northampton County Emergency Management *(provided by MRa)*
  - Four (4) hazardous materials related responses since the previous meeting;
    - 6/8 – Air Liquide, 103 Demi Road, Upper Mount Bethel Township  
Contained chemical fire
    - 7/15 – Larry Holmes Drive, Easton City *(Lehigh River)*  
Found home heating oil tank, with leaking *(Warren Cty, NJ handled)*
    - 7/16 – 6241 S. Delaware Drive, Lower Mount Bethel Township  
1,000 gallon diesel tank spill *(entire tank released)*
    - 8/16 – Central Transport, 6955 Chrisphalt Drive, East Allen Township  
Lithium Ion battery fire
      - JB made some inquiries about this lithium battery incident. KK responded and satisfied JB’s inquiries.

- **Lehigh County Special Operations** *(provided by KK)*
  - Three (3) responses within Northampton County since previous meeting;
    - 6/8 – Air Liquide, 103 Demi Road, Upper Mount Bethel Township  
Contained chemical fire
    - 7/16 – 6241 S. Delaware Drive, Lower Mount Bethel Township  
1,000 gallon diesel tank spill *(entire tank released)*
    - 7/16 – 6241 S. Delaware Drive, Lower Mount Bethel Township  
1,000 gallon diesel tank spill *(entire tank released)*
  
- **Bethlehem City Hazmat Team** *(provided by KT)*
  - Six (6) responses reported;
    - 7/10 – Leaking saddle tank on I-78
    - 7/15 – Leaking home heating oil tank
    - 7/20 – Lab incident at Lehigh University HST Lab
    - 7/26 – Overturned Tractor Trailer w/ compromised batteries
    - 8/11 – Leaking saddle tank on I-78
    - 8/15 – Gasoline leak from a tanker

## IX. Agency Training Reports

- **Northampton County Fire School** [\(NCFS Site Link\)](#) *(provided by MR)*
  - Courses Scheduled:
    - 10/1 – 10/12: HazMat Operations course @ NCFS
      - \*Thursdays and Sundays
    - 10/6: HazMat Operations Refresher course @ NCFS
      - 0800 – 1700hrs
    - 11/6: HazMat Awareness course @ Lower Mt. Bethel Fire Dept.
      - 1800 – 2200hrs [\(Directions to Fire Dept.\)](#)
    - 11/16 & 11/18: HazMat Operations Pro Board testing @ NCFS
      - Applications DUE by 10/19/2023
      - \$100 fee
  
- **Northampton County Emergency Management** [\(NCEM Site Link\)](#) *(provided by MRa)*
  - Courses Scheduled:
    - 9/19: Paradigm Pipeline Response Training / TTX (attending)
    - 10/6: HazMat Ops Refresher course (attending)
    - 11/1 & 11/2: PER-211 Medical Management of CBERNE Event (hosting)
    - 12/8: AWR-302 Pipeline Security in Rural Communities (hosting)
    - 1/22 – 1/26/2024: L-950 ICS Course (hosting)
  - Courses Planned:
    - Nothing reported.

- **Lehigh County Special Operations** *(provided by KK)*
  - Courses Scheduled:
    - Copy of Lehigh County Special Operations training schedule provided to those in attendance.
  - Courses Planned:
    - Nothing reported.
  
- **Bethlehem City Hazmat** *(provided by KT)*
  - Courses Scheduled:
    - 9/13 – 9/15: LSU PER 229 – Introduction to Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO), 24 hour course
  - Courses Planned:
    - Nothing reported.

## X. Agency News & Updates

- **Northampton County Emergency Management**
  - Nothing reported.
  
- **Lehigh County Special Operations**
  - Nothing reported.
  
- **Bethlehem City Hazmat**
  - April: Hosted LSU PER 222 – Public Safety Sampling Techniques & Guidelines
  - June: Completed Confined Space overview; cooperation of hazmat team & technical rescue team members
  - July: MusikFest work-up w/ members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Civil Support Team
  - 10/19: Full Scale Exercise planned at Linde Gas, 145 Shimersville Road

## XI. Old Business *(provided by MR)*

- None

## XII. New Business *(provided by MR)*

- 2022-2023 HMRF Grant was finalized & closed out on 8/7/2023.
- Bullex Simulator at fire school
  - Per MRa, he was asked to advise those in attendance that the simulator may have been damaged during the flood event at the Northampton County Fire School that occurred on July 15-16, 2023. Vendor advised staff to let the unit dry and then test it. Per MRa, unit may have to go for repairs if it is damaged, unknown cost at this time.
    - JB inquired if there was insurance on the equipment or property that would cover the cost of repairs? MRa was unsure and would check on that.
- Lithium Ion Battery class/training
  - MRa stated that he is trying to obtain and schedule a training in the near future.

### **XIII. Upcoming meetings**

- Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 10:00am – Northampton County EOC
  - Wednesday, March 6, 2024
  - Wednesday, June 5, 2024
  - Wednesday, September 4, 2024
    - ✓ If interested in hosting a meeting at your facility, please let us know.

### **XIV. Good of the Order**

- JB advised those in attendance that he had attended a demonstration of the Rosenbauer Battery Extinguishing System held in Lebanon County not too long ago. JB stated that the demonstration was for a tool that pierces the battery to assist with extinguishing any fire. JB advised that the area shall possibly consider purchasing one of these systems and make it available county wide, due to cost, for use if or when needed. Per JB the Rosenbauer tool is approximately \$30,000 to purchase.
  - KK & KT provided feedback on their thoughts and concerns when dealing with extinguishing a lithium ion battery type fires.
  - KK recommended that we put any tool purchase funds towards providing training since that itself is desperately needed locally. Plus these extinguishment tools continue to evolve and would not want money wasted or spent on tool(s) that may not be the best approach if guidance is ever presented on proper or best extinguishment techniques.
- KT proposed the LEPC funding the “Emergency Response Decision Support System (ERDSS)” aka Chemical Companion in-person training course. Per KT this course will cost approximately six thousand dollars (\$6,000) however, the program and training is robust and extremely useful during hazardous materials responses. KT would like this to be presented and brought for a vote at the next LEPC meeting in December, 2023.
  - Note: After discussion it was noted that NCEM Director Todd Weaver is attempting to have this course financed via funds from the Northeast PA Counter Terrorism funding. Hope to have decision on this prior to the next quarterly LEPC meeting in December.
- JE (*Air Liquide representative*) had inquired if his cohorts (*hazardous materials response members*) within Air Liquide would be eligible to partake in any of the local trainings. Advised JE that I would get clarification and respond back to him.

### **XV. Adjournment**

- MR requested a Motion to Adjourn the meeting:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> by KT, 2<sup>nd</sup> by JB, all in favor
    - Meeting adjourned at 1038hrs.

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